

Teacher Notes

1. How old are both Nya and Salva at the start of the novel? (Chapter 1)

11

2. What is the "bush"?

Partial desert with some few trees and vegetation

3. Choose the two words that best complete this statement: Salva spoke the language of his Dinka tribe at home with his family, but in school he learned Arabic the official language of the Sudanese government. (Chapter 1)

4. When does Salva attend school? When did Nya attend school? (Chapter 1)

rainy season

she doesn't.

5. Compare the Nuer and Dinka Tribes (try to list 5 things):

- Rival

- need clean water

- fighting

- cattle

- long history violence

6. What is the war in the country of Sudan over? What was the war between the Nuer and Dinka over?

freedom religion

cattle / water

7. Why were Sudanese boys in "double danger" during the war?

They were targeted as child soldiers for the war.

8. After Salva is left by his group while he is sleeping in the barn, explain how the old lady helps him. Try to list 3 or more ways. (Chapter 3)

- peanut / food

- gourd / water

- barn / shelter

9. How many times a day does Nya walk to get water (from her village home)? (Chapter 4)

2

10. Who found a beehive? (Chapter 4)

Buska

11. The land of the Atuot people is known to be inhabited [roamed] by lions. (Chapter 5)

12. Where does Marial think the boys are traveling?

- East

- Ethiopia

13. Why was Salva's eye swollen shut in chapter 5?

- stung by bees

14. What animal does Uncle kill for the group to eat in Chapter 6?

- Topi

15. Explain why everyone gets sick after eating the animal Uncle kills.

- ate too fast after weeks of starvation

16. What happened to Marial? (Chapter 7-8)

- eaten by lions

17. How does Marial's death effect Salva? (Chapter 8)

- Salva is terrified

18. What is the first river Salva must cross? (Chapter 7-8)

- Nile River

19. What did they make the canoes out of in Chapter 7?

- reeds

20. Why did Akeer become sick?

- drank dirty water

21. Why are Nya and her mother still worried about Akeer even after she is getting better? Use **evidence** from the text to support your answer. (Chapter 8)

They can't get "clean" water. In the text... (lots of examples)

22. Salva has a *flashback* (or memories of the past) in Chapter 8. During his flashback he remembers his father bringing him what treat from the market?

- mango

23. What helps Salva get through his time in the desert.

- Uncle uses Salva's full name
- Uncle sets short + goals