

English II Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Summer Review Questions  
*A Long Way Gone*

**Directions:** Have these questions answered and ready to submit on the first day of class. Your answers should be written and in complete sentences.

Before you read:

1. Label the following map based on the map at the beginning of the book.



2. Summarize the events from the following dates (use the chronology that starts on p. 219).
  - a. 1462
  - b. 1960
  - c. April 27, 1961
  - d. 1964
  - e. May 1967
  - f. 1971
  - g. 1978
  - h. 1985
  - i. March 1991
  - j. April 1992
  - k. 1995
  - l. 1996
  - m. May 1997
  - n. March 1998

- o. January 1999
- p. July 1999
- q. 2000
- r. 2001
- s. 2002 (January-November)
- t. March 25, 2006

### Chapter 1

3. What did Ishmael think about the war stories he heard? What were his experiences with war up until he was 4 years old? (pp.5-6)
  
5. Where was Ishmael going in January of 1993 when he was first affected by the war? Who was he with? Why were they going? How did they get there? (6)
  
6. What are “crapes”? (7)
  
7. What is Ishmael’s family situation? (10-11)
  
8. Explain the tragedy on pp. 12-14. Why was this so pivotal to Ishmael at this time? 12. What did Ishmael and his friends believe about the war? (15)
  
9. What does the old man mean by the statement, “We must try to be like the moon”?

### Chapter 2

10. Explain what Ishmael means when he says, “These days I live in three worlds...” What does that have to do with the flashbacks he describes in the chapter?

### Chapter 3

11. What did the survivors’ letters from Sunbuya inform the citizens in Mattru Jong? What were some other “messages the rebels sent? (21-22)
  
12. What does “palampo” mean? (23)

### Chapter 4

13. How many boys are in Ishmael’s group now? (26)
  
14. What are “sleepers”? (27)
  
15. What happened when they arrived at the village? (29)

### Chapter 5

16. Explain what happened to the old man, and why did it happen? (32)
  
17. What saved Ishmael from being killed? (34-35)

## Chapter 6

18. Why were people terrified of Ishmael and his group? What were peoples' actions as a result? What happened in the village that they approached? (37-39)

19. Why did the boys become watchmen for the village of Kamator? What else did they do there, and how long did they stay? (40-43)

## Chapter 7

20. What is an imam (give the dictionary definition)? What happened to him? (44)

## Chapter 8

21. How did Ishmael keep himself from getting lost in the woods? (50)

22. Explain his Grandfather's medicine. (51)

23. What chased Ishmael through the forest? (53)

24. What was the story his grandmother told him? (53-54)

25. How long was he in the woods before he saw another human? What happened when he finally met some kids about his age? (54-55)

26. Why does the old man not give the seven boys his name? (56)

27. What was the rumor about the seven boys? Why did people not trust them? What happened to the boys as an effect of people's mistrust? (56-57)

## Chapter 9

28. What were the boys so afraid of in the deserted village? (58-59)

29. What happened when they explored the village? (59-60)

## Chapter 10

30. What does Saidu's quote on p. 70 mean?

31. What does "carseloi" mean? What did Ishmael's grandmother call him that?

32. What is a name-giving ceremony? Describe Ishmael's name-giving ceremony.

33. Where were they going when they left the village? Why there?

### Chapter 11

34. What does “Ngor” mean? To what word is it equivalent in our culture? (91)

35. What is a “wähler”? (98)

### Chapter 12

36. To which group did the two rows of armed men belong? (100-101)

37. To what city had they arrived? (101)

38. Describe Lieutenant Jabata. What was he reading? (104)

39. What does the following Julius Caesar quote mean? What does it have to do with what is happening in the book? (104)

“Cowards die many times before their deaths;  
The valiant never taste of death but once.  
Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,  
It seems to me most strange that men should fear,  
Seeing that death, a necessary end,  
Will come when it will come.” (II.ii.34-39)

40. Why does the lieutenant call everyone to the square? What ultimatum did he give them? (106)

41. What sentence would Gadafi repeat throughout training? (112)

### Chapter 13

42. Why were the boys off on Sunday morning? (114-116)

43. What were the soldiers given before battle?

### Chapter 14

44. What is “brown brown”? What other drugs is Ishmael exposed to? Why is he taking them? What do you think he is addicted to the white capsules? (121)

45. How did they practice killing prisoners? (124-125)

46. Describe the competition and the reward. (125)

### Chapter 15

47. What happened in January of 1996? How old was Ishmael? (126)

48. How is Ishmael different than he was at the beginning of the book?

49. Where was the new rehabilitation center?

### Chapter 16

50. Where did they go for their “field trip”? (146)
51. Why did they end up deciding to go to school again? (147)
52. Summarize the flashback from p.149-151.

### Chapter 17

53. Describe the nurse. What is her name? (152)
54. How did Ishmael feel about being her friend? (153)
55. What present did she give Ishmael? (154)
56. Summarize the flashback on p. 155-159 where Ishmael gets shot.

### Chapter 18

57. Describe the talent show. (168-169)
58. What is his uncle’s name? Describe his uncle. Do they get along? (170-177)
59. Who knows about Ishmael’s past life as a soldier and who does not? (176)

### Chapter 19

60. What is the dictionary definition of “repatriated”?
61. Why was Ishmael worried about living with a family? (179)
62. When was the last time he saw Esther? What did he never get to tell her? (181)
63. Where did Ishmael meet Zainab? Why did they only date for three weeks?
65. Describe the interview that Ishmael attended. For what was he interviewing? Where was the interview? How was Ishmael different from the rest of the boys at the interview? (185-187)
66. Who was the new president of Sierra Leone? (188)

### Chapter 20

67. What was Ishmael’s preconception about New York City? Where did he get it? (193)
68. Who went with him to NYC?

69. What did he think about the United States after his first couple of days in the U.S.? (196)

70. In his speech, why did Ishmael say he became a soldier? (199)

### Chapter 21

71. Who was Johnny Paul Karoma? (203)

72. Explain what was happening throughout Sierra Leone? (202-207)

73. What happened to Ishmael's uncle? (208)

74. After the funeral, where did Ishmael decide to go? Who was going to help him?

75. Describe Pa Sesay's story/riddle. Why would he shoot the monkey? Why did Ishmael end his memoir with that story? (217)