

# FRESHMAN SUMMER READING STUDY GUIDE

Text: *A LONG WALK TO WATER* by Linda Sue Park

**Prereading (Complete BEFORE reading the book):**

**JOURNAL WRITE:** Imagine you were forced to leave your house and run away unexpectedly. What would you pack? Where would you go? What steps would you take to ensure your survival?

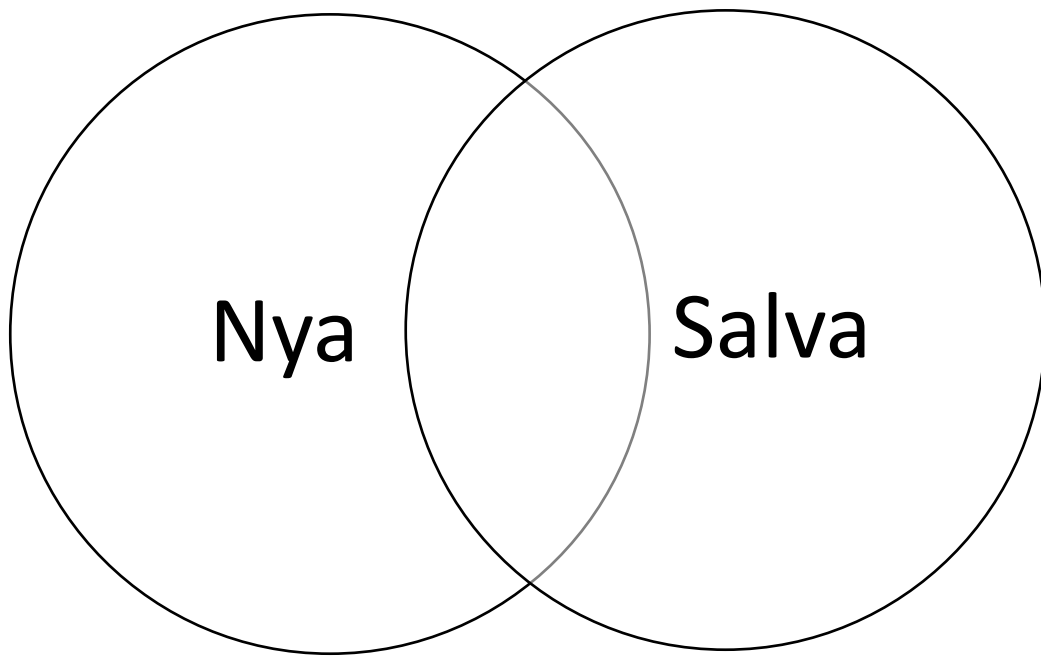
## **PART 1 (Chapters 1-3): Text-to-Self Connections**

- What do we learn about Salva's life and culture from the first chapter? Is it anything like your own?
- What three questions occupy Salva's thoughts? Predict the answers to those questions. What might be going through your mind under the same circumstances?
- Describe and explain Nya's journey every day. How would you feel if you had such an essential responsibility like her?

**LITERARY TERMS:** Look up the meanings of these two literary terms, and use the definition to help you compare and contrast the various ways the author, Linda Sue Park, created the two storylines of Nya and Salva, using the Venn Diagram below.

**Juxtaposition:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Point of View:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**SETTING:** Over 25,000 children traveled across the Sudan to Ethiopia to avoid the Second Sudanese Civil war. Follow their journey to learn more about Salva's journey to America. Using the map below, locate the setting of the novel, and as you read, trace the journey that Salva takes.



## **PART 2 (Chapters 4-6): Conflict**

- Why doesn't the group want Salva along? How do you feel about the fact that the group is willing to isolate and reject him?
- Explain how water dictates Nya's life. What one thing most dictates your life?
- The story describes many challenges to survival. Describe three you have learned about so far. Do you think Salva is doing a good job learning to survive in these circumstances? Why?

## **PART 3 (Chapters 7-9): Characterization**

**Character Traits:** For each character, jot down actions that character takes. Use a quote or paraphrase, but make sure to cite the page number! Match up the character's actions with descriptive adjectives, and record those in the "Character Traits Revealed" column.

### Salva

<b>Actions that Show This Character Trait</b> <i>Include a quote and page #</i>	<b>Character Trait Revealed</b> <i>Adjective that describes this character</i>

### Nya

<b>Actions that Show This Character Trait</b> <i>Include a quote and page #</i>	<b>Character Trait Revealed</b> <i>Adjective that describes this character</i>

### Nameless Woman in Chapter 9

<b>Actions that Show This Character Trait</b> <i>Include a quote and page #</i>	<b>Character Trait Revealed</b> <i>Adjective that describes this character</i>

### Uncle Jewiir

<b>Actions that Show This Character Trait</b> <i>Include a quote and page #</i>	<b>Character Trait Revealed</b> <i>Adjective that describes this character</i>

**PART 3 (Chapters 7-9): Theme**

- Salva has a half a gourd of water and wants to share it with the others, but Uncle says no. He later asks if he were older and stronger, would he share? What do you think he would do?
  
- Why do you think that Uncle wants to go back and fight in the War and leave Salva on his own?
  
- Why does the group’s attitude towards Salva change? What do you think Salva will do to change their minds?
  
- What event within the camp makes Salva realize that his family is gone and what memory helps him to survive in the camp?

**PART 4 (Chapters 10-12): Literary Analysis**

Find a key quote from this section of the book to analysis in detail and fill out the chart below.  
 Write your quote here:

This quote is from page \_\_\_\_\_

**Notice and Note:**

What made you stop and notice this text?



**Speaker and Audience:**

Who said this? What is the purpose?

**Context:**

What is happening in the story when this is said?

**Importance:**

What does the quote mean? What does it reveal about the characters/conflict/theme?

**Literary Devices:**

Are literary devices (simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, imagery, etc.) used? If so, what is the effect?

**Connections:**

What does this quote mean to you? How do you see this idea in the world? How is this significant to you and/or the world?

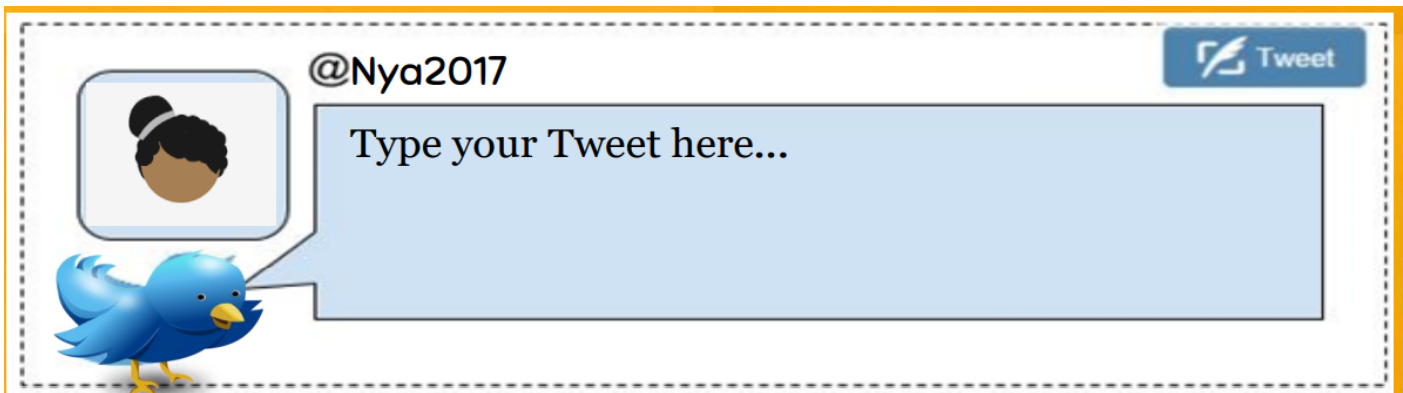
**PART 5 (Chapters 13-15): Literary Analysis**

- Nya spends a lot of time observing “The Boss.” What does she observe about him and why do you think this works as a leadership style within the village?
- When Salva begins his journey to Kenya, he meets up with other boys, eventually become their de facto leader. Compare and contrast his leadership style to that of “The Boss.”

- Why do you think that Michael helped Salva? Why is it important to Salva that he learn as much as he can from Michael?
- Who are “The Lost Boys?” How would you feel about going to a new country and family, if you were given the chance?

**PART 6 (Chapters 16-End): Communicating Big Ideas**

- Describing this novel to someone who has NEVER read it you would say, “This book is about:
- Imagine you are Nya today. Flashback to 2008-09 and describe how you felt in her shoes in 140 characters or less.



**POST READING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** Be prepared to discuss the following questions in class.

- I think the hardest part about waking all day to get water would be...because...
- My favorite part of the book was...because...
- I was sad/upset when...because...
- I was surprised when...because..

- This book made me want to learn about...because...