

Journeying Through 'A Long Walk to Water' with Indie!

Hi Indie! Get ready to dive deep into the amazing story of Salva and Nya. This book is incredibly powerful, and today we're going to explore its world, its characters, and the big ideas it makes us think about.

Part 1: Setting the Scene - More Than Just a Walk (30-45 minutes)

Before we get too far, let's ground ourselves in the world of the story.

- **Mapping the Journey:** Grab your map of Africa! Let's trace Salva's incredible journey. Find Sudan, then South Sudan (where most of the story is set). Can you locate Ethiopia and Kenya? As you trace his approximate path, think about the different terrains he might have crossed (desert, river, refugee camps). Why was his journey so long and difficult geographically? Discuss or jot down 3-5 geographical challenges Salva faced.
- **Water is Life:** Nya's story revolves around water. Think about your daily access to water. How many times a day do you use water without even thinking about it? Spend 5 minutes listing all the ways. Now, imagine Nya's daily two-hour journeys. How would your life be different if you had to do that?

Part 2: Two Paths, One Hope - Nya & Salva (45-60 minutes)

This book tells two parallel stories. Let's explore them!

- **Venn Diagram or T-Chart:** On a piece of paper or in your notebook, create a Venn diagram or a T-chart. Label one side 'Nya' and the other 'Salva'. Let's compare and contrast:
 - Their daily lives and responsibilities
 - The main challenges they face
 - Their hopes and dreams
 - How they show resilience
 - Their age at the beginning of their story arcs
- **Discussion/Writing Prompts:** Choose one or two of these to think about and write a paragraph on, or discuss aloud:
 - How does Salva change from the beginning of the book to the end? What are the key moments that shape him?
 - What does Nya's story teach us about the importance of perseverance and community?
 - Although their stories are set years apart, what common threads connect Nya and Salva?

Part 3: Digging Deeper - Themes and Context (30-45 minutes)

'A Long Walk to Water' isn't just an adventure story; it's full of important themes and real-world history.

- **Identifying Themes:** What big ideas or messages do you think Linda Sue Park wanted to share? List at least three themes (e.g., survival, hope, war, family, identity, perseverance, kindness of strangers). For each theme, find one example or quote from the book that illustrates it.
- **Historical Context Quick Dive (Optional Internet Research):** The story is set during the

Second Sudanese Civil War. What was this war about? Who were the Dinka and Nuer peoples, and why were they in conflict as shown in the book? Spend 15-20 minutes doing a quick, safe search online (with permission if needed) to understand this a little better. How does knowing this context add to your understanding of Salva's experiences?

Part 4: Your 'Long Walk' - Creative Reflection (45-60 minutes)

The idea of a 'long walk' can mean more than just a physical journey. It can be a personal challenge, a goal that takes a lot of effort, or overcoming something difficult.

- **Reflect and Create:** Think about a 'long walk' in your own life, or something you feel passionate about that requires perseverance. This could be:
 - Learning a new skill
 - Working towards a personal goal
 - Helping with a community project
 - Advocating for a cause you believe in
- **Choose Your Expression:** How would you like to share your reflection? Pick one:
 - Write a short story or poem inspired by your 'long walk'.
 - Create a drawing, painting, or collage that represents this journey or a theme from the book that resonated with you.
 - Write a journal entry from the perspective of Salva or Nya reflecting on a particularly challenging day and what kept them going.
 - Prepare a short (2-3 minute) spoken presentation about what 'perseverance' means to you, using examples from the book and your own thoughts.

Wrap-up & Looking Ahead (10-15 minutes)

Great job exploring 'A Long Walk to Water' today, Indie! We've covered a lot.

- **Share Out:** If you're comfortable, share your creative reflection piece.
- **Final Thoughts:** What is the one thing from today's lesson or from the book that will stick with you the most? Why?

This story can lead to so many other interesting topics, like learning more about water scarcity, refugee experiences, or the current situation in South Sudan. Perhaps we can explore some of those next time!