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The backyard blacksmith pdf

As Beah and his six companions travel through the forest, they hear an unknown roaring sound. They immediately get off the road to hide, but the source of the noise doesn't change its proximity. Kanei eventually decides to look at the noise and discover the source: the sea. None of the boys have ever seen the sea before, so this scene of natural beauty gives them pause and a respite from their fears. They relax enough to dance and play football. They continue on the beach to find a small town, but no residents. All evidence marks a hasty and recent evacuation. Suddenly, a group of fishermen spout from their cover and seize the boys. The villagers heard rumors that a young group of rebels is nearby, accusing the boys of being hostile. After being interviewed, the fishermen take the boys' shoes and send them away. As they walked across the burning sand, the boys realized their shoes had been taken as a punishing remedy. Despite the pain, they keep walking until sunset ends finally coming on an uncluded hut. The boys take shelter in the hut and begin to treat their injured feet. The owner of the booth comes, almost leaving when he sees the boys, but stays when he sees their suffering. He stops musa from pulling the sand grains out of his blistered feet; instead, he offers them a treatment of steamed grass to relieve their pain. For the next few days, their unnamed host of his town comes to the booth to nurse them back to health with regular treatments and food. When Beah asks the man his name, the man answers that they don't have to share their names: This way, we'll all be safe (p. After a week of recovery, the man takes the boys to the sea to soak their feet in the salt water. He has them soaking their feet every day to promote healing and kill infection. The boys teach their caregiver is a member of the Sherbo tribe, and that he hasn't seen the violence of the war firsthand. At the end of the second week, an older woman enters the booth and urges the boys to leave. Beah can tell from her way of speaking that she knew about the boys' presence in the booth all the time. The boys flee but are too late to escape the villagers who learned of their presence. Twelve men wrestle the boys to the ground and tie their hans and then bring them in front of their chief. The chief ordered the boys stripped. To call them demons, the chief decides to drown the boys in the sea. However, Beah's rap music cassettes are found. He explains he danced with his brother and friends before the war. The chief orders Beah to dance and he is convinced the boys are not rebelling but lost children fleeing the violent conflict. When asked whether the boys were assisted or stayed in the fisherman's booth of their own accord, Beah tells the chief that the boys stayed there on their own to have their of punishment. The chief releases them but orders them to leave town and continue on their way. AnalysisBeah notes that the natural beauty of the sea can give up on the tired, frightened boys: My eyes widen, a smile forming on my face. Even in the middle of the frenzy there remained that true and natural beauty, and it took my mind away from my current situation as I marvelled at this sight (p. The boys' chasing each other and playing football serves as a reminder that it is in fact children who have been exposed to the horrors of civil war. This poignant moment of play offers stark contrast to the terrors of previous chapters. The brunt of the fisherman reveals how far the terrorism of the RUF has spread; the boys, who stay together for safety and emotional security, are rumoured to be rebels and treated as hostile by almost everyone they meet. Even at sea shore, beyond what any of the boys have traveled, the fear of civil unrest makes the boys outcast before they even meet someone face-to-face. In contrast, the lone fisherman shows them hospitality and kindness. Beah points out that he was ready to leave his booth to avoid them until he saw their wounds. The fisherman is moved to compassion for the boys and helps them recover. He doesn't ask anything in return, only to ask that they don't learn his name. The boys return his kindness the only way available - by not identifying him as an accomplice to their recovery. The difference between the reactions of the single man and the town provides the reader insight into the character of the people of Sierra Leone. Taken on a case by case basis, the people are generous, kindhearted, and sympathetic; however, when they are in a group mindset, with the safety of their entire town at stake, they become defensive, frightened, and - because of these two attitudes - sometimes cruel. LitCharts assigns a color and icon to each theme in A Long Way Gone, which you can use to track the themes throughout the work. 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When war reaches their village, Ishmael a.) travel to the next town. B.) terribly wounded. c.) Taken prisoner by the RUF. 2. At the beginning, Ishmael is only a.) twelve years old. B.) ten years old. c.) eleven years old. 3. When they go back to Mattru Jong, a van a.) appears filled with rebel soldiers. B.) filled with soldiers. c.)filled with a wounded man and the bodies of his family. 4. The boys left Mattru Jong when a.) they find their families. B.) the rebels come and slaughter everyone. c.)they realize the rebels are coming 5. Being branded by the RUF hurts someone who is forced to get one because a.) it's a sign of life as a soldier b.) it infects the carrier ever after c.) it allows the rebels to refuse to allow them to leave their army. 6. When the boys come to a foreign village, they are attacked, because a.) they carry guns. B.) the town fears they are RUF c.) they make threats out of their own fear. 7. Saidu dies when a.) he's afraid of another attack. B.) he is shot in a firefight c.) he is made an example by the rebels 8. Just as Ishmael started down the hill to find his family a.) he heard his name called by his mother b.) he hears his brother Junior rap music. c.)he hears gunshots and screams 9. The boys are forced to be soldiers when a.) they're trying to run away from the lieutenant. B.) one town sells them as protection from the rebels. c.)they are trapped in a town where all boys and men men by force. 10. The youngest boys in Ishmael's team are so small that a.) they can't pick up their guns b.) they can't see when the fighting starts. c.)were both killed in the first fight 11. Ishmael escapes being a soldier when a.) UNICEF staffers take him away. B.) his uncle Tommy finds him. c.)the rebels sell him as a servant 12. Ishmael is referred to a.) Washington D.C.b.) Benin House. c.)Mattru Jong. 13. Ether wins Ishmael over with a.) magazines he likes about Coca-Cola. B.) rap music and a cassette player. c.)several books over and through Shakespeare. 14. Ishmael is chosen to attend a UN conference because a.) he knows so much about a child soldier. B.) Esther is a good reference for him. c.)his uncle knows someone at the embassy. 15. Ishmael decides to leave Sierra Leone, because a.) now war has come to Freetown. B.) he can't find a job. c.)he fears he will be sent back to the rebels. Answer Key: 1.) A 2.) B 3.) C 4.) B 5.) B 6.) B 7.) A 8.) C 9.) C 10.) a 11.) a 12.) B 13.) B 14.) a 15.) A previous page | Table of Contents | Next PageDownloadable/Printable Version a Long Way Away by Ishmael Beah Free BookNotes Summary Summary

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