

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

1. How did Ishmael Beah's grandmother explain the local adage that "we must strive to be like the moon" (p. 16)? And why has Ishmael remembered this saying ever since childhood? What does it mean to him?

2. As Chapter 2 begins, we flash forward to Ishmael's new life in New York City. He relates a dream of pushing a wheelbarrow. What is in the wheelbarrow, and where is he pushing it? What does Ishmael mean when he says, "I am looking at my own" (p. 19)?

3. "That night for the first time in my life," writes Ishmael in Chapter 3, "I realized that it is the physical presence of people and their spirits that gives a town life" (p. 22). What prompts him to observe this? How old is he at the time? Also, who are the five boys with whom Ishmael flees at the end of this chapter?

4. Why, after their escape, do Ishmael and the other boys sneak back into the village of Matru Jong?

5. Commenting on how a rebel soldier had interrogated an old man, Ishmael writes: “Before the war a young man wouldn’t have dared to talk to anyone older in such a rude manner. We grew up in a culture that demanded good behavior from everyone, and especially from the young” (p. 33). Where else in *A Long Way Gone* did you encounter the brutal, thuggish, or even sadistic behavior of young rebels—or of other young people?