

A Long Way Gone Reading Response Journal

Instead of completing traditional comprehension questions, your task is to complete this reading guide with a more holistic, thematic, and personal approach to the text. After each major section you are assigned, you will need to examine the presence of at least two themes or motifs, provide an example of literary device (simile, metaphor, personification, etc), write a 5 sentence summary, and complete different tasks that encourage you to relate to the book.

The **themes** you are looking for include:

The loss of innocence

Survival/the will to live

Importance of Story-telling

Family

Grief/Loss

Music

Violence/Murder/Pain

Revenge/Anger

Hope

Love

Trust

Manipulation

Courage

Forgiveness

Motifs:

Shoes

The moon

Shakespeare

Food



SECTION 1 (Chapters 1-4)

Theme/motif:	How it is shown (paraphrase/quote)	Page #
Theme/motif:	How it is shown (paraphrase/quote)	Page #
Describe Ishmael's attitude at a certain point:	Copy the quote that shows this attitude:	Page #
Literary Device:	Quote:	Page #

Now write a sentence of your own using the same type of literary device above:

In 5 sentences, summarize what happened in this section:

Predict what you think will happen next.

SECTION 2 (Chapters 5-8)

Theme/motif:	How it is shown (paraphrase/quote)	Page #
Theme/motif:	How it is shown (paraphrase/quote)	Page #

Write 2 adjectives that describe how this section made you feel. Then explain why for each.

Adjective 1: _____

Why:

Adjective 2: _____

Why:

Literary Device:	Quote:	Page #
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Now write a sentence of your own using the same type of literary device above:

In 5 sentences, summarize what happened in this section:

Imagine you could ask Ishmael a question. Write that question below:

SECTION 3 (Chapters 9-11)

Theme/motif:	How it is shown (paraphrase/quote)	Page #
Theme/motif:	How it is shown (paraphrase/quote)	Page #

Write about another character besides Ishmael who appears in this section. What do you learn about this character based on their actions, words, and what others say about them?

Literary Device:	Quote:	Page #
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Now write a sentence of your own using the same type of literary device above:

In 5 sentences, summarize what happened in this section:

Make a connection between something Ishmael has said and either your own life, another book or movie, or something that you see in our culture.

SECTION 4 (Chapters 12-14)

Theme/motif:	How it is shown (paraphrase/quote)	Page #
Theme/motif:	How it is shown (paraphrase/quote)	Page #

A haiku is a three-line Japanese poetic form. The first and third lines each have five syllables and the second line has seven. Haikus do not have to rhyme Write a haiku about something that has happened in this section.

Literary Device:	Quote:	Page #
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Now write a sentence of your own using the same type of literary device above:

In 5 sentences, summarize what happened in this section:

If you could pick a song that represents the emotions or events in this section, what would it be? Explain your choice.

SECTION 5 (Chapters 15-16)

Theme/motif:	How it is shown (paraphrase/quote)	Page #
Theme/motif:	How it is shown (paraphrase/quote)	Page #

Pick a part of this section, and imagine the senses that Ishmael experiences. Complete the lines below.

I see _____

I smell _____

I hear _____

I feel _____

I taste _____

I think _____

Now tell me which part you are describing, including the page number:

Literary Device:	Quote:	Page #
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Now write a sentence of your own using the same type of literary device above:

In 5 sentences, summarize what happened in this section:

Find a word in this section you are unfamiliar with. Write down the word, its definition, and a sentence of your own using it.

Word:

Definition:

Sentence:

SECTION 6 (Chapters 17-19)

Theme/motif:	How it is shown (paraphrase/quote)	Page #
Theme/motif:	How it is shown (paraphrase/quote)	Page #

A “found poem” is a poem you find “hiding” in the words of a text. To create a found poem, you use the author’s words and phrases to create your own poem. Pick words and phrases with strong imagery and tone. Go through this section, and create a found poem of at least 6 lines.

Literary Device:	Quote:	Page #
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Now write a sentence of your own using the same type of literary device above:

In 5 sentences, summarize what happened in this section:

At this point in the novel, if you could give Ishmael one piece of advice, what would it be, and why?

SECTION 7 (Chapters 20-21)

Theme/motif:	How it is shown (paraphrase/quote)	Page #
Theme/motif:	How it is shown (paraphrase/quote)	Page #
Literary Device:	Quote:	Page #

Now write a sentence of your own using the same type of literary device above:

In 5 sentences, summarize what happened in this section:

What do you think of the way the book ends? Explain your opinion below.

What does the title of the book have to do with what happens? Explain.

Would you recommend this book to someone else? Explain SPECIFICALLY why or why not: