

Similarities and Differences: *A Long Walk to Water* and “The ‘Lost Girls’ of Sudan” Note-Catcher

(Example for Teacher Reference)

Use this chart to track how *A Long Walk to Water* and “The ‘Lost Girls’ of Sudan” treat their subjects similarly and differently.

Event or topic: Kakuma refugee camp	
How <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> treats it (if at all): Salva is there for two years, feels it is “almost like a prison” (84).	How “The ‘Lost Girls’ of Sudan” treats it (if at all): The article also describes it as a prison: “Dr. Pauline Riak of the Sudanese Women’s Association describes Kakuma as a prison, where young, women are especially vulnerable.”
Reflect: How did Linda Sue Park use or alter history in her fictional novel? Linda Sue Park stays true to the fact that children were placed in a prison-like refugee camp in her novel. She chooses to spend little time on Kakuma and doesn’t describe the way girls and women were treated there.	

Event or topic: Lost Boys coming to America	
How <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> treats it (if at all): The author describes Salva traveling to America as “too excited to sleep” (91). He is also nervous and uncertain. He is given new	How “The ‘Lost Girls’ of Sudan” treats it (if at all): The article describes how the girls were not able to go to America. Grace says: “Why not

<p>clothes and meets his new family and “feels his shoulders relax” when he sees their smiles (95).</p>	<p>the girls?... I would have liked the chance to go abroad. You can be free there. Free to work, free to study.”</p>
---	---

Reflect: How did Linda Sue Park use or alter history in her fictional novel?

Park tells the exciting story of Salva coming to America but does not mention the girls that were left behind, whom the article talks about. The author of the article writes, “The bitter irony of the ‘Lost Boys’ good life in America is not lost on her,” which shows that the girls are aware of how the Lost Boys got to leave while they were forced to stay.

Event or topic:
 women forced to do chores / role of women

<p>How <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> treats it (if at all): Nya is forced to fetch water. “To the pond and back—to the pond and back—nearly a full day of walking altogether . . . Daily. Every single day” (20). Only the boys are allowed to go to school. “His two sisters, Akit and Agnath, did not go to school. Like the other girls in the village, they stayed home and learned from their mother how to keep house” (2–3).</p>	<p>How “The ‘Lost Girls’ of Sudan” treats it (if at all): “She lists her chores: cooking, cleaning, washing, fetching water from the distant stand-pipe, looking after her guardian’s children.”</p>
---	---

Reflect: How did Linda Sue Park use or alter history in her fictional novel?

Like the article’s author, Park shows how women are forced into certain kinds of roles and are expected to do chores rather than go to school. The author of the informational text shows this by describing the lives of the women living at Kakuma, and Park describes Nya’s life as well as how Salva’s sisters and other women lived.

<p>Event or topic:</p> <p>Lost Girls continue to suffer because they are not able to leave</p>	
<p>How <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> treats it (if at all):</p> <p>The novel does not talk about the Lost Girls.</p>	<p>How “The ‘Lost Girls’ of Sudan” treats it (if at all):</p> <p>“But many foster-parents—it seems—did not have the girls’ welfare at heart.</p> <p>In a place where poverty is rampant, young women are a valuable commodity.”</p> <p>“We have lost them... they are completely lost,” Mr. Mable says regretfully, “They have lost that status of lost girls.”</p>
<p>Reflect: How did Linda Sue Park use or alter history in her fictional novel?</p> <p>This shows that while Park told an important and interesting story about the Lost Boys, she doesn’t talk about the Lost Girls, who also suffered. The article is important for showing their problem as well. As the author writes, “But the fact remains ladies were there.”</p>	

So What?

Now look back at the reflections you recorded. What patterns do you notice? Why do you think Linda Sue Park chose to use historical events in this way?

Park told an important and interesting story about the Lost Boys, but she doesn’t tell about the Lost Girls, who also suffered. The article is important for showing their problem as well. As the author writes, “But the fact remains ladies were there.”