



Test Marking Guidelines

SUGGESTED ANSWERS

Time: 1hour

Marks: 30

Refer to a paragraph extract from Chapter 21:

“I left Freetown early in the morning of the seventh day... and said nothing.”

You will use your knowledge of the entire novel to answer all the questions.

1. Why did Ishmael decide to leave Freetown 3
The war had intensified throughout Sierra Leone. He felt that if he stayed there he would be forced into the army again. If he refused, his former friends, who were forced back into the army after rehabilitation, may kill him.

2. How did Ishmael come to live with his uncle? 4
A part of the rehabilitation programme was to repatriate and reinstate soldiers into normal society. This was the process of reuniting ex-soldiers with their former communities. Leslie, a field-worker from CAW (Children Associated with the War), helped trace Ishmael’s family in Freetown. After a few visits to establish bonds, Ishmael’s uncle asked Ishmael to live with him. Otherwise, Ishmael would have had to live with a foster family.

3. List 2 regrets that Ishmael expresses at his uncle’s grave? 2
(Any 2)
 - ***His uncle may not have known how much Ishmael loved him because he never told him.***
 - ***He wish he could have got help for his uncle.***
 - ***He regrets that his uncle would not see him as an adult.***

4. Describe the time Ishmael spent with his uncle’s family. 4
(A description of any suitable incidences)
 - ***The hospitality of the family. His uncle raises children as his own.***
 - ***Simple people with a little, but they are generous. Shares a room with Allie.***
 - ***Wife refers to him as ‘son’.***
 - ***He is welcomed by the other children. Taken to a dance.***
 - ***Mealtimes and other times spent together.***



Test Marking Guidelines

5. The reader first learns about Mohamed in Chapter 1.
- 5.1 What does Ishmael tell the reader about Mohamed in Chapter 1? 3
Mohamed, who was Ishmael's best friend, did not accompany the boys to Mattru Jong to perform in the talent show because he was helping his father to renovate the thatched kitchen roof.
- 5.2 Where do Ishmael and Mohamed reunite after Chapter 1? 2
They reunite in Benin Home, a rehabilitation centre.
- 5.3 Why does Mohamed say nothing? 5
Their future has always been uncertain, due to the war. There was no guarantee that Ishmael will arrive at his destination, or that Mohammed will continue living in Freetown. The possibility is that Mohammed may also be recruited as a soldier or possibly be killed. The reality of their uncertain future leaves no room for promises.
- 6.1 What was Ishmael's final destination? 2
His final destination was to Laura Simms in New York City.
- 6.2 Why did he choose that destination? 5
He had a special connection with Laura. She took care of him when he was in New York City, providing them with warm jackets. He was fascinated with her art for telling stories. She showed an interest in his childhood stories. Laura was also impressed with Ishmael's address at the conference. They had exchanged numbers to stay in touch, and as there was nowhere else that he could escape to, Laura Simms was worth the risk.

[30]