



Middle School

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Dear 7th graders,

Welcome to 7th Grade Language Arts! The instructions for your summer assignment are outlined below.

This summer, you will journey through the dual narratives of Nya and Salva in Sudan—one fetching water every day, and the other surviving an incredible journey as one of the "Lost Boys" of Sudan. You can purchase the book or use the linked [PDF](#).

As you read *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park, you will complete two ongoing tasks in a 50 - page, B5 -sized notebook: a **Notice & Note Signposts Journal** and a **Vocabulary Vault**.

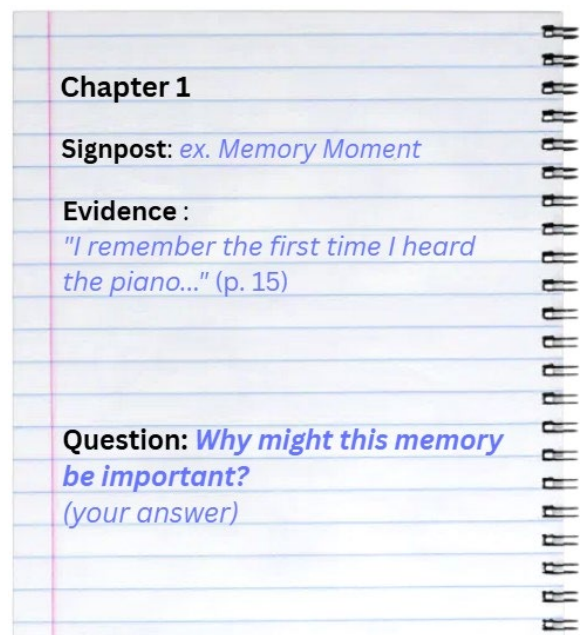
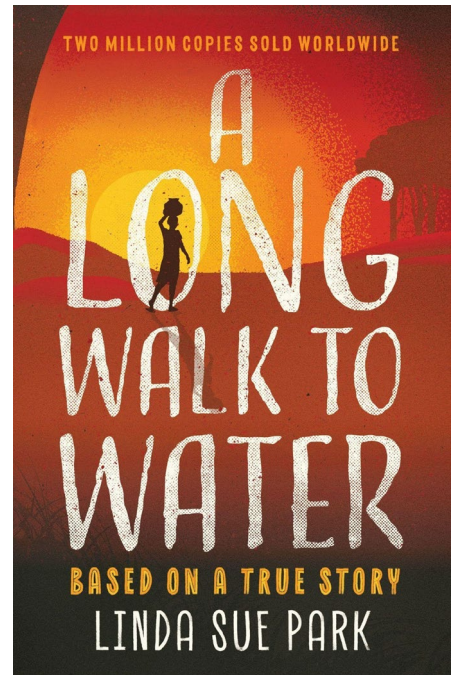
- **First part of the notebook:** dedicated to the Notice & Note Signposts Journal (30 pages)
- **Second part of the notebook:** dedicated to the Vocabulary Vault (20 pages)







Task 1: Notice & Note Signposts Reading Strategy

Authors leave "signposts" in their stories to help readers understand the characters and themes.

Review the 6 different types of signposts on the following page. As you read, identify at least **twenty signposts** in total, and answer the corresponding questions.

Your journal entries will look like the template to the right.



Signpost	What to look for...	The Question to Ask Yourself
 <p>CONTRASTS & CONTRADICTIONS</p>	A character acts in a way that is the opposite of how they usually act.	<i>Why is the character doing that?</i>
 <p>AHA! MOMENT</p>	A character suddenly realizes, understands, or finally figures something out.	<i>How might this change things?</i>
 <p>TOUGH QUESTIONS</p>	A character asks themselves a very difficult or confusing question.	<i>What does this make me wonder about?</i>
 <p>WORDS OF THE WISER</p>	An older or wiser character gives the protagonist serious advice.	<i>What is the life lesson, and how will it affect the character?</i>
 <p>AGAIN & AGAIN</p>	A word, phrase, or situation is repeated throughout the story.	<i>Why does the author keep repeating this?</i>
 <p>MEMORY MOMENT</p>	The author stops the action to tell you about a memory (flashback).	<i>Why might this memory be important?</i>

Notes:

- Try to keep your journal as neat and organized as possible, with clear handwriting.
- **Optional** : feel free to add drawings to your journal, to help you visualize the characters and their parallel journeys!

Task 2: Vocabulary Vault

Salva and Nya's stories are filled with powerful and evocative words. For **every chapter** , you must select **two words** that are new to you or used in an interesting way. You can write two or three words on each page.

For each word, include:

1. **The Word & Page Number:** (e.g., *Symphony, p. 12*)
2. **Definition:** Look up the formal dictionary definition. You may use Dictionary.com or Vocabulary.com .
3. **Original Sentence:** Write a sentence of your own that uses the word correctly.

The image shows two examples of a spiral-bound notebook page. Each page has a vertical margin line on the right side. The first example shows the following text: "The Word & Page Number: (e.g., *Symphony, p. 12*)", "Definition:", and "My sentence:". The second example shows the same text: "The Word & Page Number: (e.g., *Symphony, p. 12*)", "Definition:", and "My sentence:".

Summer Success Tips

- 1) **Pacing:** The book has 18 chapters. If you read **3 chapters a week** , you will finish with plenty of time to spare!
- 2) **Due Date:** Bring your completed notebook to the **first day of LA class.**

Have a wonderful summer and we will see you in September!

The 7th Grade Language Arts Team