



Discussion Questions
They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky
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- 1) What are some of the Lost Boys' memories and stories that had the biggest impression on you as a reader, and why?
- 2) Discuss the boys' childhood memories prior to fleeing their village, as described in Part I. What were their lives like? Were they happy? Were their human rights protected?
- 3) Sometimes good intentions go awry. On page 92, Benson talks about the problems with the food from the UN at the Panyido refugee camp in Ethiopia. What was the problem, what were the consequences, and how could it have been remedied?
- 4) Discuss the role of family and community in the book.
- 5) In *They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky*, we hear the grueling stories of several of the tens of thousands of boys who fled the conflict in their home communities. There is a brief mention of "Lost Girls" in the Epilogue. What happened to the girls during Sudan's civil war? Why is there such a disparate impact on girls and women during times of war?
- 6) Benjamin states: "They made us do crazy work in Natinga" (page 213). What did he mean by this, and how were the boys' rights violated while in Natinga?
- 7) There are snapshots of humanity's goodness. Alepho receives food when on the brink of starvation (page 179), and Benson receives water when on the brink of deadly dehydration (page 252). How can the spectrum of human actions range from taking to giving life, and everything in between?
- 8) What should the role of the international community have been during the beginning years of this conflict (or subsequently)?
- 9) It took nine years for the Lost Boys to find a home in the United States. Why do you think that refugees live in camps for so long? What are the repercussions of such long periods in refugee camps? Why is there not more attention put on the state of refugee camps?
- 10) Are there actions we can take as individuals to advocate on behalf of war-traumatized, vulnerable populations in camps who are often missing even the most basic services?
- 11) What were the reactions of Benson, Alepho, and Benjamin to the United States? Do you think that we offer welcoming communities and enough services for refugees to heal from their trauma and establish lives for themselves?