Of Beetles and Angels Study Guide

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**Chapter Title**: Memories Pg. 1-3

**Characters Introduced**:

**Mawi**: Main character

**Tsege**: Mawi’s mother

**Tewolde**: Mawi’s older Brother

**Mehret**: Mawi’s little sister

**Woman with bleeding feet**

**Chapter Summary**:

* Memories Mawi has of leaving his home in Adi Wahla, Ethiopia with his family at 3 years old to become refugees in Sudan.

**Discussion Questions**:

* Did anything life changing happen when you were young that you have memories of?

**Vocabulary Terms**: None

**Chapter Title**: The Camp Pg. 4- 12

**Character Introduced**:

**Mean one armed kindergarten math teacher**: Taught math to Mawi in the refugee camp, and beat him when he had more correct answers than his son.

**H**: Mawi’s Dog at the Refugee camp

**Ahferom**: A boy that bullied Mawi and Twelode while they were Refugees.

**Kiros**: A friend of Mawi and Tewlode that everyone feared, while being refugee because he liked to throw rocks at people.

**Haileab**: Mawi’s father

**Chapter Summary**:

* Mawi describes some of the things he had to deal with as a refugee such as bullying, diseases, the war surrounding them and, teachers beating him for no reason.
* Mawi friend Kiros goes leaves for America.
* Mawi’s father realizes that their homeland will never be safe enough to return to, so he decides it time for them to migrate to America.

**Discussion Questions**:

* Would you leave your homeland if you were in Mawi’s family situation?
* What do you think of Mawi’s parents letting the kindergarten teacher get away with abusing their child?
* Do you think you could survive the conditions in a refugee camp?

**Vocabulary Terms**:

**Kala-azar**: Visceral leishmaniasis, also known as black fever, and Dumdum fever is the most severe form of [leishmaniasis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leishmaniasis)*.* Leishmaniasis is a [disease](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disease) caused by [protozoan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protozoan) [parasite**s**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parasite) of the [Leishmania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leishmania) genus.The parasite migrates to the internal organs such as [liver](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liver), [spleen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spleen) (hence '[visceral](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viscus))' and [bone marrow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bone_marrow) and if left untreated will almost always result in the death of the host. Signs and symptoms include [fever](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fever), [weight loss](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cachexia), [mucosal ulcers](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mucosal_ulcers&action=edit&redlink=1), [fatigue](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatigue), [anemia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anemia) and substantial swelling of the liver and spleen.

**Habesha**: In the broadest sense, the word "Habesha" may refer to anyone from Ethiopia or Eritrea.

**Centripetal**: Tending or directed toward centralization.

**Chapter Title**: Coming to America Pg. 14-18

**Characters Introduced:**

**Mulu**: Mawi’s older half sister

**Chapter Summary:**

* Mawi’s father Haileab passes the interview process to go to America.
* In the finals days before going to America, Mulu shows up and they do not want to leave her behind.
* After begging for Mulu to be able to come with them to America, they have to wait a year before they all can go as a family.
* The family leaves Africa for America.

**Discussion Question:**

* Would you have a hard time leaving everything behind despite the dire situation around you?
* Do you think you could pass the interview that Haileab took to come to America?

**Vocabulary Terms:**

**Malignant**: passionately and relentlessly malevolent or aggressively malicious.

**Chapter Title**: A New Life Pg. 20-27

**Character Introduced:**

**Beth Raney:** A World Relief caseworker

**Hntsa-Eyesus:** Mawi’s little brother born in Chicago

**Two Habesha Women**: That came to Mawi family motel room, bearing Injera Bread and Sebhi Stew.

**Chapter Summary:**

* Mawi’s family spent the 1st two weeks in America in a motel room in Chicago.
* When World Relief could not find a sponsor for Mawi’s family in Chicago, so they were moved to another motel in Wheaton.
* Haileab did not know he had Malaria until their case worker Beth Raney noticed and got him the medicine he needed.
* Beth finds a church to sponsor Mawi’s family and a two story house for them to live in.
* Mawi’s family begins to feel home sick.
* Hnsta is born.

**Discussion Question:**

* Would you mind staying at a motel for more than a week? Even with six other people?
* Would you ever consider being a World Relief Case worker like Beth?
* Does your church sponsor any type of organization?
* Would you be scared to venture out in a new place?
* Do you get home sick easily?
* How do you think American TV is perceived by people unfamiliar with the United States?

**Vocabulary Terms:**

**Hafatmat**: Crazy rich

**Sebhi Stew**: is an [Eritrean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuisine_of_Eritrea) and [Ethiopian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuisine_of_Ethiopia) [stew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stew) which may be prepared with chicken, beef, lamb, a variety of vegetables, and spice mixtures such as [berbere](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berbere) and [niter kibbeh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niter_kibbeh), a seasoned [clarified butter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarified_butter)

**Injera Bread**: a [pancake](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pancake)-like [bread](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bread) made out of [teff](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teff) [flour](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flour).

**Chapter Title:** God’s Angels Pg. 29-31

**Character Introduced:**

**Angel:** A homeless man Mawi’s Father sheltered for awhile that gave him a rainbow colored address book as payment.

**Charlene**: A 21 year old woman that took Mawi and his siblings outside to play during the time their parents were still afraid of their surroundings.

**Chapter Summary:**

* Mawi shares the philosophy his father taught him about how to treat people kindly.
* Describes his father sheltering the homeless man.
* Tells about how Charlene would take Mawi and his siblings out to the park

**Discussion Question:**

* Do you live by a similar philosophy as Mawi’s Father taught him?

**Vocabulary Terms:** None.

**Chapter Title:** Playground War fare Pg. 33-44

**Character Introduced:**

**Sam**: A bully that tried to suffocate Mawi by squeezing him into a fence

**Brian Wilmer**: Tewolde‘s best friend that lived up the street from them.

**Frank and Mbago**: Two Nigerian brothers that would pick on Mawi

**Marc and Dennis**: Two friends that attempted to jump Mawi

**Jake Evans**: A highly feared bully that threatened Tewolde and carries around an illegal length switchblade.

**Kawaun**: Tewolde’s friend that enlisted his older brothers help to save Tewolde from Jake Evans.

**Chapter Summary:**

* Mawi tells many stories about how tough school was for him and his siblings.
* People would call them names and try to bully them, causing them to get into physical fights.
* Mawi and Tewolde almost got expelled from elementary school for fighting.

**Discussion Question:**

* Do you think a child can really understand they value of an education? If no. how long before they understand the magnitude if getting one?
* Do you think you could have withstood all the taunting and name calling Mawi and his siblings endure?
* Would you have resorted to fist fighting everyday or would you have found an alternate route?
* What do you think about Mawi’s parents not taking his side after he was defending himself from someone else attacks?
* Has anyone every come to you aide when you were in a tight spot?

**Vocabulary Terms:**

Kiesoh igre: means ball of foot

**Chapter Title:** Days of Mischief Pg. 47-60

**Character Introduced:**

**Old Woman**: was convinced that Mawi. Tewolde and Kiros were trying to rob her.

**Bo**: Mawi and Tewolde mutual friend that apart of their plan to steal money from the parking meter

**Policemen**: Police men that finds Mawi and his friends with the stolen parking meter

**Chapter Summary:**

* Mawi tells stories about the mischief he would get into on Halloween.
  + Stealing Candy and eggs houses
* How they got reunited with Kiros
* How Mawi learned his lesson about all the trouble he gets into after he is nearly gets caught after he, his brother and two friends steal a parking meter

**Discussion Question:**

* Do you like Halloween? If so why?
* Do you pull pranks and steal during Halloween? If so, why?
* Would hang out with someone like Kiros?
* Did you show respect to the elderly when you were young?
* Why do you think it took so long for Mawi to learn his lesson?

**Vocabulary Terms:**

**Gifa**: Sudanese card game