

NAME: _____

The Clay Marble Student Guide

Author: _____

Time Period: _____

Genre: _____

Conflict taking place during the story: _____

BACKGROUND

In this section, narrator Dara enjoys listening to the stories and folktales that her new friend Jantu tells. Cambodian folktales do not usually tell about noble or mighty heroes. They are often about peasants outsmarting authority figures, animals outsmarting people, or small, clever animals such as monkeys and rabbits outsmarting larger, more powerful animals like crocodiles and elephants.

BUDDHISM

In this section, Dara and her mother speak to the Buddha in prayer. The Buddhist religion, which started in India, spread to Cambodia about two thousand years ago. It is based on the teachings of Gautama, who was a prince born in India more than 2,500 years ago. He became known as the Buddha, or Enlightened One. The Buddha taught that all people, through methods of behavior and thinking, could overcome suffering and be enlightened, or gain great understanding of the spiritual world. Buddhism was popular in Cambodia in the sixth and seventh centuries and after 1200. When the Khmer Rouge Communists took over Cambodia in 1975, all forms of religion were condemned. Monks were killed or forced to work as farm laborers, and *wats*, or monasteries, were destroyed. In the early 1980s, with the Vietnam invasion, Cambodians were free to practice religion again. Today 95 percent of the Cambodian population is Buddhist.

The Clay Marble: **Vocabulary**

Converge: _____

Demurely: _____

Meager: _____

Relent: _____

Shrapnel: _____

Sinewy: _____

Belligerently: _____

Flux: _____

Insolent: _____

Mobilize: _____

Subdued: _____

Winnow: _____

Maimed: _____

Ominous: _____

Retreat: _____

Sentries: _____

Stifle: _____

Strenuous: _____

0701.8.6: Characterization

The Clay Marble: Characterization

Pol Pot / Khmer Rouge

How does the author characterize Pol Pot & the Khmer Rouge?

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Dara

Thoughts	Actions	What they say

Sarun

Thoughts	Actions	What they say

Their Mother

Thoughts	Actions	What they say

Nea

Thoughts	Actions	What they say

Grandpa Kem

Thoughts	Actions	What they say

Jantu

Thoughts	Actions	What they say

Chany

Thoughts	Actions	What they say

The Clay Marble: Chapter Responses

Chapter 1:

1. Why has the family fled their village? _____

2. Summarize the historical details given on pages 5-7: _____

3. Why is rice so important to the family? _____

4. (0701.8.9: Types of Conflict) Use examples from the book to explain any conflicts that Dara is facing.

Person v Person(s)	Person v Self	Person v Technology	Person v Nature / Environment

5. Write a brief summary of the events in chapter 1. _____

Chapter 2:

1. Describe life in camp that first night. _____

2. Why was it like coming home? _____

3. Why would strangers offer to help Dara and her family? _____

4. Why does Sarun not want to take the rice Nea offered them? _____

5. Discuss the last line of chapter 2. _____

6. Write a brief summary of the events in chapter 2. _____

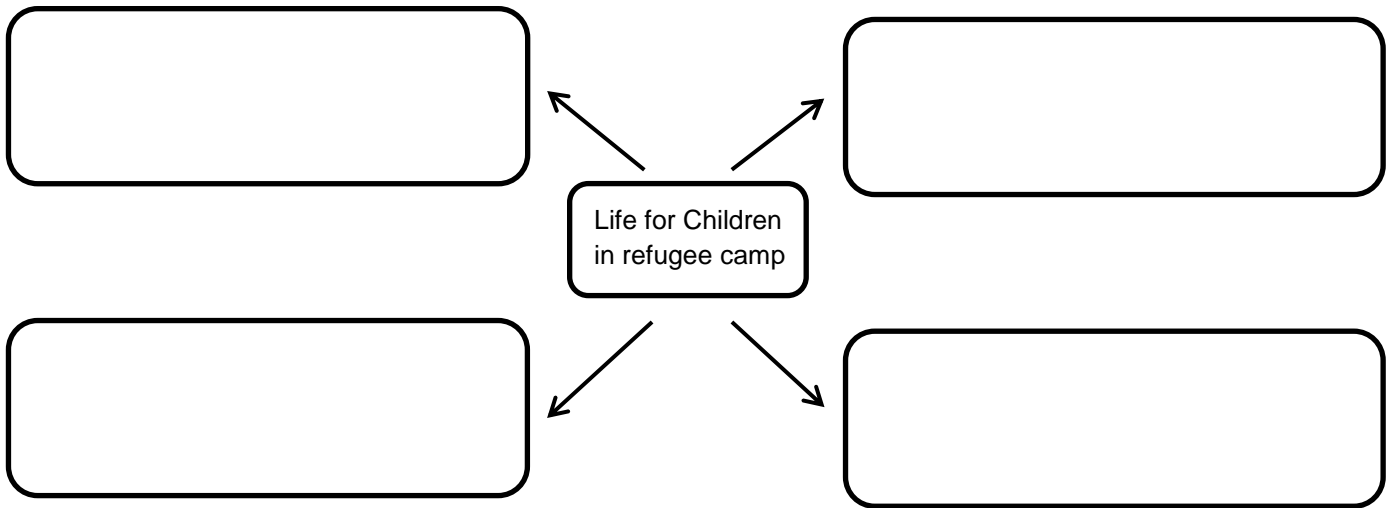
Chapter 3:

1. What simile does Ho use near the bottom of page 23? _____

2. What is your first impression of Jantu? _____

Why? _____

3. Use the graphic organizer below to explain what life is like in the refugee camp:

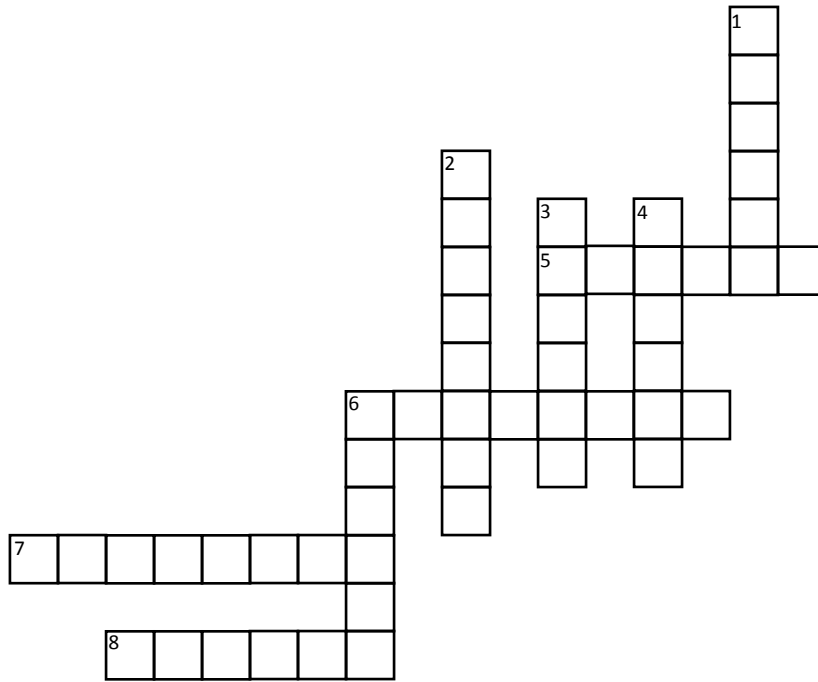


4. Jantu leads Dara somewhere she herself goes with the baby every day. Where is this?

Why is this important? _____

5. Write a brief summary of the events in chapter 3. _____

Chapters 1-3: Vocabulary Crossword



Across:

5. To urge strongly
6. Fragments from an exploded artillery shell, mine, or bomb
7. Deserted, lifeless
8. In a way that is rudely brief or abrupt

Down:

1. Lacking fullness or strength
2. To come together from different directions
3. To forgive, to soften in attitude or temper
4. High-pitched or piercing in tone; harsh
6. Long, lean, and muscular

Chapters 1-3: Discuss the main theme of this book with a partner and write it on the line.

Theme: _____

Now, think of a scene from chapters 1-3 that best illustrates the theme of the importance of friends and family. Create a drawing of that scene in the space below.

Chapter 4:

1. How many people are estimated to be at the refugee camp?

2. Describe Jantu's family.

3. Why is Dara feeling hopeful? (Cite actual evidence from the book with the page number)

4. What relationship is developing?

5. Why are Dara and Jantu happy about this?

Chapter 5:

1. Why does Dara find Jantu so fascinating?

2. After Chnay ruins the mobile, what item does Jantu make and how does Dara feel about it?

3. What kind of person is Chany?

4. Why do you think he destroys things? (use details from the story to support your answer)

5. Jantu is a great storyteller. She tells stories and sings songs that her mother sang to her. She is carrying on the oral tradition of storytelling. Why is this important? _____

6. Why is imagination important to Dara and Jantu? _____

7. What analogy does Jantu use to describe the Cambodian government? _____

What does the analogy compare? _____

What figure of speech is this analogy? _____

Chapter 6:

1. According to Jantu, why are she and Dara no longer part of “real” families? _____

What does Jantu say a “real” family is? _____

2. What do Jantu’s clay dolls reveal about the girls’ attitude toward family and their hope for the future? _____

What plans do the girls have for creating a “real” family? _____

3. Discuss the sadness expressed by both Dara and Jantu in this chapter. _____

REFLECTIONS: Chp’s 1-6

1. Food and the feeling of community at Nong Chan lift Dara’s spirits but cannot erase her strong feelings of sadness. Why is she sad, and how does the author show this sadness?

2. After reading this section, how do you feel about the fighting in Cambodia? Explain your feelings. _____

Chapter 7:

1. Dara doesn't want to leave despite the shelling, but Jantu tells her something that makes her feel better. What does she tell her? _____

2. What does Jantu mean by this? _____

3. What does Jantu tell Dara about the little girl with the broken doll who is crying for her mother? _____

4. If I were to tell you that this is foreshadowing, what could you infer? _____

5. According Dara, what does it mean to be a refugee? _____

6. Explain how Dara and Jantu become separated from their families. (give details)

Chapter 8:

1. What responsibility does Jantu give Dara? _____

2. Discuss the similes on pages 66 and 69. _____

3. Would you leave a best friend behind in a situation like this? _____

4. Why or why not? _____

Chapter 9:

1. What does Dara find when she returns to the stone beam? _____

2. What survived the destruction? _____

3. How is it symbolic? _____

Chapter 10:

1. What important information does Chnay share with Dara when they are at the stone beam?

2. Why do you think that Dara feels sorry for Chnay for the first time?

3. Where has Dara's family gone? _____

4. How does she know? _____

Chapter 11:

1. Dara believes the marble gives her strength and courage. How did she use the marble in this chapter? _____

2. Why does Dara ask for a job in the General's kitchen? _____

3. What character trait does she show in her conversation with the General? _____

Chapter 12:

1. Why is Dara so upset about the rice? _____

2. How did Dara find her family? _____

Chapter 13:

1. How has Sarun changed? _____

2. How has the family reacted to Sarun's change and decision? _____

Chapter 14:

1. Jantu is at the Khao I Dong hospital camp. What is it like there?

Chapter 15:

1. What happens to Nea, Jantu, Dara, and Baby as they are returning to their camp?

2. Why does this happen? _____

3. Who is responsible? _____

4. How would you react in a situation like this? _____

Chapter 16:

1. What does Jantu tell Dara about the magic marble? _____

2. Does this change how Dara acts? _____
3. How does it impact her decisions? _____

Chapter 17:

1. Sarun has made a big decision. What is it? _____

2. Why would he make this decision? _____

3. What has Dara influenced her family to do? _____

4. What is Sarun's reaction to the way Dara influences her family? _____

Chapter 18:

1. What happens to the magic marble? _____

2. What does this reveal about Dara? _____

3. What is the lesson that Dara learns about the magic marble? _____

4. What does Chnay decide to do? _____

5. What do you think will happen to him? _____

