

# A Long Walk to Water Vocabulary

## Chapters 11–14

1. Based on the sentence, what can you assume a **scythe** is?

*"The long grass had to be scythed and hoed under."*



- a. a person who takes care of the land
- b. a kind of boat
- c. a tool to cut grass



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b. He is surrounded by only his family.  
c. There are so many people that it's overwhelming or crowded.  
d. He is looking for a church service.

3. What effect does the word **merciless** have on the reader's understanding of the river?

*"Swollen by the rains, the Gilo's current would be merciless."*

- a. It makes the river seem peaceful and calm.
- b. It makes the river seem dangerous and unforgiving.
- c. It shows that the river is shallow and slow.
- d. It makes the river seem like a safe place to cross.

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4. Based on the sentence, what can you infer about the purpose of a **borehole**?

*"This wasn't the water that the workers had been piping into the borehole."*

- a. It is a natural spring found underground.
- b. It is a deep hole drilled to access water.
- c. It is a container that holds clean water.
- d. It is a tool used to clean water.



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*"The rumors skittered around the camp."*

- a. moved quickly from person to person
- b. stayed quiet and unnoticed
- c. spread through official announcements
- d. were ignored by everyone

7. Which sentence best shows the meaning of the word **rumor**?

- a. Everyone knew the facts after the principal made an announcement.
- b. A few students were whispering that there might be a pop quiz, but no one was sure where the information came from.
- c. The teacher passed out the official schedule for the test.
- d. The students studied the textbook to prepare for the upcoming science unit.

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8. Based on your understanding of the word **aid**, what is an **aid worker**?

- a. a person who explores a new area
- b. a person who leads others on a journey
- c. a person who protects a place from danger
- d. a person who provides help or support to people in need

9. What does the word **telltale** suggest in the sentence below, and what can the reader infer from it?



10. Based on the sentence below, what does the word **peril** most likely mean, and what does it help the reader understand about the boys' journey?

*"Every group had stories of terrible peril: boys who had been hurt or killed by bullets or bombs, attacked by wild animals, or left behind because they were too weak or sick to keep up."*

- a. **Peril** means serious danger, helping the reader understand the life-threatening challenges the boys faced.
- b. **Peril** means confusion, helping the reader see that the boys were often lost.
- c. **Peril** means adventure, showing that the boys were brave and excited to travel.
- d. **Peril** means strength, showing how powerful the boys became during their journey.

# ANSWER KEY

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2.

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3.



- d. It makes the river seem like a safe place to cross.

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6.



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