Words to Know

Directions: As you come across words in bold in “I Live in a Refugee Camp,” ask yourself if you know them or if you can figure them out from context. Check their meanings here. Then complete the activities on the following pages.

1. adapt: “I had to adapt,” she says simply.” (p. 8)
   Meaning: to change because you’re in a new place or situation

2. crisis: “But it was World War II that brought a refugee crisis to a level the world had never seen.” (p. 6)
   Meaning: a very difficult or dangerous situation that needs immediate attention

3. droughts: “At the same time, widespread droughts have swept across Somalia.” (p. 6)
   Meaning: long periods of time where there is very little or no rain and people do not have enough water

4. famine: “Famine has killed 260,000 Somali men, women, and children—and left many more sick and starving.” (p. 6)
   Meaning: a severe shortage of food that causes many people over a wide area to suffer and die

5. grim: “Life in these camps can be grim, with families crowding into tents that boil in summer and freeze in winter.” (p. 8)
   Meaning: sad or hopeless

6. looted: “Factories have been looted.” (p. 6)
   Meaning: raided by people who steal things

7. refugee: “You would never plan to become a refugee.” (p. 4)
   Meaning: a person forced to leave his or her home because of war, hunger, natural disaster, or other dangers

8. resettled: “Some will eventually be resettled in places like the United States, Australia, Germany, or Canada.” (p. 9)
   Meaning: helped or forced to live in a new area

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9. rubble: “Maybe you live in a country torn apart by war, and your house was bombed to rubble.” (p. 4)
   Meaning: broken pieces of bricks, stones, or other building materials

10. scarce: “Maybe you live in a region where food is scarce, and you are facing starvation.” (p. 4)
    Meaning: If something is scarce, there's not enough of it.

11. sprawling: “The camp is like a sprawling town, with tidy rows of bamboo shelters separated by wide dirt streets.” (p. 7)
    Meaning: spread out; covering a large area

Directions: Choose the word that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

1. scarce
   A plentiful    B limited

2. grim
   A gloomy      B cheerful

3. crisis
   A blessing    B disaster

4. resettled
   A moved       B stayed

Directions: Read each statement below and decide whether you think it's true or false. Briefly explain your choice.

5. If you've been resettled in an area, you've lived there your whole life.
   A true    B false
   Reason:________________________________________

6. If an area is experiencing a famine, many people there are hungry.
   A true    B false
   Reason:________________________________________
7. After the hurricane destroyed the city, there were many people who were forced to leave their homes.

________________________________________________________________________

8. The town quickly grew from a tiny village to a city that covered a large area.

________________________________________________________________________

9. When there was a long time without rain, Fiona took shorter showers to save water.

________________________________________________________________________

10. The construction company tore down the building, so now it is just a pile of broken building materials.

________________________________________________________________________

11. It took a few weeks for the family's new puppy to change to fit its new situation of living in their house.

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