**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

Continued on next page >
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.
Directions: Watch the video “Beyond the Story: I Live in a Refugee Camp.” Then answer the questions below.

1. According to the first section of the video, what is life like in Somalia? How do the narration, visuals, and music support your answer?
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
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2. What is a refugee camp? Who lives there, and what does the camp provide?
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3. In the video, we learn more about Bilan’s life in the camp. How is her life different from or similar to yours? Think about her home, hobbies, school, and chores.
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4. The end of the video discusses the future. What is uncertain about the future for Bilan and refugees like her? What are her hopes for her future?
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Think About It!

Close-Reading Questions: After reading “I Live in a Refugee Camp,” go back and reread sections to answer the questions below.

1. Based on the beginning of the article, on page 4, give at least two reasons why people become refugees. Why did 15-year-old Bilan have to flee her home?

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2. In the first section, author Kristin Lewis writes that Bilan was once a “typical kid” who “went to school and had many friends.” Why might Lewis introduce Bilan in this way?

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3. According to the first section, what is life like in Somalia? What have people there done as a result?

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Continued on next page >
Think About It! p. 2

4. Reread “Crisis After Crisis.” How did World War II affect people in Europe? What did countries around the world do to help?

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5. Based on “Life in the Camp,” how does life in the Kobe camp compare with life in other refugee camps?

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6. Reread “What’s Next?” What eventually happens to refugees after they flee their homes?

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7. Look at the photos on pages 6-9, “A Day in Bilan’s Life.” What do these photos add to the story?

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Continued on next page >
Think About It! p. 3

Critical-Thinking Questions: After answering the close-reading questions, answer the critical-thinking questions below, thinking about the meaning of the whole article.

8. How has becoming a refugee changed Bilan’s life? How has she responded to those changes? Explain using details from the article.

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9. Consider Bilan at the end of the article. How might her experience as a refugee have affected her goal to become a doctor?

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Continued on next page >
10. Why is it important to learn about refugees?

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Think About It!

Directions: After reading “I Live in a Refugee Camp,” go back and reread sections to answer the questions below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Close-Reading Questions:

1. Based on the beginning of the article, on page 4, give at least two reasons why people become refugees. Why did 15-year-old Bilan have to flee her home?

2. In the first section, author Kristin Lewis writes that Bilan was once a “typical kid” who “went to school and had many friends.” Why might Lewis introduce Bilan in this way?

3. According to the first section, what is life like in Somalia? What have people there done as a result?

4. Reread “Crisis After Crisis.” How did World War II affect people in Europe? What did countries around the world do to help?

5. Based on “Life in the Camp,” how does life in the Kobe camp compare with life in other refugee camps?

6. Reread “What’s Next?” What eventually happens to refugees after they flee their homes?

7. Look at the photos on pages 6-9, “A Day in Bilan’s Life.” What do these photos add to the story?

Critical-Thinking Questions:

8. How has becoming a refugee changed Bilan’s life? How has she responded to those changes? Explain using details from the article.

9. Consider Bilan at the end of the article. How might her experience as a refugee have affected her goal to become a doctor?

10. Why is it important to learn about refugees?
Think About It!

Close-Reading Questions: Read “I Live in a Refugee Camp.” Then go back and reread sections of the article to answer the questions below. We’ve started the first two answers for you.

1. Based on the first section of the article, why did Bilan have to leave her home?

Bilan had to leave her home because

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. How was Bilan’s life “typical” (like other people’s) before leaving home? How was it different?

Some ways that Bilan’s life was typical are that

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Some ways that her life was different are that

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Continued on next page >
3. Look at the section “Crisis After Crisis.” What is the UNHCR? How does it help people?

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

4. Reread “Life in the Camp.” How is life in the Kobe camp better than it is in other refugee camps?

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Continued on next page >
5. According to the section "What’s Next?" what happens to most refugees? What do they mainly want? Are most able to return to their old lives?

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________________________________________________________________________________________________________
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6. Based on "Vision for the Future," how does Bilan feel about her new life? How is she adjusting?

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Continued on next page >
Think About It! p. 4

Critical-Thinking Question (big question about the whole story):

7. Why is it important to learn about refugees? How can knowing about problems refugees face help solve this worldwide problem?

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Directions: Fill in the boxes below with details from “I Live in a Refugee Camp” to identify the causes and effects of Bilan’s family's decision to flee Somalia and move into a refugee camp in Ethiopia. Use our clues to help you.

**Cause 1:** What changes in Somalia led Bilan’s family to decide to leave?

**Cause 2:** What did Bilan’s family hope for when they left their home for a refugee camp?

**Cause 3:** Who or what makes it possible for Bilan’s family to receive help at the refugee camp?

**Event:**
Bilan became a refugee four years ago when her family left Somalia and moved to the Kobe refugee camp in Ethiopia.

**Effect 1:** How is life in the refugee camp different from life in Somalia?

**Effect 2:** How has Bilan reacted to life in the refugee camp?

**Effect 3:** What opportunities do refugees have in Ethiopia?
Writing a Summary

A summary is a short retelling of the most important parts of a story. It should include the information that someone would need to know to understand the story, without minor details or your own opinion.

Directions: Complete the summary below, using the prompts in the margins to help you.

Summary of “I Live in a Refugee Camp”

“I Live in a Refugee Camp” is about ____________________________________________.

Four years ago, Bilan and her family fled their home in Somalia because ________

__________________________________________________________

They escaped to ____________________________________________.

Compared with other refugee camps, the Kobe camp is ________________________

__________________________________________________________

Though life in the refugee camp can be difficult, Bilan decided ________________

__________________________________________________________

After living in a camp, some refugees will ____________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Many receive help from organizations such as ______________________________

__________________________________________________________

Bilan’s plans for the future include ______________________________________

__________________________________________________________
Quick, Tell Me What Happened!

Your friend Nora was absent from school and didn't get to read “I Live in a Refugee Camp” in Storyworks. You call her to tell her about it, but she has only one minute before she must rush off to dance class. Quick, give her a short summary!

Directions: Follow the prompts below to write a one-paragraph summary. Remember, a summary is a brief retelling of the most important parts of the story, without minor details or your own opinion.

1. Decide what the article is mainly about. Think about:
   What do the headline and subhead on pages 4-5 suggest the article is about? __________________________________________
   Who appears in the picture on pages 4-5? __________________________________________________________________
   What problems does the article tell you about? ______________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

   Use your answers to create a topic sentence for your summary.

   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

2. Decide what the most important information in the article is. Go through each section and jot down notes about what you think is necessary to know to explain what you wrote in your topic sentence. Your notes don't have to be complete sentences. We've given you some examples (and crossed out what does not belong).

   Opening Section
   more refugees than in nearly a century
   twinkling eyes and shy smile
   different groups in Somalia are at war

   “Crisis After Crisis”

   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
Quick, Tell Me What Happened! p. 2

“Life in the Camp”  
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
“What’s Next?”  
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
“Vision for the Future”  
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

3. Look at your notes. Cross out anything you wrote that is not necessary. Add anything that’s missing.
Ask yourself:
* Did I include information about what happened? Where and when it happened?
  Why it happened? Who was involved? How it ended?
* Is there a detail or two describing the main topic?
* Did I write details that aren’t essential for understanding the main topic?
  Get rid of those! (See example on page 1.)

4. Number your notes above so you can retell them in an order that makes sense.

5. Use your topic sentence and your notes to write your one-paragraph summary on a separate sheet of paper, retelling what happened in your own words. Reread it to make sure it’s clear and that it sums up what’s important in the article. Then you can share your summary with your friend Nora!

Tip!
Use your notes to summarize the article out loud with a partner. This will help you decide if you need to add or take out any information.
Finding the Main Ideas

The main idea of a section or a whole article is an important idea that the author wants you to know about the topic. Looking at the details can help you figure out what the main idea is. What do they mainly describe? You can also use the titles of sections as clues.

Directions: Complete the chart below. Use the prompts to help you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Main idea</th>
<th>How do you know?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| First section, starting at the beginning of the article | When living in Somalia became dangerous, Bilan and her family moved to a refugee camp in Ethiopia. | Give two more details from this section that explain why Bilan and other Somali people have left Somalia:  
• Many public places have been bombed.  
•  |
| “Crisis After Crisis” | Write the main idea: | The main idea is supported by the details below. Think about what they tell you about why the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was formed and what its purpose is:  
• World War II destroyed many European cities.  
• The war caused 40 million people in Europe to become refugees.  
• Different countries worked together to help the refugees. |
# Main Idea and Supporting Details

## “I Live in a Refugee Camp”

December 2019/January 2020

Name: ____________________________   Date: ________________

## Finding the Main Ideas, p. 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
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<th>How do you know?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Life in the Camp”</td>
<td>Living in a refugee camp is challenging, but the camp Bilan lives in is safer and more comfortable than others.</td>
<td>Give three more details from this section that describe what many refugee camps are like and what the Kobe camp is like in comparison:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Many camps lack basic comforts and supplies.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“What’s Next?”</td>
<td>Write the main idea:</td>
<td>The main idea is supported by the details below. Think about what they tell you about the future for many refugees:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Some refugees will go back to their home country once it’s safe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Often, people need to live in refugee camps for many years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• A small number of refugees are resettled in other countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Vision for the Future”</td>
<td>Bilan is making the most of life in the Kobe refugee camp.</td>
<td>Give two more details from this section that describe how Bilan is adapting to her new life:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Bilan has made friends in the camp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Finding the Main Ideas**

The main idea of a section or a whole article is an important idea that the author wants you to know about the topic. Looking at the details can help you figure out what the main idea is. What do they mainly describe? You can also use the titles of sections as clues.

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• Many public places have been bombed. |
| “Crisis After Crisis” | Write the main idea: | The main idea is supported by the details below. Think about what they tell you about why the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was formed and what its purpose is:  
• World War II destroyed many European cities.  
• The war caused 40 million people in Europe to become refugees.  
• Different countries worked together to help the refugees. |
## “Life in the Camp”

**Main idea:** Living in a refugee camp is challenging, but the camp Bilan lives in is safer and more comfortable than others.

**How do you know?**

Give three more details from this section that support the main idea on the left:

- Many camps lack basic comforts and supplies.
- 
- 

## “What’s Next?”

**Main idea:** Write the main idea:

The main idea is supported by the details below:

- Some refugees will go back to their home country once it’s safe.
- Often, people need to live in refugee camps for many years.
- A small number of refugees are resettled in other countries.

## “Vision for the Future”

**Main idea:** Write the main idea:

Give three details from this section that support the main idea on the left:

- 
- 

Making Inferences

An inference is something you can figure out from clues in a story, even though the story doesn’t say it directly.

**Directions:** The chart below lists clues from “I Live in a Refugee Camp” on the left and inferences you can make from them on the right. Fill in the blanks on the chart with clues or inferences from the article.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clues</th>
<th>Inferences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Consider these lines from the article:  
  • “Not so long ago, Bilan was a typical kid.”  
  • “The journey out of Somalia took Bilan and her family about 10 days.”  
  • “They crossed over the border into Ethiopia with little more than the clothes they were wearing.”  
| What can you infer about how Bilan probably felt when her family left their home in Somalia?  
  _________________________________________________________  
  _________________________________________________________  
  _________________________________________________________  
  _________________________________________________________  
  _________________________________________________________  |
| Write two lines from the article that support the inference on the right.  
  _________________________________________________________  
  _________________________________________________________  
  _________________________________________________________  
  _________________________________________________________  
  _________________________________________________________  
  _________________________________________________________  |
| The UNHCR is an important and necessary organization. |
### Inference

**“I Live in a Refugee Camp”**  
December 2019/January 2020

Name: ____________________________________________   Date: ________________

#### Making Inferences, p. 2

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Clues</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Consider these lines from the article:</td>
<td>What can you infer about Bilan’s new life in the refugee camp?</td>
</tr>
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<td>• “But every camp has the same basic purpose: to provide food, medicine, housing, and protection to refugees.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “She would no longer live in a home in a big city. She would live in a small shelter in the middle of a vast desert.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “Instead, she would have to lug water from the camp’s well, a time-consuming and difficult chore. She would also have to fetch firewood for cooking.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write two lines from the article that support the inference on the right.</td>
<td>Bilan will have a bright future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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# Making Inferences

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<td>• “She would no longer live in a home in a big city. She would live in a small shelter in the middle of a vast desert.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Write one more line from the article that supports the inference on the right.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write two lines from the article that support the inference on the right.</td>
<td>Write your own inference from “I Live in a Refugee Camp.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“I Live in a Refugee Camp” Quiz

Directions: Read the feature “I Live in a Refugee Camp” in the December 2019/January 2020 issue of Storyworks. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Why did Bilan and her family leave their home?
   A) They wanted freedom to practice their religion.
   B) They had always wanted to live in Ethiopia.
   C) They had run out of food and money.
   D) They wanted to find a safer place to live.

2. The author most likely wrote this article to inform readers about ______.
   A) Bilan’s family
   B) the history of Somalia
   C) life in a refugee camp
   D) refugees during World War II

3. Which line below supports your answer to question 2?
   A) “There are many reasons a person might become a refugee.”
   B) “But every camp has the same basic purpose: to provide food, medicine, housing, and protection to refugees.”
   C) “Since 1991, different groups in the country have been at war.”
   D) “But early on, Bilan made a choice.”

4. Compared to some other refugee camps, the camp Bilan lives in is ______.
   A) clean    C) dangerous
   B) crowded  D) small

5. What does the word refugee mean as it is used in the article?
   A) a person who moves to another country
   B) a person who escapes to another country to stay safe
   C) a camp which provides protection
   D) an organization that helps people during war

6. What conclusion can you draw from “I Live in a Refugee Camp”?
   A) Life in a refugee camp is different, but it can help people stay safe.
   B) Life in a refugee camp is difficult and dangerous.
   C) Life in a refugee camp is fun and exciting.
   D) Life in a refugee camp is the same for everyone.

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with information and details from the article.

7. How do the photographs in the article help readers relate to Bilan?

8. What changes did Bilan face when she moved to the refugee camp? Use details from the story to support your answer.
“I Live in a Refugee Camp” Quiz

Directions: Read the feature “I Live in a Refugee Camp” in the December 2019/January 2020 issue of Storyworks. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer(s) for each question below.

1. Bilan and her family left their home . . .
   A for religious freedom.
   B because of widespread disease.
   C to escape violence.
   D to explore new places.

2. According to the article, what problems do the people of Somalia currently face?
   Choose TWO of the following:
   A hunger
   B overcrowding
   C violence
   D disease

3. What is most likely the author’s main purpose for writing this article?
   A to persuade readers to help refugees like Bilan
   B to inform readers about the history of Somalia
   C to help readers understand what life is like in a refugee camp
   D to explain to readers why there were so many refugees after World War II

4. Which sentence from the article supports the answer to question 3?
   A “There are many reasons a person might become a refugee.”
   B “The camp is like a sprawling town, with tidy rows of bamboo shelters separated by wide dirt streets.”
   C “Since 1991, different groups in the country have been at war.”
   D “But early on, Bilan made a choice.”

5. Life is grim in some refugee camps because they are ______.
   A crowded
   B comfortable
   C bustling
   D organized

6. The map helps you better understand the text by showing . . .
   A how far the refugee camp is from Bilan’s hometown.
   B where the fighting in Somalia is taking place.
   C which countries took part in World War II.
   D where UNHCR workers assist people.

7. What conclusion can you draw from “I Live in a Refugee Camp”?
   A All refugee camps are the same.
   B People live in refugee camps for a short time.
   C Life in a refugee camp is fun and exciting.
   D Refugee camps provide protection and basic supplies for people who need them.

8. Which sentence from the article supports the answer to question 7?
   A “Outbreaks of violence and disease are constant threats.”
   B “But every camp has the same basic purpose: to provide food, medicine, housing, and protection to refugees.”
   C “Around the world, there are more than 100 refugee camps.”
   D “More than half the world’s refugees are children or teenagers, like Bilan.”

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with information and details from the article.

9. How do the photographs in the article help readers relate to Bilan?

10. How is Bilan’s new life in the refugee camp different from her life in Somalia? Support your answer with text evidence.
“I Live in a Refugee Camp”

To the teacher: We suggest using these questions with the lower-Lexile version of the story, supported by the lower-Lexile audio version. Select the ones that are best for your students, depending on where they are in their acquisition of English. Ask them orally or choose questions to create your own written assignment. If students are ready, prompt them to follow up their answers with more details.

Yes/No Questions
These questions allow students who are new to English to show their understanding with a simple answer.
1. Was Bilan happy to be a refugee? (No, she wasn’t.)
2. Was Somalia a violent place to live? (Yes, it was.)
3. Did Bilan’s journey to the camp in Ethiopia take 10 years? (No, it didn’t. Optional: It took 10 days.)
4. Is the UNHCR still helping refugees? (Yes, it is.)
5. Does the Kobe camp have schools? (Yes, it does.)
6. Are refugees in Ethiopia allowed to work? (Yes, they are.)

Either/Or Questions
These questions allow slightly more-advanced students to use language from the question in their answer.
1. Is life in Somalia easy or hard? (It’s hard.)
2. Are Somali people fleeing to Kenya or fleeing from Kenya? (They’re fleeing to Kenya.)
3. Were there 40 million refugees or 80 million refugees in Europe after World War II? (There were 40 million.)
4. Has Bilan adjusted to life as a refugee or protested against it? (She has adjusted.)
5. How many refugees get resettled: few or many? (Few get resettled.)
6. Does Bilan decorate her shelter with beads or schoolwork? (She decorates it with schoolwork.)

Language Questions
Explain that figurative language is a word or phrase that doesn’t have its usual (literal) meaning. Discuss what the words in bold mean here.
1. “At the same time, droughts have swept across Somalia.” (p.6)
2. “Crisis after crisis drove millions of people from their home countries.” (p. 7)
3. “. . . she was struck by how different her life was going to be.” (p. 8)
4. “. . . they don’t know what the future will hold.” (p. 9)

For short-answer questions, see our Lower-level Close-Reading and Critical-Thinking Questions.
Bilan Contest

My name: ____________________________________________

Teacher's name: _____________________________________

School name: ________________________________________

School address: ________________________________________
    (Remember to include city, state, and ZIP code!)

School phone: _________________________________________

Parent's name and email (optional): ______________________

See page 9 of the December 2019/January 2020 issue of Storyworks for more information about this contest.

My Response

Write an essay describing how Bilan became a refugee, what her life is like in the Kobe camp, and what’s being done to help refugees like her.

Entries will be judged on:
    ⇨ a clearly stated main idea
    ⇨ effective use of supporting evidence
    ⇨ good organization and transitions
    ⇨ grammar, spelling, and punctuation

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