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**Language Skills 10B**

**Mrs. McCarthy**

***A Long Way Gone*, by Ishmael Beah**

**Web-quest (60 points)**

**Topic #1 Child Soldiers (Recent)**

<http://child-soldiers.org/about_the_issues.php>

*About the Issues (Tab at top)*

1. Who are child soldiers? (pink box)
2. What are child soldiers used for? (pink box)
3. Both girls and boys are used in armed conflicts and play a wide variety of roles. What are some of these roles? List all that are mentioned. (2nd paragraph below the pink box)

*FAQs (Tab on the left)*

1. According to Child Soldiers International, why do children join armed forces or armed groups?
2. What percentage of girls is used as child soldiers?
3. Should former child soldiers be held accountable for their crimes or violations against human rights? (Explain both sides of the argument).

**Topic #2: Use of Child Soldiers in WWII**

There is a misconception that the use of child soldiers is only an issue in the developing world. In the western world’s history, child soldiers have also been exploited. For example, in the 13th century, Christian monks sold children into slavery to fight in the crusades. This incident was later known as the “Children’s Crusade.” Children were also used in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, and World War II. View the photos and captions on the website below and respond to the following:

<http://worldwartwo.filminspector.com/2013/12/child-soldiers.html>

1. After the 2nd photograph (March 23, 1945): Fill in the blanks.

“At that age, it is difficult to question those who are older and who stand as the leaders of your people. Without the experience to make your own assessments as to the validity of a cause or to challenge authority, the tendency is to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This tendency to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to what is asked of you, regardless of deeper issues such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or long-term sustainability, is enhanced by the respect given by all to senior soldiers with shiny medals and lots of gold braid; there is nothing a schoolchild wants more than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Added to that is the very real understanding that by, for instance, manning a Flak gun, you were defending not only your homeland, but the lives of everyone you loved. Thus, the youngest soldiers were often the most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and also the ones who were most determined not to give up.”

2. Scroll through the rest of the photos. Choose one that stands out for you and comment on it. What do
 you notice? Describe the photo and respond to it. What emotion does it evoke?
 Is there something that surprises you? What do you think the child soldier is thinking?

1. View the next to last photo and caption. What is “the look” the boy has? Explain what the caption says about the equipment he is carrying.
2. What’s different about the last photograph compared to the others? Why do you think it is important for this photo to be included?

**Topic #3: Ishmael Beah, author of *A Long Way Gone* and former child soldier.**

View the video linked below: [9:45 minutes]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5K4yhPSQEzo>

1. What does Ishmael mean when he says “people have a very romantic notion of war and violence”? [~1:00]

2. What are the two images that Ishmael sees after the war starts? [~1:45]

3. In addition to fear of recruitment into the army or rebel groups, why was it difficult being a young
person in Sierra Leone at the time? [~2:15]

4. What does Ishmael say about the first day of war for a child soldier? [~3:00]

1. What was a typical day like for a child soldier? How were they desensitized to violence?
 [~3:00-3:30]

6. How is it easy to recruit and manipulate children into war? [~4:00-4:30]

7. Why did Ishmael become angry when UNICEF rescued him from the army? [~5:15]

8. What was the repatriation process like for former child soldiers? What was the phrase that was
 repeated to Ishmael and the other children? [~6:00]

9. What does Ishmael say about forgiveness? [~8:00]

10. Ishmael says that he took some hip-hop artists back to Sierra Leone after the war. How did they
 react? [~9:00]

**Topic #4: Memoirs vs. Autobiographies**

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/knowing-the-difference-between-an-autobiography-an.html>

1. What are the differences between autobiographies and memoirs?

Autobiographies Memoirs

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2. Now that you’re familiar with the differences between autobiographies and memoirs, explain why Ishmael Beah chose to write *A Long Way Gone* as a memoir. Why is this more effective? Why wouldn’t an autobiography be as interesting to the reader?

**Topic #5 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**

<http://www.helpguide.org/articles/ptsd-trauma/post-traumatic-stress-disorder.htm>

1. What is PTSD? Whom does it affect?

2. What are some of the traumatic events that can lead to PTSD? List five.

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1. Explain the difference between PTSD and a normal response to trauma.

4. List the three signs and symptoms of PTSD.

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5. List five positive ways of coping with PTSD. (blue box)

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**Topic #6 Sierra Leone, Civil War**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_Leone_Civil_War#Diamonds_and_the_.22resource_curse.22>

1. What year did the war start? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ What year did it end? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Approximately how many people died? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. There were a few rebel groups trying to overthrow the government. The most notorious
(vocab word!) was the RUF. What does this stand for?

4. Who was Charles Taylor? What country was he from and what was his goal? What ended up
happening to him? (You may have to click on his name/hyperlink to gather more information).

5. Who was Foday Sankoh? What ended up happening to him?
(You may have to click on his name/hyperlink to gather more information).

**Diamonds and the “Resource Curse.” (1.2)**

*The presence of diamonds in Sierra Leone invited and led to the civil war in several ways.*

1. What happened when DeBeers pulled out of the venture in 1984?

2. By the late 1980s, almost all of Sierra Leone's diamonds were being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and
 traded illicitly, with revenues going directly into the hands of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Even after the National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC) took power in 1992, ostensibly with the goal of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and returning revenues to the state, high-ranking members of the government sold diamonds for their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and lived \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ off the proceeds.

4. Diamonds also helped to arm the Revolutionary United Front rebels. The RUF used funds harvested from the alluvial diamond mines to purchase \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from neighboring countries.

5. More than twenty years of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ created the circumstances for the rise of the RUF, as ordinary people yearned for change.