

Making Inferences

Refugee

When things are not explained literally in a text, you can use clues to reach a logical conclusion. This is called inference.

Read the short story, then answer the questions in full sentences.

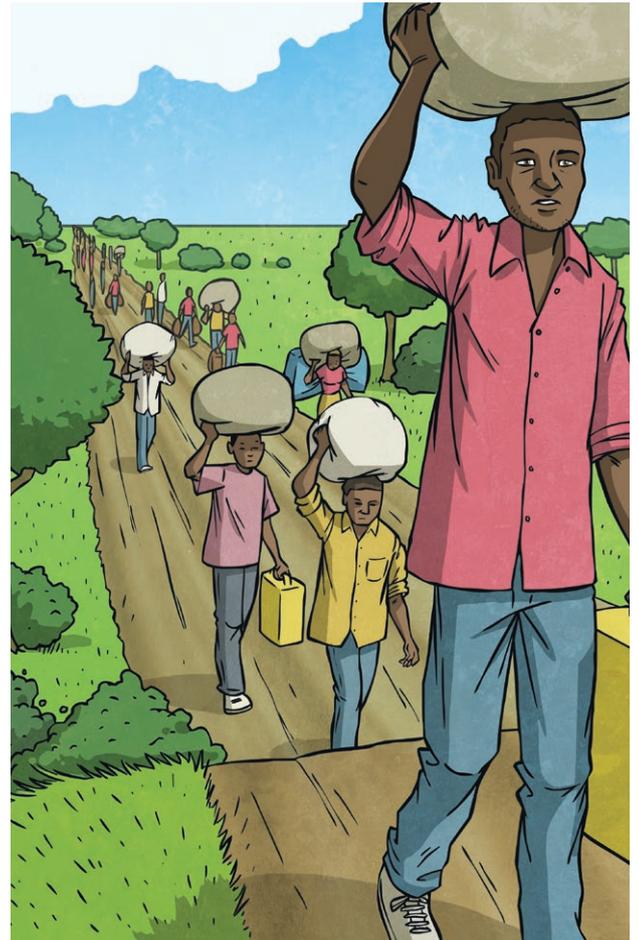
I am not alone, but I am alone. A thousand shuffling people are walking beside me but I don't know any of them by name. The silence deafens me but I hear the sound of fear loud and clear. My world has fallen apart around me and I am afraid for my life and my future.

This week started like any other for me; I went to school on Monday morning as usual, but that was where the similarity ended. By mid-morning, from the **flimsy**¹ shelter of the classroom, we could hear the boom of bombs **relentlessly**² dropping on the southern side of our village and we could feel the earthquake tremble of their **impact**³ through the soles of our feet. Bricks rained from above and **shards**⁴ of glass pierced the air without a care.

As the **bombardment**⁵ stopped, our teacher ordered us to remain in the safety of the school grounds – but how did she know where safety was? I thought our village was safe, our neighbourhood was safe, our country was safe.

The unsettling quiet afterwards did nothing to calm or reassure us. Our fathers had been working in the fields around the village, our mothers had been shopping in the village market, our brothers and sisters had been sleeping in their cots as we left for school. Where were they now? How were they now?

I had to know what had happened to my family, so I left the familiar setting of my school and stepped into an unknown landscape of destruction. Not one house on the south side remained standing. Not one tree upright. Not one familiar face to be seen. Dust and rubble covered everything in sight like a death shroud.



Glossary

1. Easily broken; not strong.
2. Continuing without becoming weaker or less severe.
3. The force with which one object hits another.
4. A sharp broken piece of glass or metal.
5. To attack somebody forcefully without a break.

Questions

1a. What could the opening sentence, 'I am not alone, but I am alone.' mean?

1b. Using the information from the opening paragraph. How does the author feel?
Circle one word.

disappointed	tired	excited	terrified
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Use evidence from the text to support your opinion.

2. How does the description of how the bombs dropped make you feel about the attack?

3. How did the teacher know the children would be safe in school?

4. Should the author go and find their family? Give reasons for your opinion.

5. What do you think the author in the story will find when they get to their part of the village? Answer as fully as you can, using information from the whole text to help you.
