

Part One: Our Town

Chapter 17: Farm Work and Town Work

Chapter 18: Negotiating

Chapter 19: Yaw Mensah Is Missing

Chapter 20: Searching and Taxes

Individuals in the order introduced

Atoyene, Baako's sister

Kwabena, Madam Afua's son

Madam Afua, Takes her two children with Akua and Yaw Mensah to the stream to collect water.

Nana Somfo, Akan chief whose district is across the Tano River from Nana's district

Yaa, Madam Afua's daughter

General vocabulary

coiled

escort

foliage

herbalist

littered

pouch

poultice

probing

symbol

translate

Twi words

Agoo ...May I come in?

Ahena ...water pot

Amee... Yes, I'm coming.

Dua..tree

Fie...home

Meh ko fie...I will go home.

Maaha... Good afternoon

Mema mo akye ... Good morning to everyone

Nsuo... water

Ethnic groups introduced

Ewe people live in the southeast of Ghana and southwestern Togo. They are not Akan

Ga people live in the Accra area of Ghana. They are not Akan.

Animals introduced

colobus monkey

falcon

grey parrot

mosquito

python

Summary of Chapters 17-20

These chapters describe the boys' inventing a game as they harvest corn and cassava and then accompanying Nana and the Okyeame to talk to the Akan chief whose district is across the river from Nana's. Nana talks to him about protecting leopards.

Madam Ama works with Anyetata to wash cloths. Akua and Atoyene help while Akua teaches Atoyene several Twi words. Later, the Queen Mother accompanied by Madam Ama, Akua, and Yaw Mensah go into Tanoso to visit sick people.

While at the stream to collect water Yaw Mensah chases monkeys into the forest and

falls into a pit trap. A search party rescues him.

At the chief's palace the married men of Tanoso pay their annual tax. Madam Ama, and Elder Kwasi leave to work on their farm with Akua and Kwame.

Comprehension questions

1. Describe the game that the boys invent while harvesting corn. Does it help them work? What does Nana think of the game when they tell him about it?
2. What do Akan people do with dried corn?
3. Describe the work of Madam Ama, Anyetata, Atoyene, and Akua? Do Akan people sometimes work with their *nnonko*? Was it important for the *nnonko* to learn to speak Twi? If so, why?
4. Where do young children play during the afternoon in Tanoso? Who watches them?
5. How does Nana receive Asare's message about the leopard? What does Nana plan to do next? Why?
6. After lunch, when Kwame, Kwaku, and Baako talk, how do they imagine traveling and working in the future?
7. Why does Nana want to take the boys when he visits the chief across the river?
8. Why do you think the chief across the river refuses to let the boys observe his negotiation with Nana?
9. What are the clans of the two chiefs and the symbols of their clans? Why do the chiefs

refer to the symbols to begin their negotiation? Is this a favorable sign?

10. What problem does Nana describe to the other chief? What is Nana Somfo's response?
11. What does Baako hear while waiting in the courtyard? Will this information help Nana?
12. How does the Queen Mother help the people of Tanoso?
13. Why is Madam Afua taking children to the stream?
14. How does Madam Afua want the children to treat the monkeys? Why?
15. Why do you think Yaw Mensah disobeyed Madam Afua? Is this behavior unusual for children in the Akan culture?
16. How does Yaw Mensah react after he falls into the pit trap? How dangerous was his situation?
17. How do the people of Tanoso respond to Yaw Mensah's behavior?
18. What is known at this time about the presence of leopards near Tanoso?
19. Who has to pay an annual tax to the Asantehene? What currency is used? How were balance scales and gold weights used to collect the tax? What is the amount per person of the annual tax?