

Part One: Our Town

Chapter 5: Shopping

Chapter 6: Playing, Lunch, Visitors

Chapter 7: *Adaepa*

Chapter 8: Surprises

Individuals in the order introduced

Elder Kwadwo, Nana's cousin in Kumasi
Auntie Adjowa, Nana's sister; Elder Kofi's
wife; Kwaku's mother
Okyeame, Nana's spokesman
Atta, Akua's friend
Tawia, Akua's friend

General vocabulary

cassava
inlet
papaya
plantain
scabbard
town crier

Animals introduced

elephant
tarantula

Twi words introduced

Adae... Ceremony to honor successful
ancestor chiefs; no work is done
on the day of the *Adae*
Adaepa... Day before the *Adae* when
preparations for the ceremony and the
following day's meals are completed
Akwaaba... Welcome!
Ampe... Girls' game of clapping and jumping
Bra aha!... Come here!

Domma... Gold weight for one-tenth of an
ounce, the amount of a man's annual
tax

Oburoni... Caucasian person

Odwira... Annual festival to honor ancestors,
celebrate the yam harvest, pledge
loyalty to a chief, and recognize the
beginning of a new year

Ethnic group introduced

Fante: Akan group that lives on the central
coast of Ghana

Summary of Chapters 5-8

Kwame and Akua explore the market and
trade kola nuts and snails for peanuts and
shea butter. They join other children to play in
the river. Akua plays *Ampe* with a group of
girls.

The Queen Mother provides smoked fish and
fried plantains for lunch and offers everyone
fresh honey as a dessert. The market manager
brings tax collectors to the Queen Mother
who greets them. She explains that the chief
will send the town crier to call them to the
palace when he returns to town.

On the morning of the next day, *Adaepa*,
Nana and Madam Ama explain to their
children how to help in the day's work to
repair the roof of the sacred stool house and
prepare the afternoon meal. Nana meets with
the council. Madam Ama and other women
cook. Kwame, Kwaku, and Baako go into the
forest to chop palm fronds for the roof. Akua
and two friends take Yaw Mensah to the
stream to collect water. They see leopard cubs
on the path and report to Nana and his council
when they return.

Comprehension questions, Chapters 5-8

1. What market goods are Kwame and Akua interested in?
2. What does Kwame learn about the Fante people and the *oburoni*, the Caucasians, who live on the coast?
3. Where did the peanuts in the marketplace come from? How did Kwame bargain to trade kola nuts for peanuts? Did he make a successful trade? How will Madam Ama use the peanuts?
4. How does Akua identify the shea butter that her mother wants? How does she bargain with the merchant? How will Madam Ama use shea butter? How is shea butter used by Americans today?
5. Describe how children play in and near the Tano River. How are they protected from crocodiles? Try to play *Ampe*. Do you know of a game like *Ampe*?
6. Describe the lunch that Madam Ama and the Queen Mother serve to their family at the marketplace. What special treat does the Queen Mother share with the group? In what ways are banana leaves used? Can you describe a banana tree?
7. How does the Queen Mother describe the *Odwira* festival in Kumasi? Why does she want Kwame and Kwaku to take part? Why does she agree that Baako should take part, too?
8. Why did the market manager take the tax collectors to the Queen Mother?
9. What symbols show that the tax collectors represent the king and why? Describe their sword. How will Nana call the tax collectors and the elders to the palace?
10. What work is done on *Adaepa*? What work assignments did Nana and Madam Ama give to their children for this day?
11. How do the Kwame, Baako, and Kwaku work together to chop palm fronds?
12. What job in the main courtyard does Nana give to *nnonko*?
13. What circumstances lead to Yaw Mensah and Akua's seeing leopard cubs?
14. Who are the members of the chief's council? What is the role of the Okyeame?
15. How does the council of elders organize the collection of the annual tax? What is the amount of a man's annual tax? Which men pay the tax? Is the tax collecting a type of census taking of the kingdom's population?
16. How does the council respond to Yaw Mensah and Akua's report of seeing leopard cubs?