

Part One: Our Town

Chapter 9: Cooking, Roofing, Ants

Chapter 10: Advice and Clans

Chapter 11: The First Akans

Chapter 12: The *Adae* Ceremony

General vocabulary

carcass
embellish
humble
lingering
mortar
pestle
smoldering
tradition

Twɪ words introduced

Adae ... Ceremony to honor ancestor chiefs
Adowa ... Festive dance
Agona ... Name of an Akan clan
Dayie ... Goodnight
Fufu ... Paste eaten with soup
Maaha ... Good afternoon
Mema mo aha ... Good afternoon, everyone
Mema mo akye ... Good morning, everyone
Okyeame ... Spokesman for a chief
Oyoko ... Name of an Akan clan
Tie! Tie! Tie! ... Listen! Listen! Listen!
Yoo ... Yes, agreed

Animals introduced

driver ants
honey badger

Summary of Chapters 9-12

These chapters describe the events of *Adaepa* including work on the stool house, meal preparation, and an attack of driver ants.

Nana describes to Kwame, Kwaku, and Baako the values and behavior that will help them become leaders.

Auntie Adjowa tells children how clans are organized and how Akans first came to the rainforest. She describes the ritual of the *Adae* ceremony.

Comprehension questions

1. What food will be served at the meal on *Adaepa*? Describe how fufu is made. Why must the girls turn fufu dough with their right hands only?
2. Describe the work of repairing the roof of the stool house. What do Kwame, Kwaku, and Baako do? What do the *nnonko* do?
3. What danger do driver ants bring to the palace? How does the council respond?
4. What behavior is expected of Kwame, Kwaku, and Baako if they are to become leaders in the Akan culture? Why does Nana give them advice about becoming leaders at this time?
5. When the boys are older, each will move to a different home. Identify the home that each will move to and explain why. How is Baako's situation different from that of Kwame and Kwaku?
6. What are the uses of a wooden stool among the Akan people?

7. How is clan membership determined among the Akan? How do people know which clan they belong to? How do clan members help each other?

8. Kwaku says that he can become the next chief but Kwame can't. Why is this true?

9. Auntie Adjowa tells children the story of the arrival of the Akan people in the rainforest. How did hunters help people settle in the forest? How did the Akan people organize themselves?

10. Why did the Akan people bring foreign people as *nnonko* into the forest?

11. How do the black stools in the stool house look? What is the boys' reaction to seeing them? What does it mean if a stool is black? How are stools turned black?

12. How do the children learn about the *Adae* ceremony?

13. How are the black stools honored at the *Adae* ceremony? What do these stools represent? How are the stools arranged in the stool house? Who handles the stools?

14. Why is it important for Nana and the elders to be humble before the ancestor chiefs?

15. How are the ancestor chiefs honored by Nana and the elders. What is the role of historians in the *Adae* ceremony?

16. What actions of the ancestor chiefs are praised? How do these actions show the leadership values of the Akan people? Are the values that are honored, the same as those that Nana described to the boys the day before?

17. How does the music of the talking drums and elephant tusk horns at the *Adae* ceremony help people remember their history?