

Part One: Our Town

Chapter 13: Wisdom

Chapter 14: Spear Throwing

Chapter 15: A Baby's Birth and the Work Week Begins

Chapter 16: Harvesting

General vocabulary

authority
bearing
courageous
grinding stone
outdooring
replenish
torso
wisdom

Languages introduced

Ga language: Spoken by the Ga people who live in the area of Accra, Ghana.

Ewe language: Spoken by the Ewe people who live in southeastern Ghana and southwestern Togo.

Akan clan names

Aduana, Agona, Asinie, Asokore, Asona, Beretuo, Ekuana, Oyoko

Twi words introduced

akpeteshie ... locally made alcoholic beverage
Ananse ... the spider/man
Asase Yaa ... Mother Earth
kente ... elaborate cloth woven in strips that are sewn together

Animals introduced

grasshopper
lizard
mongoose
tsetse fly

Summary of Chapters 13-16

These chapters describe the final events of the *Adae* ceremony as the headmen and clan heads pledge loyalty to Nana and the community joins together in the *Adowa* dance.

Auntie Adjowa asks children to tell her and each other the names of their clans. She talks of wisdom and tells an Ananse story about wisdom.

Asare teaches the boys spear throwing. Nana shows them how to harvest yams using the two basic farm tools, a machete and a hoe.

While taking a break and talking about their future, the boys see a leopard across the river kill a crocodile. The Queen Mother supports a woman giving birth. Akua teaches Twi words to Baako's sister, Atoyene.

Comprehension questions

1. Describe Nana's appearance when he rejoined the *Adae* ceremony. Why is his appearance important?
2. Describe the way the elders pledge loyalty to Nana.
3. Describe the *Adowa* dance. Do Kwame, Kwaku, and Baako dance? How do they feel about taking part?

4. Do the adults in Tanoso take care of children who don't belong to their own clan? Why or why not?

5. Name the eight Akan clans.

6. How should members of the same clan treat each other?

7. Why does Auntie Adjowa talk to the children about wisdom? What is the moral of the Kwaku Ananse story about wisdom?

8. How would you explain wisdom? Can you give an example of one or more people behaving wisely?

9. What are Asare's directions to Kwame, Kwaku, and Baako regarding throwing a spear?

10. How does Asare model spear throwing for the boys?

11. How does the Queen Mother show her concern for a woman who is giving birth?

12. To what home did the woman return for the birth of her child? Why?

13. How is the new born infant named? What ceremony will honor the baby on the eighth day of her life?

14. What farming task is Nana organizing? Who will carry it out? Why does Nana begin the work day by pouring a libation for *Asase Yaa*, Mother Earth? Why is Nana carrying a gun?

15. Describe the *nnonko* who work for Nana including Asare and Baako. In what way is

Baako's appearance different from that of the other *nnonko*?

16. How is Nana's trust of Asare evident?

17. Why does Nana allow the boys to play a game in the yam field before working? How does Nana teach the work that the boys will be responsible for?

18. What animals might hide in the yam vines? Are they dangerous? With research, can you find the name of the disease that tsetse flies carry?

19. Describe how to harvest African yams. What tools are used?

20. When the boys rest after harvesting yams, they talk about the lives of the *nnonko*. How does Baako describe the lives? What does Baako want to do if he earns his freedom?

21. Describe the hunting scene that the boys witness. Is it more exciting or frightening to them. Explain.

22. What other crops do the boys harvest?

23. How do Akans use each of the crops that Kwame, Kwaku, and Baako harvest: yams, corn, and cassava.

24. How do Kwame, Kwaku, and Baako have fun while working on Nana's farms? Do they get their work done in good time?