

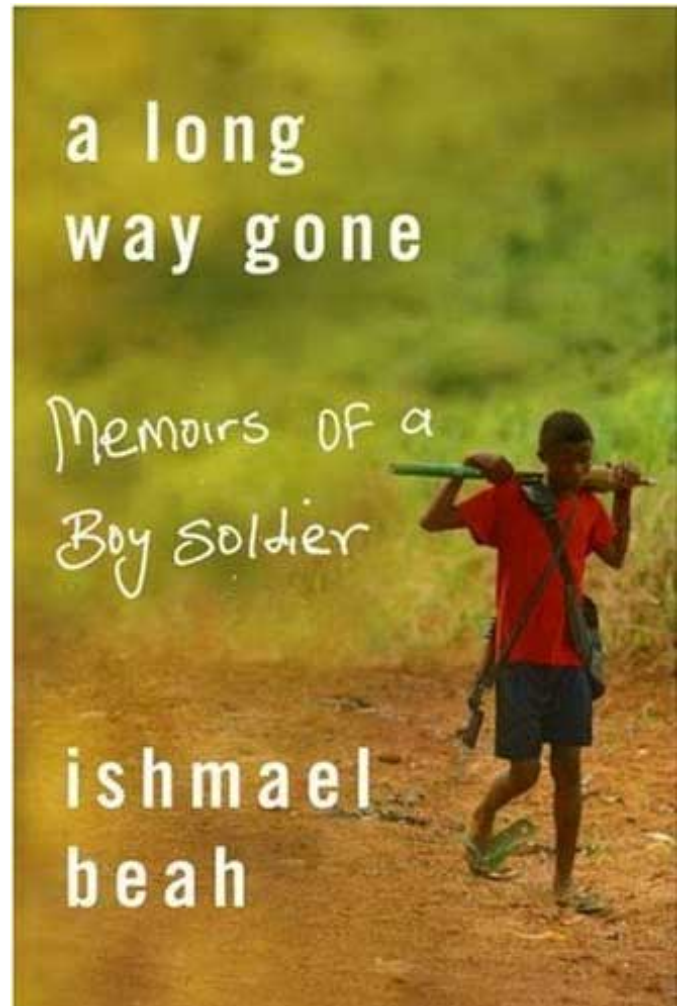
**TIC TAC TOE
Student Choice Assignment**

On the following pages, you will find nine different assignments, from 3 different literary focus areas and 3 different levels of difficulty.

You must select 3 assignments to complete as the final assessment for our reading of Ishmael Beah's *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. Of those 3 assignments one must be from each literary focus and each level of difficulty. This means you will only select one from each row and column.

Please review the assessment checklist below before making your decision.

Indicate which assignments you will be completing at the bottom of this page.



Assessment Criteria:

- Demonstrates accurate comprehension of the text.
- Uses textual evidence from the text to support opinions or analysis.
- Synthesizes outside ideas with the text and critical analysis.
- Provides plausible consideration of literary elements in relation to the author's agenda.
- Demonstrates proficiency in writing conventions, sentence fluency, word choice, voice, and style fitting with the appropriate audience and format of individual products.

Name:

Period:

Assignments: _____

	<i>Comprehension</i>	<i>Application/Analysis</i>	<i>Synthesis/Evaluation</i>
Memoir Narrator Reliability	<p>1. Beah, now in his mid-20s, focuses on the upheavals that began when he was 12 and also covers some earlier events. To compare, think about your memory of events that occurred when you were 5 or 6 years old. Can you recall events from that long ago in the detail Beah describes, including such things as hand gestures and a speaker’s pauses? Do you believe his claim that “To this day, I have an excellent photographic memory that enables me to remember details of the day-to-day moments of my life, indelibly,” (p 51)? Does it matter if his accounts are true photographic memories or does the memoir hold merit without such accuracy? Explain your answer.</p>	<p>4. Read the article http://www.mediabistro.com/galleycat/authors/australian_newspaper_questions_ishmael_beahs_memory_75417.asp) about <i>The Australian</i> criticizing Beah’s memory that includes the responses from his adopted mother and his editor, and book reviews at both http://www.alongwaygone.com/reviews.html and http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/ishmael-beah-a-long-way-home-memoirs-of-a-boy-soldier/story-e6frg8nx-111113692136. Pretend you are also a literary critic and write your own response about the importance of historical accuracy in Beah’s memoir. You may opt to write your response in either a book review or feature article style.</p>	<p>7. Select a text of historical significance that is not written in the first-person memoir style. Compare and contrast this style of “retelling” to that of Beah’s first-person account using a chart, venn diagram, or essay. Provide specific details of both styles that indicate both benefits and disadvantages of the differing narrator voices.</p>
Sensory Details	<p>2. Select 3 distinctly different phrases (not whole passages) that use sensory detail (an appeal to sight, sound, smell, texture, or taste) to create a specific tone or mood. Indicate the page number of each selection, and explain how it achieves its intended purpose within its place in the memoir.</p>	<p>5. Create or plan (sketch) a series of at least 3 abstract photographic images that would convey the overarching tone from one discrete section of <i>A Long Way Gone</i>. Include details of color, shape, perspective, the text being communicated, and an explanation of your choices and what you intend to convey.</p>	<p>8. The oral traditions, storytelling, that are essential in providing metaphors for Ishmael’s life, are also rich because of the images they provoke for the reader. Select one story retold by Beah, detail which images from the story are particularly “rich,” and explain why it is essential to the reader’s understanding of the memoir that we “see” these images (what metaphors Beah hopes for us to connect to them?).</p>
Themes/Motifs	<p>3. Explain how the concept and importance of family is altered throughout the memoir, from Ishmael’s early life in Mattru Jong, to his time with the other children and communities while trying to avoid the war, to the uncle with whom he is reunited, to his American family with Laura. Product options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Visual: a modified and labeled “family tree” A series of dictionary style “definitions of family” that chronologically follow Ishmael’s changing concept of family. Suggest an alternative option for approval 	<p>6. The American Hip-Hop Culture and music provides a backdrop or “soundtrack” for Ishmael’s life in the memoir. Create a “soundtrack” that you think illustrates Ishmael’s journey in the memoir. Include title, artist, musical genre, and a brief description of how the selection illustrates a specific segment of his life. The order of the soundtrack should be intentional.</p>	<p>9. Storytelling is a powerful force in Ishmael’s life, even providing a connection to his future mother, Laura Simms. Think about what traits make Ishmael a memorable and unique storyteller? With what other storyteller, author, filmmaker, or journalist can you compare him. Create a graphic that demonstrates this comparison (possibly a venn diagram or t-chart), which includes specific textual or other types of evidence.</p>