Student Journal

Facing the Lion
by Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton

Reading Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facing the Lion</th>
<th>Student Journal</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Discussion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Pages 2–4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapters 1–4</td>
<td>Pages 5–6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapters 5–7</td>
<td>Pages 7–8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapters 8–10</td>
<td>Pages 9–10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 11 and Afterword</td>
<td>Pages 11–12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Exchange</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What If?

Every Friday, your extended family comes to your house for dinner and games. You really enjoy this tradition. But this year, your friends tell you about other options for Friday night fun. They go to movies, the mall, or attend sporting events. You realize that other people are living differently than you are.

Last Friday, your friends went to a movie, but you attended your traditional dinner. On Monday, they all told you how great the movie was, and you felt jealous. Now, they have invited you to a basketball game for this Friday. You want to spend time with your family, but you crave the social scene, too.

Make notes about how this would affect you.

- What would you do?
- What would influence your choice the most?
- How would you feel about ending a family tradition?

Connect to The Exchange Question Discuss how this situation could relate to The Exchange Question: Does learning about the world make people forget their traditions? Summarize your discussion.
Introduction

Read the Introduction on pages 9–11 in Facing the Lion. The Introduction will help you understand key concepts in the book. Knowing them will help you discuss and write about the book.

The Introduction includes information about

- the lifestyle of the Maasai tribe
- Lekuton’s life experiences in two different cultures
- the importance of circumcision to the Maasai

After you read the Introduction, answer these questions to check your understanding.

1. How are the Maasai different from other Kenyans?

2. In what way did Lemasolai live in two different cultures?

3. Why is circumcision such an important ritual to the Maasai?
Introduction: Key Concepts

Definition Map

Study the Definition Map for Western world. Write a sentence using the words Western world.

What is it?
- European countries
- Societies of Europe

What is it like?
- modern
- developed
- mostly democratic

What are some examples?
- England
- the U.S.
- Australia

On a separate sheet of paper, create a similar Definition Map for education, tradition, and value. Write a sentence for each one.
Respond to Chapters 1–4

1. Personal Response  The Maasai depend on cattle to survive. What are some things that your family depends on to survive?

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2. Inference  Lemasolai tried to always be brave after the lion hunt experience. What does this tell you about Maasai values? Use the word value in your response.

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3. Author’s Purpose  Lemasolai used many details in his description of the Maasai way of life. Why do you think he chose to describe everything so carefully?

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4. Generate Questions  Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

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5. **Inference** Many traditions are important to the Maasai. List some of these traditions in the **Details Web**.

**Details Web**

The Maasai have many important traditions.

What do the Maasai traditions tell you about the Maasai people?

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Respond to Chapters 5–7

1. **Personal Response** After Lemasolai’s circumcision, his tribe considered him a man. What customs does your family or culture follow that show someone has reached adulthood?

2. **Cause and Effect** What new problems did Lemasolai face because he went to school? Use the word *education* in your response.

3. **Judgments** Lemasolai’s brother did not punish Lemasolai for losing the cows. Instead, he gave Lemasolai his own cows. Was this the best way to react to Lemasolai’s mistake? Why or why not?

4. **Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?
Respond to Chapters 5–7, continued

5. **Cause and Effect** Lemasolai’s father needed all of his sons to help him herd cattle, so he did not want to send them to school. Write the events that led to a solution and the solution in the **Problem and Solution Chart**.

**Problem and Solution Chart**

**Problem:** Lemasolai’s father did not want to follow the new government law about sending one child to school.

<table>
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<th>Event 1:</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Event 2:</td>
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<td>Event 3:</td>
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**Solution:**

How did the solution to this problem have good and bad effects?

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Respond to Chapters 8–10

1. **Personal Response** Lemasolai had trouble adjusting to American culture. Have you ever felt uncomfortable in a new setting? What happened?

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2. **Summarize** Reread page 74. Why did Lemasolai feel that students at Kabarak were like students in the Western world? Use the phrase *Western world* in your response.

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3. **Generalization** Lemasolai was told to be careful around American women because they all carry guns. Why is it easy for people to believe false stories about people or countries they do not know about?

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4. **Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

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Respond to Chapters 8–10, continued

5. Judgments  Lemasolai went to college in the United States. Write the events that led to Lemasolai being accepted to a U.S. university in the Sequence Chain.

Sequence Chain

1. ____________________________

2. ____________________________

3. ____________________________

4. ____________________________

5. ____________________________

Who do you think had the greatest influence on how Lemasolai got into college? Why?

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Respond to Chapter 11 and Afterword

1. **Personal Response** Lemasolai devotes some of his time to helping other Maasai in Kenya. If you were Lemasolai, would you have gone back to Kenya? Why or why not?

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2. **Inference** What could happen to the Ariaal if the Kenyan government continues to discourage the nomadic way of life? Use the word *nomad* in your response.

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3. **Paraphrase** Reread page 103. What did Betty Brown mean when she said that Lemasolai was “a global citizen”?

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What If?

4. **Connect** Look at your notes on Student Journal, page 2. Think about what might happen if you learned more about the way other people live. Compare this to *Facing the Lion*. What happened to Lemasolai’s traditions when he went to school and then the U.S.?

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5. **Opinion** As an adult, Lemasolai continued to participate as a member of the Maasai tribe and of the Western world. List his accomplishments in each culture in the **T Chart**.

**T Chart**

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<th>Maasai Tribe</th>
<th>Western World</th>
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Think about what Lemasolai accomplished. In which culture do you think he was most successful? Why?

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