

Christ's Witchdoctor study guide

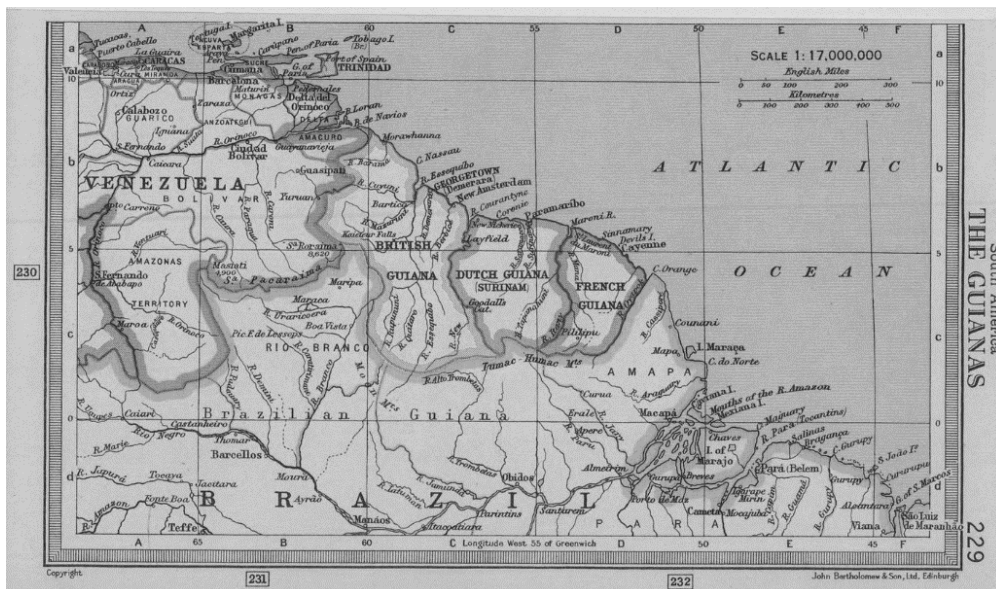
Background information

1. In which country did this story take place?
2. In which continent did this story take place?
3. Look at the maps provided. When this book was written, the country was called British Guiana, but is now called Guyana due to gaining independence from Britain in 1966. East of British Guiana is Dutch Guiana, and French Guiana. Dutch Guiana is now called Surinam. Note that the original spelling was 'Guiana' and now has been changed to 'Guyana'.

Name three countries that share a border with British Guiana.

4. What is the climate zone of British Guiana? What is the vegetation?

British Guiana map 1945



British Guiana (Guyana) map 1966 when it gained independence from Britain



Chapter 1

1. What jobs did Elka have to do for his family?
2. What could we say about Elka's skills and capability for a seven-year-old?
3. Why was Elka in a hurry to get back home?
4. How did Elka save his brother's life?
5. Why was the tradition of killing babies carried out?
6. What name was Elka's little brother given?

Chapter 2

1. How often do the big rain seasons occur? How do we know?
2. Why was Elka sad about being taken away from Big Rocks to Big Falls?
3. At what age did young boys have to undergo a ceremony to prove their manhood?
4. Describe the ordeal.
5. How might this practice affect a young boy?
6. What was the name of Elka's new friend?
7. What was Elka now permitted to do, once he had proven his manhood?
8. Describe Mafolio, the witchdoctor.
9. Describe some of the practices the witchdoctor used to try and make people well.
10. Who was Kworokyam?
11. Why do you think he sometimes chose to be good and not always bad?
12. Elka showed an irresistible interest in things of the spirit world, and soon found himself drawn into it. What was a sign that the spirits were calling him?
13. Explain the parallel between Elka's 'irresistible interest' in the spirit world, and people who become involved with witchcraft (or spirits of false religions) today.

Chapter 3

1. What were the names and ages of the three Hawkins brothers, missionaries to the Wai Wai.
2. What year were they allowed access to Wai Wai country?
3. Why were the Wai Wai terrified when they heard that white people were coming?
4. What had the Wai Wai done to white traders in the past?

Chapter 4

1. What was the name of the new village Elka was moved to?
2. What did he fear about this move and why was he not happy about it?
3. Describe the setting of the new village.
4. What was the name of the young lady Elka admired?
5. We find out here that she had been given in marriage to a much older man. What do you think about this practice?
6. What rivalry existed between Elka and Yukuma?
7. What could be the result of 'eating another's spirit'?
8. Why do you think this actually worked?
9. What role did Kurum have in Elka's life?

10. Describe Elka's dream.
11. Why couldn't he shoot the pig?

Chapter 5

1. How did Uncle Mapari help Elka to get close to the spirit world?
2. Describe Elka's experience of 'going to the sky'.
3. Elka first became involved in witchcraft by singing certain songs. What parallel is there between these songs and people who practice mantras, dances and chants to false gods today? Give an example.
4. Satan tries to copy everything that comes from God, but in a corrupt form. If certain songs can connect people to Satanic spirits, what can we conclude about Godly worship music?
5. What kind of witchdoctor did Elka want to be?
6. What does this show you about his character?
7. Elka knew nothing else but the evil spirit world surrounding him. He had been born into this culture. Why is there an urgency for Christian missionaries to give people like the Wai Wai, or any other false religious tradition, a chance to know the truth.

Chapter 6

1. Give two reasons why Muyuwa accepted the white missionaries.
2. What names did the Wai Wai give to Neil, Bob and Raider?
3. What was the instrument, shaper than a pam thorn, that the white missionaries used to 'stick' people?
4. What did the missionaries say their first purpose was?
5. Once they had 'caught' enough words, what did they do?
6. What were the 'small white pebbles' the missionaries offered to the sick?
7. What happened to Ahmuri's elderly husband?
8. What did he bring back with him from the savannas?
9. What did Kurum offer to Elka?
10. What was the significance of Yakuma 'blowing on' Elka's hammock?
11. How did he win the battle against Yukuma's jealousy?
12. What caused the change in the plan to move the village over the mountains?
13. What would the name of the new village be, and what did the name mean?

Chapter 7

1. What was 'God's paper'?
2. Why was Elka impressed with the missionaries?
3. What was the missionaries' reaction to the alarm signal indicating an enemy attack?
4. What were some of the things the missionaries spoke against?
5. What made Elka recognise 'badness' within himself?
6. What did it mean to 'get ear' for what the missionaries were teaching?
7. What plan did some of the men devise for killing Bahm?
8. What was the result?

9. What did the Wai Wai men realise now?
10. Why did Mistokin leave Baking Plate?
11. Who came to replace Mistokin?
12. How did Elka come to realise that he could not 'pray and blow'?

Chapter 8

1. What were some of the practices that did not change, despite the teaching from God's Paper?
2. Why were Ferochi and Achi in danger?
3. What miracle did God do to protect them?
4. Why was Elka's attempts at witchcraft healing no longer working?
5. Why is this chapter called 'Into the pit of my stomach'?
6. What immediate change could be seen in Elka's life once he became a Christian?

Chapter 9

1. What normally happened to witchdoctors who turned away from their witchcraft?
2. What gave Elka courage to give up witchcraft?
3. Who tried to persuade Elka not to?
4. Why was the games event a time of new insight?
5. What did Elka do with his charms?
6. What did Kron do with the charms?

Chapter 10

1. What were the first signs of 'God's Paper' taking effect in the lives of some of the people?
2. How did they view Jesus?
3. What were some of the old ways they were reluctant to give up?
4. How did witchdoctor Muyuwa see the missionaries teaching and medicine, and what advice did he give to the people?
5. What did Elka teach the people in his learning centre?
6. Why did the missionaries tell Elka not to want the things they had?
7. Why do you think Elka gave in to going with Muyuwa to try and help the child using witchcraft?
8. What happened to the child in the end?
9. What lie did Elka tell Kron?
10. What was the sign of Elka's genuine repentance from the act?
11. What made the people think that
12. Elka's time had come' the end of this chapter?

Chapter 11

1. Why was the killing of a wild pig significant?
2. Explain three most exciting events in the pig hunt.
3. What did Ahmuri now think of her husband?

4. How would you describe Elka's character in this event?

Chapter 12

1. How did the killing and eating of the pig change the people's perception of God versus the spirits?
2. How did Elka's attitude to Ahmuri change now that he was a Christian?
3. What was it about the new Elka, that caused Ahmuri to open up to God?
4. What is the meaning of 'Yakuta prayed in contrition'?
5. How did Yakuta change?
6. Although many were coming to hear God's Word, old practices still prevailed among many. What did this cause Elka to do for his family?
7. What did the burning down of the big house cause some people to do?

Chapter 13

1. What sicknesses struck Elka and his family at this time?
2. What did Elka learn through these ordeals?

Chapter 14

1. Why did Western diseases such as the Asian flu have such a serious impact on the Wai Wai?
2. What advice did Achi give to the people when the measles broke out?
3. What was her reaction to the groups gathered by the river?
4. What impact did the measles have on another tribe in past years?
5. The measles medication could not be delivered in time. How did this turn out to be a faith-strengthening crisis?

Chapter 15

1. What new and unfamiliar experiences did Elka and Mawasha have in going on their mission trip to the Waica people?
2. What difficulties did they face?
3. When they returned to Kanashen and Yaka Yaka, the white missionaries had to be absent for six weeks. What important things happened during this time, that showed spiritual growth among the Wai Wai?

Chapter 16

1. The three white missionary brothers first arrived in British Guiana in 1941. How many years had it take for them to see the Wai Wai become strong in their faith and become missionaries themselves?
2. Reflect on the following verses:

Matt 10:37-38 "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 Whoever

does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

- a) How do these verses apply to the work of the white missionaries?
- b) How do these verses apply to the Wai Wai?
- c) How might these verses apply to you?

3. Why did Elka not continue to travel to other regions as an evangelist?
4. Who headed up the Wai Wai missionary team?
5. What does this show us about the different callings God has on His people?