

# Star of Light Study Guide Answer Key

## Chapter 1

1. Rahma is a 7-year-old girl who is small because she seldom had enough to eat.
2. She lives with her stepfather Si Mohamed; his older wife Fatima; his younger wife who is her mother Zohra; her older brother Hamid; and baby sister Kinza.
3. They live in a hot, dry, mountainous area where there are pastures with wildflowers outside the town where their home is.
4. Kinza is blind; Zohra is afraid that her husband — who is not the baby's father — will be angry and cast the baby out because she is useless to the family.

## Chapter 2

1. They live in a hut; Hamid tends their herd of goats; Rahma serves their family like a slave; they eat mostly brown bread, coffee, and water.
2. Fatima treats Zohra and her children with anger and quarrelling, demanding they do all the work and serve her, probably because she is older and jealous because she is childless.
3. Fatima tells him; he is not mad, instead he thinks that when she is older, she could get money for the family by begging.
4. He and Rahma exchanged looks of rebellion against the idea of Kinza having to beg; later that night he woke up, went over to Kinza's bed, and felt a wave of protective tenderness sweep over him.

## Chapter 3

1. She liked to sit in the sun and feel it's warmth on her face; to be held by her mother; have Hamid's strong arms around her; the kid goats wet noses nuzzling her hands; slipping handfuls of husks through her fingers; and hear the sounds of Hamid's bare feet on dry mud as he came toward her.
2. Kinza was 2-1/2 years old; she worked for the old beggar by sitting next to him, holding up her hand for people passing by to give her money, which she then handed over to the beggar.
3. She hated the jostling, jolting, and noise of the crowd; the dust that made her sneeze; the flies that crawled over her face; the fleas that bit her legs; and when Hamid had to leave her there alone.

4. Each day he cheerfully asked her if she had eaten breakfast; carried her to and from the marketplace; and when he had an extra coin he would save it until Thursday to buy Kinza a lump of sticky green candy with nuts for her to enjoy licking.

#### **Chapter 4**

1. The building is called a mosque; it is for the Islamic religion. The people are called Muslims or Moslems. The mosque sounds a call to prayer several times a day for men to stop work and pray; some stand in-place, some remove shoes and bow low, some put their foreheads on the ground, and they always face toward Mecca.

2. He was going to sell Kinza for begging in a larger city and was grim and determined about it; Fatima was cruelly pleased; Zohra was pale and pleading; Hamid was still and watchful with his mind made up to not let it happen.

3. She falls asleep on his back; he sits down to rest under a fig tree and watches the lazy cows in the river; a few women are washing clothes on stones in the river; he wonders where the river flows to; and thinks one day he will go and see the strange world.

4. The family gathered around the clay bowl to eat their supper by firelight and candlelight with Zohra feeding Kinza like a baby bird; Hamid watched Kinza, thinking he would always protect her and make her happy; cows munched in the shed; a dog wandered in; bats and moths fluttered in and out; and a cat tried to eat from the clay pot.

#### **Chapter 5**

1. Grinding grain and spinning wool.

2. Absalom was carried on Zohra's back during a pilgrimage across the mountains; in the far off town, an English missionary nurse treated Absalom's sickness including his blinded eyes; Zohra trusted the nurse because she was gentle, kind, and never turned anyone away; there was a picture of Jesus with little children on the wall in the mission house; the missionary nurse explained to her that Jesus was sent by God as the way to Heaven; the nurse loved Jesus and that is why she gave out medicine and was kind to Absalom.

3. For the sake of Jesus, the missionary nurse would shelter Kinza so Hamid must carry Kinza to her; he would start that night; she told him where to go and how to find the missionary nurse in the far away town.

4. He felt as someone in a dream; he took his goats home early; he was quiet with his mother and sister that night; he felt different and had to force himself to eat; he prepared to do as his mother asked.

5. Answers may vary.

## **Chapter 6**

1. It was dark, cold, unfamiliar land; he had never been away from home before; he had rarely been separated from his mother and Rahma; he was afraid; he was barefoot and had to carry Kinza on his back; he had very little rest from traveling at night.
2. He helped her drink water with cupped hands; he washed her as well as he could; he tried dragging his fingers through her hair to comb it out.
3. He fell asleep but Kinza was awake; she wandered off and heard the humming of a grindstone; thinking it was her mother, she ran to her and called out; the woman was kind and cared for her.
4. He followed Kinza's tracks to the house and saw her eating cherries; he waited for nightfall, then quietly took her away from where she slept in the doorway.

## **Chapter 7**

1. He felt as though he were standing alone on top of the world, in a place where no other human had been.
2. He wanted to avoid the Monday Market, fearing his stepfather would have phoned police to watch for him and Kinza there; they stepped onto the road where two men from his town were on horseback; the men recognized Hamid as the missing boy of Si Mohamed and tried to catch him.
3. There was a goat hut for a mother goat with a hurt leg and her kid; there was bedding they could hide in; the nanny goat had milk for them to drink.
4. A woman came to milk the goat and discovered Kinza by the nanny, then Hamid sticking out above the straw.
5. Find Bible passages about telling the truth, e.g. Psalm 34:13; Proverbs 12:19; Exodus 20:16; Ephesians 6:14

## **Chapter 8**

1. He had awoken cool and refreshed; the woman had fed them; they left at dawn with the husband; they took a lorry for the first time; the road ride thrilled him; they were able to get off the lorry and walk the 25 km to town, stopping at a stream he washed Kinza; he was able to pick flowers for her to give the missionary nurse.
2. These mountains were stark and bare, with jagged rock summits; yet the meadows were greener than any he had seen before and the harvest more golden.

3. He watched the town as his mother had instructed; he asked a young girl where to go; he saw a group of boys near the house; through a window he saw the picture of Jesus on the wall; he watched and waited to see what he should do to leave Kinza there; he spoke to her in a way she could understand that she would have to be good and quiet when he left her near the door to be found; he waited to make sure she was safe and taken in.

4. Boys in tattered clothing were there but no girls, so Hamid thought the English nurse preferred only boys like his own people.

5. Answers may vary.

## **Chapter 9**

1. He wondered about Kinza and wandered the street wondering what to do, where to go, and where to get breakfast.

2. He asked a busy doughnut-maker if he needed an assistant, then worked for him to earn doughnuts and a small coin.

3. Boys with dark eyes were sitting on the cobbles; they were hostile to Hamid because they were hungry, too and would like to have the job assisting Sillam.

4. One of the homeless boys asked him who he was and invited Hamid to join their group if he would buy them bread, so he did.

5. Answers may vary.

## **Chapter 10**

1. They hung around the door of the hotel getting broken bread to eat, slept in the shade, then went to the mission house for supper.

2. Hamid was worried that if he had to speak, Kinza would recognize his voice and run to him, giving away their secret.

3. She showed them a wordless book about the message of the Gospel of Jesus; the gold page represented heaven; the black page our sin; the red page Jesus' blood spilled for sinners; the white page is the clean hearts of repentant sinners.

4. Hamid said he might know what family the baby girl belonged to, so the nurse showed Kinza to him; she looked so beautiful and clean he told the nurse he didn't know what family she belonged to so Kinza could stay with the nurse.

## **Chapter 11**

1. He kept his post in the doughnut shop, carried bundles during harvest, picked olives, and begged when there was no work.
2. Hamid slept inside the mosque with Ayashi; he went to the rocky stream to wash himself; and heard stories about Jesus during supper at the mission house.
3. He learned that Jesus died with His arms stretched out in welcome on a cross then went to the Golden City of Light where He lives at the right hand of God.
4. He stole two eggs that broke on him when he stumbled in the darkness and skinned his knees; she tended to his wounds, gave him fresh clothes, and forgave him.

## **Chapter 12**

1. She had made a special feast with all kinds of sweets and fruit to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ who is the greatest gift God ever gave.
2. Kinza was dressed in her best clothes, with her curls brushed out like a halo; she was round and sturdy instead of ragged. Hamid was no longer a shy, hesitating stranger; he took his place confidently and expectantly every night, responding to the stories of the Saviour's love.
3. She told the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus with the angels and shepherds coming to visit the baby of poor people; Hamid thought of his own family, his life as a shepherd, and how the feast was for him and Kinza because the King of Heaven had become homeless and outcast like they were.
4. He came across a small, wet kitten; he had seen many kittens before but his heart was so full of love, he cared about it, wanting to give it to Kinza for a Christmas feast gift.
5. Answers may vary.

## **Chapter 13**

1. There were jellies, trifles, chocolate biscuits, a big Christmas cake; bright coloured dresses and jerseys; ribbons in girls' hair.
2. The little singers had bright faces; they had eaten their meal, danced merrily, and were singing with all their hearts and souls.
3. At the party, she thought she could never be happy living in the dark as the blind children did, and wondered why the children were taught about the perfect Light when they could never see it.

4. She realized she was a fortunate child and was excited about visiting her Aunt Rosemary's mission so she could hold little children; they were going to travel from England to the mountains in North Africa to improve Jenny's health in a warmer climate.

5. Answers may vary.

## **Chapter 14**

1. She thought the beautiful morning was just as it should be to see her cousin and meet Jenny; she took the day off, went to the market for nice things to eat, and went to pick flowers while singing for joy.

2. Her cousin's family had cheered her as a lonely orphan, yet she and Elizabeth had grown apart in their different lives; they had been like sisters but the nurse found her life difficult to write about to Elizabeth; what could she offer to Jenny who had everything?

3. Jenny was excited to have blind Kinza to care for and play with; Elizabeth was horrified with the babies sitting on the cobbles, the ragged old beggar, and the very poor woman with the sick baby at their doorway.

4. Jenny was demanding about wanting to help with the sick baby; her mother worried Jenny would get more sick from being around the baby; her father thought that Jenny could help Elizabeth since the baby was starving, not sick; Aunt Rosemary assigned Jenny several things to help her with and expected cooperation to do them right; the nurse spoke in Arabic to the sick baby's mother as she shared about Jesus with her.

## **Chapter 15**

1. Their mothers carried the babies tied on their backs, covered with their clothing, which prevented them from getting fresh air.

2. She could help them with their medical needs, but more important was being able to help their spirits by showing them about the Lord Jesus after Jenny saw Him for herself.

3. She said the empty lantern needs an opening for a candle to be placed inside to give light; if the lantern is clean, the light shines clearly. If we open the door of our life to Jesus, He makes us clean, so His light inside of us shines out brightly for it to be seen by others, which draws them to the light.

4. Kinza could go back to England with them to attend the school for the blind children, so she could learn and also be a playmate for Jenny.

5. Answers may vary.

## **Chapter 16**

1. Hamid saw his stepfather watching Kinza; he was afraid they would be caught so he decided to hide in the mountains until his stepfather left town after the market was over.
2. He knew the nurse watched her closely and would not let the stepfather steal her away.
3. Jenny became distracted with her book and wasn't closely supervising Kinza; the stepfather was able to take Kinza.
4. Jenny was afraid she would finally be in trouble for something instead of always getting out of the bad things she did; she spent time looking for Kinza, then finally told her mother, who quickly made her go tell Aunt Rosemary what happened so they could find Kinza; but it was too late and even the police couldn't help.
5. Answers may vary.

## **Chapter 17**

1. He was afraid of his stepfather and the police.
2. She invited him to her home for supper, fed him a hot meal, patiently waited for him to finish eating, then asked him directly what was going on with Kinza.
3. She prayed with him for God to send away his fear to save Kinza.
4. Because she had always had everything she wanted, Jenny thought her happiness mattered more than anything else. Aunt Rosemary, the nurse, helped Jenny understand about asking the Lord Jesus to come into the circle of her life and turn herself out.

## **Chapter 18**

1. Jenny was desperately disappointed she was not going; Hamid was proud to be riding in the car and thrilled with the beautiful drive.
2. His heart had been made clean, so death was no more a place of shadows and lost spirits but simply a door into the light and sunshine of God's home.
3. Zohra came outside looking for him while the nurse was paying Si Mohammed for Kinza. Hamid promised he would learn to read the Bible and come back at harvest time to tell his mother about the way to Heaven.
4. Answers may vary.

## **Chapter 19**

1. Jenny was picking flowers on the hillside thinking about the way out of her miserable life; she thought about how a candle could be inside an empty lantern so the light shone out.
2. She asked the Lord Jesus to come into her life.
3. They stayed up very late having a feast, whispering about the rescue story of Kinza, laughing when Mr. Swift fell backwards in his excitement.
4. He asked her to teach him to read the Bible, so he could return to his stepfather's place at harvest time. The nurse agreed after Hamid told her about his dream of the Lord Jesus with His arms stretched out on the cross as a wide-open door to God.
5. Answers may vary.

## **Chapter 20**

1. They left early in the morning for a picnic far up in the mountains with a fat basket, in the car together.
2. She wanted to tell her about accepting Jesus into her heart, but was nervous and the timing didn't seem to work out.
3. It was Easter Sunday; there were no Christian churches in Morocco because it is a Muslim nation.
4. Jenny picked white flowers to give to her aunt as a surprise. They talked about that — just like Jesus' friend Mary — the Lord had loved Jenny, died for her, paid for her sins, and called her to his own.

## **Chapter 21**

1. She decided that Kinza should go to England with the Swifts, so that she could attend the Blind School.
2. She would miss her a lot, but felt quite happy because Kinza would learn to know and love the Lord Jesus while she was still tiny, and Jenny could be someone special to also teach her about Jesus.
3. Because Jenny would find God lights up and explains all the things she found dark and difficult in life.
4. Jenny had wanted to tell her parents but somehow couldn't explain it to them; the nurse said it was far more important that Jesus' love instead of her selfishness would show through her changed actions.
5. Answers may vary.