



Patricia St. John (1919-1993) was an English author who spent over 25 years of her life as a missionary in the Mid-East. Her first book, *Tanglewood Secrets*, was published in 1940 and in 1983 she received the Children's Book Award for *Nothing Else Matters*.

*Star of Light* tells of her own experiences as a missionary in Tangier, Morocco. She spent her last years in England serving as president of Global Care, a foundation that helps children in impoverished nations.

**Note:** *Enrichment Activities* for this unit are found after Lesson 15. Use them as needed in the next 3 weeks.

## Discussion Questions

Chapters 1-9

1.
  - a. Read the Introductory Note in *Star of Light*. Look at a map and find out where this story might have taken place.
  - b. Read Chapters 1-3.
  - c. Contrast the way women, children, and marriage are treated in Hamid's country with ways they are treated in our country. To **contrast** is to stress the differences. Your essay should contain **transitional words** such as *on the other hand*, *however*, *but*, *on the contrary*, *as opposed*, *counter to*, etc.

You will not be spending a lot of time researching this topic, so the essay could be just a couple of paragraphs. The following is a sample essay:

*In Hamid's country women and children are treated very differently than they are in the United States. There they are looked down upon, made to carry heavy loads, and work a full twelve hour day. As opposed to the United States where children are usually in school and women, if they work outside the home, have much shorter hours. Women in the United States are treated more as equal to men counter to Hamid's country where they are looked upon as property to be used.*

*Marriage is also seen much differently in Hamid's country. For instance, polygamy, the practice of having more than one wife, is common. On the contrary, in the United States polygamy is illegal. Also, Hamid's mother married a man because she does not have any means of supporting herself and her children. He married her because of the free labor she and her children will give him. On the other hand, people in the United States usually marry for love, not giving much thought to financial matters.*



- d. Optional: Research blindness or read a biography of Helen Keller, Fanny Crosby, or Louis Braille. A **biography** is a true story written about someone by somebody else.
2. Read Chapters 4-6. Try retelling this portion of the story in your own words. This is called **narration**.
3. a. Storytellers tell their stories in three voices:
- First person  
**First person** is when the story is told by a character in the story as if he were talking directly to you telling the story through his eyes. The pronoun *I* is used.
  - Second person  
**Second person** does not lend itself to storytelling and is rarely used. If you have ever read the *Choose Your Own Adventure* stories, you will notice that these are told in the second person and you, the reader, are directly addressed.
  - Third person  
**Third person** is when the story is being told by someone outside the story, as if they had observed it and now are telling you what happened.
- b. Stories are usually told in the first and third person. In what voice is *Star of Light* told? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Chapters 1-6 introduced four main characters.

Hamid

Hamid's sister, Kinza

Kinza's mother

Kinza's stepfather

During the next three days you will be writing a **character sketch** of these main characters. You will be writing a short paper describing each character.

To write an effective character sketch, be sure to include the character's personal as well as physical characteristics.

Some physical characteristics to consider:

- What does she look like?
- How does she carry herself?
- What kind of clothes is she wearing?
- How does she speak?

Some personal characteristics to consider:

- What is important to him?
- Is he friendly? Shy? Intelligent?
- What are his thoughts?

Today, write from Hamid's **point of view**, using the first person, as if you were the character. Tell how he feels about his sister and family and their situation. Tell of his problems and concerns as if you were Hamid.

The following is a sample character sketch of Hamid. There is no right or wrong way to do this.

*My name is Hamid. I am eleven years old and I live in a country in Africa. I am the oldest in my family. I have a nine-year-old sister, Rahma, and a two-year-old sister, Kinza. My father died when I was nine years old and my mother married a man named Si Mohamed because she couldn't feed all of us by herself. Si Mohamed's older wife is very mean to my poor mother, my sisters, and me. I work hard each day taking care of his goats.*

*My dear little sister, Kinza, is blind. In my country blind people are not considered useful. I knew Si Mohamed would be angry when he found out and would want to give Kinza away. The night when he found out he was surprisingly calm. He said that when Kinza was old enough she could beg. I was angry. I did not want my little sister to become a beggar! When she was two years old Si Mohamed took her to the village to beg. I love my little sister so much. My mother has come up with a way for me to save Kinza. I am very proud of her trust in me and have pledged myself to protect and guide Kinza all her life.*









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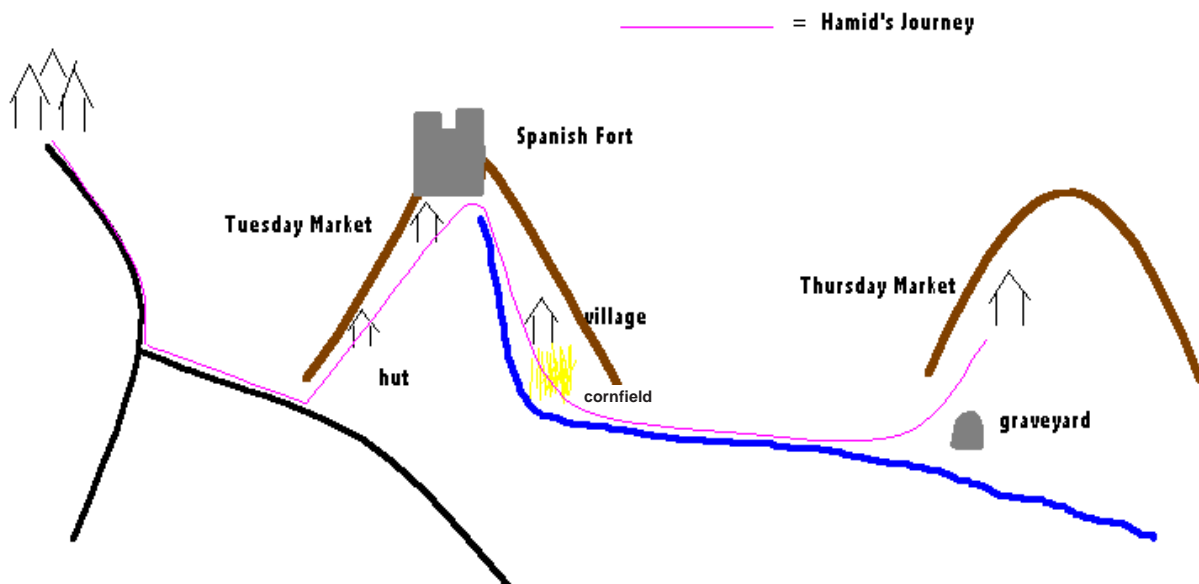
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5. a. Read Chapter 7 “A Narrow Escape.” Narrate the chapter back to your teacher with as much detail as you remember.

Using information found in Chapters 6 and 7, draw an imaginary map of Hamid’s and Kinza’s journey. Include the places mentioned and label them. Use the blank space provided.

The map might look something like this:



- b. Read Chapters 8 and 9.

Map of Hamid's and Kinza's Journey:

Chapters 10-17

1.
  - a. Read Chapters 10-12 silently.
  - b. Read Chapter 11 out loud to your teacher. Use good expression and speak clearly.
2.
  - a. In chapter 11, the English nurse uses Hamid’s deception as an opportunity to teach him about walking in the light and being clean. She does this by making an analogy. An **analogy** is the comparison of unfamiliar ideas with something that is simple or more familiar.
  - b. What are some analogies that Jesus made in Scripture?

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- c. Today you will begin writing an analogy. First think of what you would like to explain. Then write a story that illustrates this spiritual lesson.

The following familiar story is an example of this kind of analogy:

*One day a boy carved a beautiful little boat out of a block of wood. He eagerly took the boat to a nearby lake and placed it upon the water. A strong wind blew his boat far out in the lake, too far for the boy to reach it. Sadly, the little boy had to go home without his boat.*

*Months went by and one day the little boy was walking down the main street of the town. He happened to pass a store that sold trinkets and odd items. Imagine the boy’s joy as he looked in the window and saw his little boat for sale!*

*He rushed home, broke open his piggybank, and taking all of his money, he ran back to the store to buy his boat. As the little boy left the shop, he cradled his precious boat in his arms and said, “Now you are twice mine. Once because I made you, and once because I bought you for a price.”*

A series of 25 horizontal lines for writing, spaced evenly down the page.







A series of 25 horizontal lines for writing.





4. Using a separate piece of paper, begin writing a book review of *Star of Light*. A **book review** is a kind of **persuasive writing** in which you give your opinion of the book, supporting that **opinion** with **facts** and details from the book. A book review may be written as a short one paragraph review or more in-depth with several paragraphs.

You may choose one or more of the following as the subject for your paper:

- 1) **Plot** - the action that takes place in a story
  - Was it predictable?
  - Hard to believe?
  - Was the climax interesting?
  - What were some major events?
  - Were you surprised at the ending?
- 2) **Characters** - the people in the story
  - How did they change in the story?
  - What were their major personality traits?
  - Could you identify with them?
- 3) **Setting** - where the story takes place
  - Was the setting important to the story?
  - Why or why not?
  - Did you learn more about this part of the world?
  - Was it believable?
- 4) **Theme** - what the author wants to teach through the story
  - These could include greed, courage, love, self-sacrifice, faith, etc.

5.
  - a. Complete your book review today.
  - b. Optional: You may wish to make your review into a booklet and decorate the cover.



### Enrichment

#### A. Letter Search:

X	U	W	T	A
Z	E	K	G	D
P	O	M	H	Q
Y	C	N	V	S
L	J	I	B	G

1. Start at U. Go southwest, south, south, east, and southeast.  
What letter are you on now? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Start at B. Go northeast, northwest, northwest, south, and southeast.  
What letter are you on now? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Start at S. Go southwest, west, west, west, northeast, north, and north.  
What letter are you on now? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Start at O. Go east, southwest, north, north, and northeast.  
What letter are you on now? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Start at L. Go northeast, northeast, northeast, and northeast.  
What letter are you on now? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Start at Z. Go south, northeast, west, and north.  
What letter are you on now? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Start at T. Go southeast, west, west, southwest, and southeast.  
What letter are you on now? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Start at K. Go southwest, southeast, east, east, and southwest.  
What letter are you on now? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Start at P. Go east, northeast, south, south, and southwest.  
What letter are you on now? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Start at I. Go west, northwest, east, east, and northeast.  
What letter are you on now? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Be a Word Detective and decipher the sentence below by filling in the blanks using the clues.

Word Box						
and	with	weaves	by	gay	There	
colors	she	web	day	a	magic	night

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13

1. Words seven and thirteen rhyme.
2. The first word denotes a place.
3. Word eight begins and ends with the first letter of the alphabet.
4. The tenth word can be used in association with the internet or spiders.
5. The second word is a feminine subjective pronoun.
6. Word six has three letters.
7. The fourth word is the second shortest word and is a homonym for *buy*.
8. The ninth word is an adjective meaning *enchanted*.
9. Words five and seven are opposites.
10. Some examples of the twelfth word are purple, green, and silver.
11. The third word is tied with another word for the longest word. And it doesn't begin with a *c*.
12. Finally, the eleventh word is the only word that you are left *with*.

C. What *part of speech* are the nonsense words below?

noun	verb	adjective	adverb
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1. The garnerly man was late. garnerly is \_\_\_\_\_
2. Werster is my favorite dessert. Werster is \_\_\_\_\_
3. You and I are late for the klumper. klumper is \_\_\_\_\_
4. Will you go whirlingly to my house? whirlingly is \_\_\_\_\_
5. The grass is too glooper. glooper is \_\_\_\_\_
6. Grandma said I could phropher in the grass. phropher is \_\_\_\_\_
7. We played very clavumperly today. clavumperly is \_\_\_\_\_
8. I verroomed. verroomed is \_\_\_\_\_

Create four nonsense word sentences of your own.

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D. Study Morocco

Spend time learning about the country of Morocco. Find out about its climate, industry, people, politics, and customs. Tell someone what you have learned.