**A Long Way Gone**

**Chapters 1 & 2 Questions**

**Directions: After reading the first two chapters of A Long Way Gone by Ishmael Beah, read and answer each question below completely on your own notebook paper. Some questions have multiple parts!**

1. How did Ishmael Beah’s grandmother explain the local adage that “we must strive to be like the moon” (p. 16)? And why has Ishmael remembered this saying ever since childhood? What does it mean to him?
2. Based on chapter 1, how does Ismael feel about his family?
3. Beah moves around in time as he tells his story, flashing forward and backward. What is the effect of this technique? Do you appreciate it, or would you prefer that he stuck to strict chronology? Why or why not?
4. As Chapter 2 begins, we flash forward to Ishmael’s new life in New York City. He relates a dream of pushing a wheelbarrow. What is in the wheelbarrow, and where is he pushing it? What does Ishmael mean when he says, “I am looking at my own” (p. 19)?
5. In 5 sentences, summarize the major events in chapters 1 & 2, then create a title for your paragraph that captures the main idea of the two chapters.