

## OMAR IBN SAID

A Spoleto Festival USA Workbook

Sample Answers

### Prompt (workbook page 2/discovery worksheet 1):

Think back to when you were younger. Write your happiest memory on the lines below.

#### Sample Answer:

*My happiest memory was when I would go to the farmers market with my granddad, and on the way home we would try to throw a line out for small fish at a nearby pond. Our catch always shocked my grandma who would insist we toss them back!*

### Prompt (workbook page 7/discovery worksheet 3):

What is the theme or central idea of the story so far?

#### Sample Answer:

*Many Muslims pray five times a day.*

### Prompt (workbook page 9/discovery worksheet 4):

Which words create meaning and tone in the sentences on page 8?

#### Sample Answer:

*Attacked, foreign, enemy, killed, and captured*

### Prompt (workbook page 15/discovery worksheet 7):

How do the settings from pages 13 and 14 impact your understanding of Omar's story so far?

#### Sample Answer:

*Omar was not alone. He was taken against his will from one country to another country. The trip was long, difficult, and deadly.*

### Prompt (workbook page 16/discovery worksheet 8):

Use evidence from the text and the images to write an objective statement that summarizes Omar's experiences up to this point in the story.

#### Sample Answer:

*Omar had a good experience learning with family and praying often in his home country. Omar's experience turned bad when he was captured and enslaved by enemy soldiers and then brought to South Carolina.*

### Prompt (workbook page 18/discovery worksheet 9):

Based on the text, what does the word "forced" most likely mean?

#### Sample Answer:

*"Forced" means having to do something that you do not want to do.*

**Prompt (workbook page 21/discovery worksheet 10):**

In addition to running away, what other ways did enslaved people resist slavery?

**Sample Answer:**

*Enslaved people resisted slavery by practicing their cultures such as religion or music, rebelling, sabotaging tools, working slowly, alienating themselves from slave masters, acquiring firearms, and fighting or violent insurrection.*

**Prompt (workbook page 22/discovery worksheet 11):**

How does the setting of Omar in jail contribute to the mood and development of the plot of the story?

**Sample Answer:**

*Being in jail was a turning point in Omar's story because he never returned home but instead had to form a new life enslaved in North Carolina.*

**Prompt (workbook page 25/discovery worksheet 12):**

In addition to Omar, can you name two other historical figures jailed for their fights for freedom?

**Sample Answer:**

*Martin Luther King Jr., John Lewis, Susan B. Anthony, Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, and Nathan Hale.*

**Prompt (workbook page 26/discovery worksheet 13):**

Do you think Omar influenced the family at the Owen plantation?

**Sample Answer:**

*Yes. Because he was a man of faith and intelligence, he influenced the family to treat him differently.*

**Prompt (workbook page 28/discovery worksheet 14):**

Write a summary of Omar's story using key details from this workbook.

**Sample Answer:**

*Omar was enslaved and never freed. He remembered passages from the Quran after years away from studying it, and he never stopped wanting to return home to Senegal.*

**Prompt (workbook page 30/discovery worksheet 15):**

What do you imagine Omar was thinking about in this picture?

**Sample Answer:**

*Omar may have been imagining his brother or traveling back to West Africa.*

## Topics and Questions for Classroom Discussion (workbook page 37)

### Sample Answers

1. How might using this workbook to read Omar's story be different from seeing an opera or film about his life?

**Sample Answer:**

*Using this workbook allows students to learn about history using their own artistic talent and imagination.*

2. This workbook is intended to increase your understanding of key themes from the true story of Omar Ibn Said. Which pages best support the themes of faith, resilience, resistance, and injustice?

**Sample Answer:**

*Faith: page 6*

*Resilience: page 28*

*Resistance: page 20*

*Injustice: page 24*

3. What is Omar's argument or claim? How does he develop his claim?

**Sample Answer:**

*Omar's claim is that he should not be enslaved. He develops his claim by resisting by running away and writing in Arabic on the walls.*

4. Describe a viewpoint other than Omar's from the text.

**Sample Answer:**

*The Owen family may have thought that Omar was smart but did not think it was a problem that he was not free.*

5. Final prompt: I used to think \_\_\_\_\_. Now I think \_\_\_\_\_.

**Sample Answer:**

*I used to think slavery did not exist. Now I think it existed and was a terrible system.*

**Sample Answer:**

*I used to think that enslaved people had no religion and were illiterate. Now I think that many were like Omar and had religion and could read and write.*