CHAPTER 1

“THE LLESHIS OF KOSOVO”

Pg. i - ii
LABEL OUR MAP

- Surrounding Countries: Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Republic of Macedonia
- Important Cities: Pristina (Prishtina)
- Physical Features: Albanian Alps, Sharr Range, Drin River, Plain of Dukagjin
BRIEF HISTORY

✧ In 1991, various parts of the country of Yugoslavia began to dissolve and form their own nations. These new nations did not always develop peacefully. We will see this as we continue our reading.

✧ Many of these nations were based on the population’s ethnicity.

✧ Ethnicity is belonging to a group that has a common national or cultural tradition.

✧ Example - Irish, French, Serbian, Albanian
HISTORY

- The Serbian region of Kosovo under the control of President Milosevic was not granted independence.
- The Kosovo Liberation Army fought against Milosevic’s Serbian forces from 1998 - 1999.
- During this war Milosevic ordered a genocide.
- Genocide is the deliberate killing of a group of people based on their ethnicity.
UNDERSTANDING CULTURE

❖ To understand a person’s ethnicity we need to understand the elements of culture.

❖ Review the Universals of Culture and find examples of the Lleshi’s culture in the book.

❖ What can we learn about the culture of the Lleshis?
WHO WAS SKANDERBEG?

✧ 15th century Albanian Lord

✧ Responsible for ridding the area of Ottoman Control.

✧ A hero!
KEY VOCABULARY

- Loiter
- Bulbous
- Ubiquitous
CHAPTER 2
“MEHMET IS MISSING”

PG. 12 - 19
ELEMENTS OF CULTURE

- Examine chapter 2 - what can we learn about the Lleshi’s culture?

- Can we apply the 5 themes of geography?
  - Location
  - Place
  - Human-Environment Interaction
  - Region
  - Movement
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What impact does Mehmet’s disappearance have on the family?
- What role do the police have?
- Why does Meli take responsibility for Mehmet’s disappearance?
- What does Mehmet mean on pg. 18 - “Not a pelican...”
THE KLA

- The Kosovo Liberation Army - Albanian nationalist group that wanted independence from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

- The KLA used child soldiers - almost 10% of their fighters were under the age of 18, some as young as 13 years old.

- There was an argument made that the KLA was trying to cleanse (kill /purge) the area of Serbians, while the Serbians were doing the same with the Albanians.
VOCABULARY WORDS

- Piety
- Meekly
- Propaganda
CHAPTER 3
“LEAVING HOME”

PG. 20 - 27
REFLECTION QUESTIONS

✧ Why are the Lleshis’ leaving their home?

✧ Bring in a photo that you wouldn’t want to leave home without.

✧ What are the elements of culture you can find in this chapter?

✧ What do you think life will be like in the ancestral camps?

✧ Draw a picture of the family in the hills.
Descended
Fertile
Agitated
Guerrillas
Ancestral
What are the elements of culture that you can find in the book?

Draw a map of the camp using details from the book.

Why does Mama believe they need to leave the camp?

Using your knowledge of Albanian culture - would you want your children to fight for the KLA? Why or why not?
PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC

- President of Serbia and Yugoslavia
- Charged with crimes against humanity for the genocide against the Albanians
- Censored media, reduced freedom of speech, reduced journalism
UNDERSTANDING MILOSEVIC

- Didn’t recognize nations that gained independence (Croatia, Macedonia, etc)
- Adamantly denies the genocide
- Responsible for killing other political opponents
- Put on trial in 1999
- Died in his jail cell in March of 2006
PRESIDENT CLINTON

- In office from 1993 - 2001
- Sent American troops in 1998 to help end the ethnic cleansing of Yugoslavia
- He sent in a peacekeeping force at the end of the war in June of 1999
There was a disagreement between using the phrase “Ethnic cleansing” vs. genocide.

A UN court declared the Kosovo War not to be a genocide, which angered the world.

Instead they recognized, "a systematic campaign of terror, including murders, rapes, arsons and severe maltreatments"
VOCABULARY

❖ Dilapidated
❖ Reconcile
❖ Vengeance
❖ Quaver
❖ Defy
❖ Hastily
REFLECTION QUESTIONS

✧ Finding elements of culture.

✧ What is the meaning of the following quote - “You never really know someone till you’ve eaten a sack of salt together.”

✧ On pg. 45 Meli is asking a series of questions, let's take a moment to answer these questions.
Refugees

A refugee is a person who is forced to leave their country to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.
Kosovo’s Refugees in the European Union

edited by Joanne van Seln
VOCABULARY

- Agonized
- Insolent
- Refuge
- Refugee
UNDERSTANDING NATO

✧ North Atlantic Treaty Organization

✧ Purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of its members through political and military means

✧ There are 28 members from North America and Europe

✧ Developed in 1949 - after WWII
REFLECTION QUESTIONS

✧ Choose any of the items below to spend the day researching.

✧ NATO

✧ Friendly Fire

✧ Bosnia

✧ Using your map - determine where the family should go and state why.
RESEARCH INFORMATION

❖ What should you look for?

❖ Start with the 5 Ws - Who, what, where, when, why and how
VOCABULARY

- Reeling
- Hillocks
- Tyrant