A. If he hadn’t relied on adults or been resourceful, Salva Dut would never have survived in A Long Walk to Water.

1. Relying on adults and being resourceful were the two factors that made it possible for Salva to survive.
2. A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park was a story of survival and success.

OR

Linda Sue Park’s novel, A Long Walk to Water tells the story of Salva Dut and his amazing ability to survive in impossible situations.

1. Even though this story is based on real events, it seems unbelievable because of the horrific moments the author describes.

OR

Just when you think Salva couldn’t survive one more tragic event, he faces and overcomes another with courage and strength.

OR

Snapping crocodiles in a blood-filled river, gun-toting outlaws, and an angry swarm of bees… Salva experienced all this and more, yet kept going.

B 1:

If it weren’t for the incredible and reliable adults Salva encountered, he surely wouldn’t have survived. By sheer coincidence, he finds his uncle on the walk to Ethiopia, “We are together now, so I will look after you!” (35). Salva’s uncle is more than willing to protect Salva from the dangers of the open savannahs, including possible attacks by lions. Even an old woman who didn’t know Salva at all helped him out, “This one is alone, will you take him with you?” (21). When the old woman decides she must move away because of the fighting, she makes sure Salva will be taken care of by getting a group of passersby to take him into their care. Any of us would be fortunate to have such caring adults on which we could rely in a time of need.

B2:

Salva’s resourcefulness clearly played a role in his survival as well. He quickly realized that he had an opportunity to learn English, “ …he was working hard because he wanted to learn to read English before Michael left…”(87). Salva knew he could use Michael as an English teacher before he left the camp and that this knowledge could benefit him if he ever did go to the U.S. Salva and the others with whom he was travelling needed food and did not have the means to get it. “ He had heard of this, that the Jur-chol could follow the call of the bird called the honey guide!”(24). Salva helped harvest the honey and paid the price with some stings. If you are hungry enough, it is worth it to find food in unlikely places. Finding what you need when you need it makes you resourceful.

How do people like Salva survive such terrible times? In Salva’s case, finding adults who were willing and able to rescue him as well as his own clever resourcefulness saved him from doom time and time again. You cannot read a book like this and walk away without being changed. Whether it’s developing a new appreciation for water or living in safety and security each day, your life would be changed by understanding Salva’s story.