**Chapter 5 Welcome Home**

In the fifth chapter of the novel Alem arrives at the Children’s Home and meets some of the staff and children. It was a large Victorian house with a long driveway leading up to it.

Some of the bigger boys didn’t seem very nice, Alem is threatened by a tough boy. Another boy, called Mustafa, tells him that the bully is called Sweeney. Alem is taken through a large dormitory to a small room that he is to share with a boy called Stanley. Stanley has a nightmare during the night.



Overall, his impression of the Home is not pleasant.

**Chapter 6: Meet the Lads.**

At breakfast the next day Mustafa gives Alem some more advice, he tells him that he must stand up for himself. As a result, Alem gets into a fight with Sweeney.

Mustafa and a member of staff break up the fight. Sweeney came over to him all the same to tell him that they still had unfinished business.

**Chapter 7: The Road to Nowhere**

Alem decided that he needed to do something, he packed his bag with all of his belongings and escaped through a small window in a broom cupboard.

Alem escaped, he went across the grounds and climbed over the fence, cutting his hands on the barbed wire. He followed the road until he was too tired to continue. Alem saw a barn close to a farmhouse he headed across the field. On entering the barn Alem looked for somewhere warm to sleep, he climbed up into a tractor cab and slept sitting up in the driver’s seat. The next morning, he headed out back to the road and heading somewhere new. He walked and walked until he came to a familiar place. He was back at the children’s home; he had walked in a big circle!! He gave up, hungry and tired he went back.

Back in the home he was kept in the staff room, where the staff washed and cleaned his cuts and gave him breakfast. Soon Mariam turned up with another young woman.

Alem explained to Miriam why he had run away - 'I hate it here,' Alem said. 'Nobody talks to me, everyone is so strange, and people want to fight me. I was beaten up in schools in Africa, do you think I want to be beat up here as well?’

Miriam introduced Alem to his social worker, she had arranged for him to go and stay with a foster family.