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## ***Teaching Guide: Innocence's Journey***

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Zambia is a landlocked country in sub-Saharan Africa, surrounded by Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

*Capital:* Lusaka

*Population:* 11,502,010 (2006)

*Religion:* Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and indigenous beliefs

*Language:* English, Bemba, Kaonda, Lozi, Lunda, Luvale, Nyanja, Tonga, and about 70 other indigenous languages.



Zambia's flag.

### ***Learning Objectives for this Narrative***

1. Understand that some diseases such as AIDS require essential medicines, which are of limited supply in rural Zambia.
2. Identify and describe some of the problems associated with lack of health care in rural areas in Zambia.
3. List positive and negative aspects of Innocence's life and brainstorm ways to change negative circumstances.
4. Examine the inequalities among different forms of healthcare and predict what consequences these differences might have on everyday life of the people in Zambia.

### ***Pre-Reading Activities and Questions***

**Journal Response** → Write a short essay about the distance between your home and the doctor's office. When was the last time you visited the doctor? Can you remember? If you can remember, write about your last visit, including descriptions of the clinic and physician.

### ***Suggested Discussion Questions***

- 1) Innocence has many responsibilities as a young boy. How are his responsibilities similar or different to your own?
- 2) One of the major barriers for Innocence's mother health was that they live far away from the local health center. What could be done to improve health care for people living so far away from the hospital without modes of transportation?
- 3) How does living far away from a health clinic make it more difficult to survive with HIV/AIDS. Is there a relationship between having access to medicines and living near a hospital or clinic?
- 4) What would have happened if Innocence had injured himself in his village? How would he have traveled to the health center? Map out his journey.
- 5) One reason the story is called "Innocence's Journey" is that Innocence takes a trip to look for help for his mother. What could have happened to deter Innocence from having such a successful journey? Identify the events in the story that could have gone better or worse and identify solutions to solve them.

### ***Recommended Activity***

Students should choose one of the following statements and write a three page essay about why they agree or disagree with the statement.

- \* I know a lot about HIV/AIDS.
- \* I trust my doctors to tell me the truth about my sicknesses.
- \* AIDS is one of the most serious problems facing the world today.
- \* Someday the consequences of AIDS might affect me or someone I know.