Serena’s *What is the What* Classwork (transcription)

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|  | **Africa** | **America** |
| **Robbery** | * *he had little to be robbed of* | * *he had a lot of valuables provided by the church* |
| **Betrayal** | * *betrayed by their own kind* * *Ethiopian woman told him to trust her, then killed those who approached her* | * *betrayed by their own kind* * *his “brother” another African-American robbed Valentino* |
| **Violence** | * *children eaten by lions* * *has seen vicious acts of violence in Africa* * *fights over food leading to death* | * *robbery* * *killing* * *guns* |
| **Friendship** | * *have friends but they die* * *regrets-could have done more* | * *long-distance relationships* |

**Discuss and take notes:** What is the difference between robbery, betrayal, violence, and friendship in Africa and America? Where is it “better”? Why do you think Eggers chose to relay Deng’s experiences with these issues by flashing between the past and present?

* *Robbery, betrayal, violence, and friendship is more severe and vicious as opposed to America*
* *Valentino feels that Africa is better*
* *Eggars is trying to show that Africa and America are not that different, they both have crime and violence.*