

Gray Stone Day School
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Dear Seventh Grade Parents:

We are excited to share with you the 7th grade summer assignment. You'll notice that there are two parts to the assignment: one incorporates an English Language Arts task, and the other covers Social Studies standards.

The reason for this is to prepare students for the integrated nature of the two subject areas in seventh grade. Many social studies assignments throughout the course of the year will require writing and providing textual evidence to decipher historical documents. We believe the summer assignment will give your child an opportunity to prepare for and practice those skills. There will be a review at the beginning of the school year to ensure that students fully master the skills to be successful in both subjects.

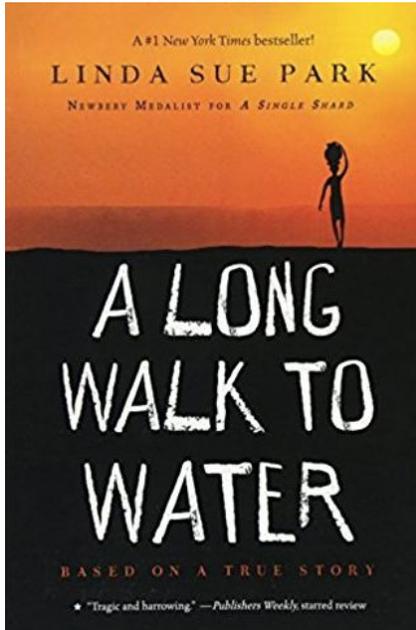
Please contact us if you have any questions about either part. Have a great summer!

Jennifer Holmes
Seventh Grade Social Studies Teacher

Cindy Thompson
Seventh Grade English Language Arts Teacher

Dear 7th Grade Parents and Students:

After careful consideration of many choices, the assigned summer reading book is *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. Simultaneously set in the Sudan during the 1980s and early 2000s, the book tell two stories about the struggles of daily life for adolescents in this crisis-ridden area.



First, students should annotate their copy of the book, making note of key points, unfamiliar words, and connections between other books or stories or real-world events. In the margins, they should jot down any thoughts or feelings they have while reading. If students do not wish to write in their books, they can keep notes in a notebook/journal and bring both the book and the notebook to class on the first day.

Upon completion of the book, pick one of the following Challenge Activities to complete. Your final product must clearly demonstrate your knowledge of the people, places, and events from the story.

OPTION 1: **Front Page News**

Create a newspaper front page that relates to events, characters, and topics from the book. It should have at least one feature article, 1 side-bar character-based article, 2 graphics, and an advertisement for a product relevant to the story.

OPTION 2: **Sort it Out**

Create a timeline of at least 15 major events from the story and place them on a timeline. You should have a relevant visual and description for each event you choose.

OPTION 3: **Let's Talk**

Create an interview session with a character, during which you discuss events and topics relevant to the book. You can either record the interview in writing or make a video interview. You will need at least 10 questions and thoughtful responses.

OPTION 4: **Find out More**

Pick a topic relevant to the book. Provide a brief explanation of how this topic is part of the story. Then, research the topic. Create a powerpoint, prezi, or other presentation format about your research findings. You should include at least 10 slides of quality information. Include a bibliography page (not counted as 10 informational slides).

If you have any questions about the Summer Reading Assignment, please contact me by email: cthompson@graystoneday.org. HAPPY READING!

Directions:

Choose **three questions** to answer below: Use complete sentences and textual evidence to support each short answer question. Responses must be 5-7 sentences minimum.

Chapter 1: What role did the government play in the role of the Sudanese people's lives?

Chapter 2-3: How does culture influence people's decisions?

Chapter 5: What civil Rights issues are both Nya and Salva dealing with?

Chapter 6: What role does Tribal warfare play in in Nya's and Salva's lives?

Chapter 7: Why is Akeer's illness dangerous? What does it mean for the Sudanese people?

Chapter 8: How does the Nile "feed" the countries around it?

Chapter 10: How do the different tribes keep violence alive in Africa?

Chapter 11: What organization is in charge of creating Refugee camps? How are the "safe?"

Chapter 12-14: What are the problems with the refugee camp? What does this say about the organizations that support them?

Chapter 15: Explain the lost boys.

Chapter 18: How was Salva able to cross tribal boundaries?