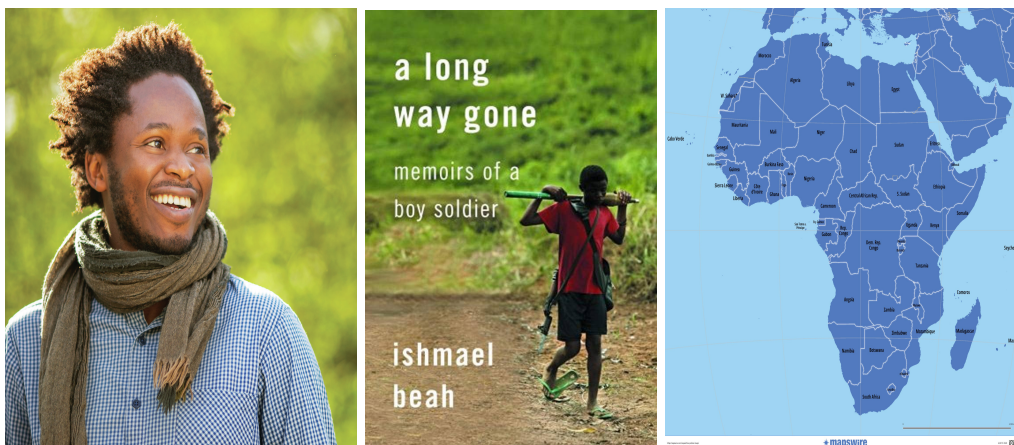


Rising 10th Grade Summer Reading Assignment
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier



About the Book:

This memoir tells the true story of Ishmael Beah, a young boy from Sierra Leone whose life is dramatically changed by civil war. Forced to flee his village and separated from his family, Ishmael experiences the hardships of survival, violence, and loss. The book explores themes of resilience, identity, humanity, trauma, and hope. As you read, consider how conflict shapes individuals and communities and how people can recover from difficult experiences.

Summer Reading Requirements

1. Read *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* before the first day of school.
2. Post-It Note Annotations (As you read, place at least 20-30 Post-It Notes throughout the book)
 - a. Character Analysis (Minimum of 10 Notes): Track important developments in Ishmael or another significant character.

Example:

"Ishmael begins to lose his innocence as the war forces him to make difficult choices. This moment shows how his character is changing because of his experiences."

- b. Key Moments (Minimum of 10 Notes): Identify significant events that impact the plot, themes, or characters.

Example:

"This is a key moment because it changes the direction of Ishmael's journey and affects his future decisions."

Your notes should include a brief explanation (1-2 sentences) of why the passage is important.

3. One-Page Reflection: Write a one-page typed reflection addressing the following questions:
 - a. Why do you think *A Long Way Gone* has received critical acclaim and literary recognition?
 - b. What themes or messages make the book meaningful or important?
 - c. What were your personal reactions to the memoir?
 - d. Which parts of the story were most impactful, surprising, or thought-provoking?
 - e. Would you recommend this book to other students? Why or why not?

Requirements:

- ☐ One full page
- ☐ Typed, double-spaced
- ☐ All summer reading assignments are due on the first day of class. Please bring:
 - a. Your copy of the book with Post-It Notes attached
 - b. Your one-page reflection

If you have any questions: folivencia@blindbrook.org