

TEXT ADOPTION REQUEST

2020F3

Instructional Materials Committee

Text Title *A Long Way Gone*

Author Ishmael Beah

Publisher Sarah Crichton Books

Copyright Date 2007

Course Title and Grade Level Junior English

This text is: New Replacing (Title)

Number of Copies Needed 30 Unit Price \$7.79 (paperback)

This text is intended for use during 2015-16

I have taken the following steps to determine the suitability of the above text:

(Yes) 1. I have read it and found that it meets the criteria of the district Instructional Materials Committee, including criteria for the elimination of sex bias. This is a mandatory step.

(Yes) 2. I have compared it with these other available texts: *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini.

(Yes) 3. I have compared review of it with review of these other available texts: While both *The Kite Runner* and *A Long Way Gone* depict young boys growing up in turmoil and war filled countries, *A Long Way Gone* is a true story while *The Kite Runner* is historical fiction. There is more action in *A Long Way Gone*, which will further engage the students.

(Yes) 4. I have evaluated the reading level and found it averages about grade : 8

(No) 5. I have used the text on a trial basis for about weeks, per district policy and the Curriculum Director's approval. I have not taught this material yet, however it was recommended as a Literature Circle novel by a Professor at Washington State University Vancouver.

() 6. Other

Text Selector Signature *Heather A.*

Date: *12/3/15*

Approval dates

Principal or Dept. Head *Juan Couz*

Date: *12-4-15*

Instructional Materials Committee

Date:

Limitations:

Board of Directors Approval

Date:

Evaluated By: Heather Gordon/ Annie Mongrain

Date: 11/6/15

Department: English

School: High School

Subject Area: English

Author: Ishmael Beah

Title: *A Long Way Gone*

Publisher: Sarah Crichton Books

Copyright Date: 2007

Reading Level (Use Fry Readability Graph): 8th grade

Use extra sheet or back if necessary.

1. Will this material be the basic text or will it supplement the basic text? If it is supplementary, what is your basic text?

This is a basic text that will be used in a Literature Circles unit. The other texts used will be *Zeitoun*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, and *The Road*. Students will get to rank each novel in order of which they prefer to read, and will be put into small groups to read and discuss the same books.

2. How did you become aware of this material? (Professional journals, salesman, publisher's catalog, know someone who has used it, used material before, etc.)

In 2009, this novel won an award with the ALA for "Outstanding Book for the College Bound," and it has been used as non-fiction text in high schools around the U.S. This novel was also recommended by a professor at Washington State University Vancouver, who taught the English Methods in Teaching Reading course.

3. What other materials did you consider?

I also considered *The Kite Runner*. *A Long Way Gone* is a memoir, so students will appreciate that it is a true life story. There is also more action to keep the pages turning, while following how the main character develops.

4. In what ways is this material better than the other materials? (Text format, organization content, unbiased content concerning minorities and women, teacher's guide, workbooks, etc.)

This memoir is a very powerful story of a boy growing up in a very extreme setting. His village in Sierra Leone is raided during the Civil War in the 1990s, and he goes on the run. He is eventually captured into an army unit and is forced to become a soldier. He is saved by UNICEF and lived to come to the United States, and wrote his memoir to share his story. Not only is his story very captivating, but

students will be more engaged in it because it is a memoir, and what happened to Ishmael is a true story. This is very eye-opening for students to gain a new perspective of what is going on in our world.

5. How does this material fit the students learning objectives for the subject area?

A key learning objective in this course is for students to gain new perspectives and be able to follow the character development in a novel. This shows them the perspective of a boy much different from them, and how he develops through hardships. It also shows how he is able to recover from such a traumatic experience, and go on to enlighten the world.

6. How does this material ensure continuity with the District's overall program?

This memoir will broaden the students' scope of what is happening around the world, and some of the things other young people have to live through. It exposes them to a culture they will not be familiar with. The experiences depicted show the turmoil of Civil War and violence in other countries, and how that affects its people.

Instructional Materials Committee Evaluation Form cont.

7. Bias content check list:

<u>Bias Content</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Non-App.</u>
1. Presents more than one view point of controversial issues.	Excellent				
2. Presents minorities realistically.	Excellent				
3. Includes contributions of minority authors.	Excellent				
4. Presents non-stereotypic models	Excellent				
5. Facilitates the sharing of cultural differences.	Excellent				
6. Promotes the positive nature of differences	Excellent				
7. Includes the contributions, inventions, or discoveries of minorities.					Non-App
8. Includes the contributions, inventions, or discoveries of women.					Non-App
9. Presents minorities in a manner that promotes ethnic pride.	Excellent				
10. Facilitates an environment open to discovery and experimentation.					Non-App