

Honors: A Long Way Gone

Content Area: **English Language Arts**
Course(s): **Generic Course, English Literacy 2, Language Arts Literacy II Honors**
Time Period: **January**
Length: **4 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

Students will examine the impact of war as seen through the eyes of a former child soldier while reading Ishmael Beah's *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*.

Transfer

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

- Examine the human impact of war on a personal level
- Examine the post-colonial environment in Africa
- Analyze cultural, economic and military decisions in underdeveloped countries
- Draw conclusions about human rights violations in today's world

Meaning

Understandings

Students will understand that...

- Events in history influence literary works

Essential Questions

Students will keep considering...

- Why is it important for people and cultures to construct narratives about their experiences?
- How might it feel to live through a conflict that disrupts your way of life?
- In the face of adversity, what causes some individuals to prevail while others fail?
- What are the politics and consequences of war and how do these vary based on an individual or cultural perspective?
- How can literature open our mind to new ways of seeing the world?
- How can learning about different cultures and time periods help us to understand the world?
- How can we diminish harmful stereotypes and ensure that we treat people we encounter in our lives with respect every human being deserves?
- What does it mean to be a citizen of the world?

Application of Knowledge and Skill

Students will know...

Students will know...

- About other cultures
- The influence of your environment on self
- The importance of cultural, global, and personal experiences

Students will be skilled at...

Students will be skilled at...

- Reading with fluency and comprehension
- Identifying and examining literary elements

Academic Vocabulary

- Conflict
- Human rights
- Human responsibility
- Humanitarian
- Child soldier
- memoir

Target 2

- Draw conclusions and respond to text relating text/text, text/self, and text/world through variety of organized and coherent writing pieces, journal writing, research based projects and writing tasks, etc.
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LA.W.9-10.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
LA.W.9-10.2.B	Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
LA.W.9-10.2.D	Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic.
LA.W.9-10.7	Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
LA.RL.9-10.10b	By the end of grade 10, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at grade level or above.

Target 1

Learning Goal 3

Select all applicable standards from the Standards tab.

Be sure to include the Anchor Standards for ELA, the Practice Standards for Math, the English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects, and the applicable Technology standards.

Target 1

Target 2

Target 3

Summative Assessment

21st Century Life and Careers

Select all applicable standards from the applicable standards

CRP.K-12.CRP1	Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP.K-12.CRP7	Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
CRP.K-12.CRP8	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.
CRP.K-12.CRP12	Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence.

Formative Assessment and Performance Opportunities

- Reading comprehension quizzes
- Research
- Test

Accommodations/Modifications

- Allow students to highlight key points of the text
- Create character word webs and associate dialogue with traits
- Discussion groups to examine themes and conflicts
- Group activities to examine figurative language and the way it is portrayed
- Present new vocabulary visually
- Provide adapted version of the text
- Provide audio of the text
- Reading comprehension quizzes
- Research/Tests
- Students read text in small groups focusing on language and themes

Interdisciplinary Connections

Unit Resources

- Blood Diamond
- Multiple excerpts from documentaries and news broadcasts about child soldiers, the conflict in Sierra Leone, and current world problems.
- Multiple news articles about child soldiers, the conflict in Sierra Leone, and current world problems.
- Novels
- Maps and background information of Sierra Leone.