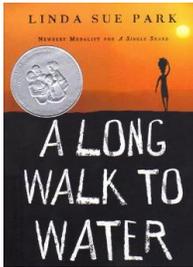


## 7th GRADE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT (DUE 8/16)

Read **TWO** books this summer. (assignment and links on class website - [www.blewettcrew.wikispaces.com](http://www.blewettcrew.wikispaces.com))

- 1) **Self-selected book.** Choose from one of these lists: [Wake County Library Middle School Lists](#), [ALA Tween List](#), [School Library Journal List 2015](#), [SLJ List 2014](#), [Battle of the Books List 1](#), [List 2](#). Be prepared to share your thoughts about this book with classmates.
- 2) **Required book:** [A Long Walk to Water](#) by Linda Sue Park



*A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park is a novel based on actual events. It follows the lives of young two people (Salva and Nya) during different periods of time. Salva Dut's story takes place in the mid-1980s during the Second Sudanese Civil War. Nya's story takes place in the 2000s, shortly before South Sudan gained its independence. Both Salva and Nya have difficult 'paths' to walk in life but both emerge as survivors in a moving tale that displays the challenges young people face in other parts of the world.

Before reading [A Long Walk to Water](#) read the background articles on the [Blewett class wiki](#) AND watch the short [video "Salva's Story"](#)

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### ESSAY QUESTIONS for [A Long Walk to Water](#)

Read over the questions before reading the book. Take notes as you read.

- **Type your answers in paragraph form.**
  - **Try to use text evidence to support your points.**
1. **What are three major challenges to survival for Nya and Salva in [A Long Walk to Water](#)? Give specific examples from the story.** (think climate, environment, war, lack of natural resources, personal loss, etc.)
  2. **Choose one character trait of Salva Dut (perseverance, courage, leadership) and talk about how it is reflected in Salva.**
  3. **Have you ever thought about helping others as Salva Dut did? What do you think is an important project you could help with some day?**

## **Understanding A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park**

A review of the book from the Indianapolis Public Library website

"Part of this story is about a boy named Salva. He lives in Sudan, a country in Africa, during a Civil War that happened there in 1985. The other part of this story is about a girl named Nya and takes place in Sudan right now.

When we say "The Civil War" here in America we are referring to our own Civil War that happened 150 years ago. The Civil War in Sudan was only 25 years ago. During the war in Sudan many people were killed, children were made orphans and families were separated. In order to get to safety, many people WALKED to Ethiopia or Kenya.

When you are reading Salva's part of the story you hear about how he slept on the ground at night and could hear lions hunting around him: *Marial was gone - vanished into the night. He would never have wandered away from the group on his own. His disappearance could mean only one thing. Lion.* (page 40)

Salva even has to cross a river infested with crocodiles. Some of the people do not make it across the river. On the other side of the river is a desert...which the people also have to walk across. Can you even imagine surviving a journey like that?

Nya's part of the story is about how she walks twice a day, EVERY DAY, to a pond to get water. Nya carries the water in a plastic jug and balances it on her head to walk home. That's what she does every single day; once in the morning and once in the afternoon. The pond is so far away from her home that she has no time to do anything else. No school. No playing. Just walking - carrying water to keep her family alive.

*A Long Walk to Water* shows you how Salva's story and Nya's story are related even though they take place 25 years apart.

There are parts of the book that are hard to read and very, very sad. Some parts are scary. In the end, though, this is a book about really good things. It is about people looking after each other - even if they are strangers to begin with. It is about trying hard and doing your part and it is about hoping for something better.

The really great thing is that *A Long Walk to Water* is based on a real boy named Salva - you can see his picture with the author on the book jacket. (He's grown up now.) At the end of the book there is a letter to you from Salva that I think you'll like to read. The best thing he says is, "*Stay calm when things are hard or not going right with you. You will get thorough it when you persevere instead of quitting.*" (page 117) Those are pretty powerful words when you realize they come from a kid who survived a situation much, much more difficult than anything we will probably ever face."