



Dear Sixth Grade Parents,

This summer, incoming students will read *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park as part of their summer reading assignment.

This novel is based on the true story of Salva Dut, one of the “Lost Boys” of Sudan, and follows his journey as he faces hardship, displacement, perseverance, and hope during the Sudanese Civil War. The book also follows a parallel fictional story of a young girl named Nya, whose daily life centers around her family’s search for water.

As students read, they will encounter themes such as:

- survival and resilience
- conflict and war
- poverty and access to clean water
- courage, hope, and leadership
- service to others

While the novel is written for middle-grade readers and is widely taught in schools, it does include discussions of war, violence, death, displacement, and difficult living conditions. These topics are presented in an age-appropriate manner but may naturally prompt meaningful conversations at home.

We encourage families to discuss the reading together and ask students questions such as:

- How does Salva demonstrate perseverance?
- What challenges do Salva and Nya face that differ from your own experiences?
- How can one person make a difference in the lives of others?
- How can we also lean on Christ during moments of trial or hardship?

This book provides an excellent opportunity for students to build empathy, global awareness, and critical thinking while engaging with a powerful true story!

IMPORTANT:

- Please view this Google Drive folder to access an important graphic organizer that your child must complete to prepare for August. This must be printed and completed by the due date of the project (8/24/26).
 - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1G7lrbZLdCzz4Lk85RdTmT0VdOQ0-WLQb?usp=sharing>

I look forward to digging deeper into this text with them in August.

Blessings,
Mrs. Romain
Westbury Christian School