

# International Literacy Day

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**What it is:** Organized in 1965 by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization), this day hopes to bring attention to the need for global literacy! According to UNESCO, 776 million adults lack minimum literacy skills, one in five adults is still not literate (two-thirds of them are women) and 75 million children are out of school.

**Our goal:** We have generated a list of our “Top Ten” great reads with international themes. We hope that you take some time to read one or all of these books. They are all wonderfully written books with powerful stories and messages. You will not be disappointed with any of them.

**How you can get involved:** We hope you all take this list home, share it with others, and take some time this school year to read at least one of these books! We also ask that you think about possible books to add to this list. All day Monday, September 14, any student, faculty/staff member, or community member that brings the name of an additional book to the library to either Mrs. Carpenter or Mrs. Sharpe will get a thank-you gift. We ask you to include the title, author, and brief review of the book. Tell us why you loved it or why you think others should read it!!

**We hope you all get involved!!!**

We look forward to reading your reviews!!!



*“Literacy unlocks the door to learning throughout life, is essential to development and health, and opens the way for democratic participation and active citizenship”*  
~Kofi Annan



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## Our “Top Ten” Great Reads...

**Three Cups of Tea** by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin “An inspirational story of one man's efforts to address poverty, educate girls, and overcome cultural divides.” — *Bookmarks Magazine*

**Kite Runner** by Khaled Hosseini “To many Western readers, Afghanistan’s can be an exhausting and bewildering history. But Hosseini extrudes it into an intimate account of family and friendship, betrayal and salvation that requires no atlas or translation to engage and enlighten us.” — *Washington Post*

**A Long Way Gone** by Ishmael Beah “This absorbing account by a young man who, as a boy of 12, gets swept up in Sierra Leone's civil war goes beyond even the best journalistic efforts in revealing the life and mind of a child abducted into the horrors of warfare.” — *Publisher's Weekly*

**Kabul Beauty School** by Deborah Rodriguez “In Afghanistan, where war and religious oppression have long kept women socially isolated, and where displays of sensual allure became criminal offenses under Taliban rule in the 1990s, the reopening of beauty parlors after the Taliban regime fell in 2001 was a widely noted symbol of the country's democratic rebirth. But when Deborah Rodriguez, an American hairdresser, decided to contribute to Afghan women's emancipation by establishing a beauty school in Kabul, her project exposed the constraints of conservative tradition and male-ruled culture that still trap many Afghan girls and women into lives of suffering and injustice.” — *Washington Post*

**Infidel** by Ayaan Hirsi Ali “Set against a terrifying geopolitical landscape of African wars and Muslim fundamentalism, Hirsi Ali addresses timely topics: the plight of refugees and women; the Muslim clan system; forced marriage; political asylum; and, perhaps most significantly, her own personal religious crisis. Written in descriptive, clear prose, *Infidel*, with its radical feminist criticism of Islam, offers a disturbing view of the modern world.” — *Bookmarks Magazine*

**Snowflower and the Secret Fan** by Lisa See “*Snow Flower*, by the author of three crime thrillers set in Communist China and the bestselling memoir *On Gold Mountain* (1995), explores women’s insular lives in 19th-century rural China. The novel is many things at once: a portrait of a patriarchal culture that valued sons and banished girls to a lesser sphere; an exploration of friendship in all its ups and downs, jealousies, loyalties, and betrayals; and a comment on the spiritual meaning (or emptiness) of tradition, ritual, and ceremony.” — *Bookmarks Magazine*

**A Thousand Splendid Suns** by Khaled Hosseini “Most critics agreed that Khaled Hosseini's second novel is as devastating, if not even more powerful, than his first. A natural, if not always the most eloquent or subtle, storyteller, Hosseini gives voice to two women trying to survive in a despotic household while caught up in the throes of war.” — *Bookmarks Magazine*

**Mountains Beyond Mountains** by Tracy Kidder “In this excellent work, Pulitzer Prize-winner Kidder immerses himself in and beautifully explores the rich drama that exists in the life of Dr. Paul Farmer...Throughout, Kidder captures the almost saintly effect Farmer has on those whom he treats” — *Publisher's Weekly*

**Not on Our Watch** by Don Cheadle & John Prendergast “Over the past five years, youth groups, religious organizations, politicians and individuals have responded to the crisis in Sudan in increased numbers. This book is a guide for these already involved, as well as those who are interested in taking action, or speaking out against the mass killings that continue to occur in the country's Darfur region.” — *Publisher's Weekly*

**What is the What** by Dave Eggers “Valentino Achak Deng, real-life hero of this engrossing epic, was a refugee from the Sudanese civil war-the bloodbath before the current Darfur bloodbath-of the 1980s and 90s. In this fictionalized memoir, Eggers (*A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*) makes him an icon of globalization.” — *Publisher's Weekly*



