

SUMMER Reading (2020) SOPHOMORE ENGLISH

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier, by Ishmael Beah

The Great Divorce, by C.S. Lewis

These two books are quite different, but both meaningful. *A Long Way Gone* is the true story of a boy caught up in the fighting in war-torn Sierra Leone in the 1990's. Sometimes we can become numb when hearing about atrocities around the world. It is difficult not to be moved when reading about Ishmael's experiences.

The Great Divorce is a fantasy but, because the author is Lewis (*Chronicles of Narnia*), we can expect deeper meanings. The book is about the afterlife, as well as the nature of human life. Lewis warns that this is fantasy – an “imaginative supposal” - and that he is not trying to give an exact description of heaven and hell, but a story to make us think about these two entities, and our own life.

BESIDES READING the books, what else should you do?

Write out a thorough, one-paragraph summary of the theme of the books (not a scene-by-scene description, but an explanation of what the book is about).

The paragraphs are due the first day of classes.

WHEN SCHOOL resumes in August, we will talk about these books and eventually have a test on them.

Please read the books. They will not only enhance your summer but ensure you do not fall behind when school begins.

If you have any questions, contact Mr. Thomas (Kevin.thomas@portlanddiocese.org)*

Teaching assignments are occasionally changed. Regardless of your teacher, these are your assigned books for the summer.