

2017 Summer Reading: *A Long Way Gone*

*English III*

**Point Value:** The reading response journal and essay question, worth 100 points, is based on the reading of *A Long Way Gone*. Your grade will be based on adherence to guidelines, use of logical expression in writing, clear connections to the text, literary analysis (commentary based on textual evidence), and correct grammar.

**Due Date:** A paper hard copy of the journal and essay response is due the *first* day of school. The journal and essay will each be submitted as a Word document to Turnitin.com after school begins. Students must use an MLA Header and format (see *Purdue OWL* for MLA style guide) on the required assignments and are required to bring the book to class the first day of school. Additionally a paper exam of the work will be administered within the first two weeks of school.

**Short Answer Description:** Students will keep a typed reading journal (below) of *A Long Way Gone*, Ishmael Beah. Each journal entry must be 3-5 complete sentences. In the appropriate columns, provide the textual evidence (quote) with the page number on which it is found and write an analysis for each that responds to the question provided.

**Essay Response Description:** Select one question below and write a one page typed response using a minimum of three pieces of textual evidence which are supported with at least two commentaries for each. Your answer will be submitted to Turnitin.com during the first week of school and is worth 25 points to total 100 points for the summer reading. Additionally the paper must be typed in Times New Roman (12 points) and must follow MLA format as indicated at Purdue OWL.

1. Imagine that you are the author of the book; explain your inspiration and the need to tell your story.
2. Select a quote from the book that best expresses its theme and explain its life application.
3. Write a review of the book in which you convince others of the reason to read it.

Name

Teacher Name

Class

Date

Reading Log: A Long Way Gone

| Question   | Text Evidence/Quote and Page number | Analysis/Commentary |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| What problems does the subject have, and how are these conflicts resolved?   |                                     |                     |
| Who in the book might make a good next door neighbor? Who would not? Explain each.   |                                     |                     |
| Who in the memoir do you most like? How would the book be different if that person was omitted from the story?             |                                     |                     |
| What was your first impression of the Ishmael? How have your first impressions grown or changed as you've read the memoir? |                                     |                     |
| What are two emotions Ishmael Beah has felt? What made him feel that way?  |                                     |                     |

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|--|--|--|
| <p>Did this book remind you of anything that has happened to you? –or Did this book give you any new ideas about yourself? <i>Explain the and why of each.</i></p> |  |  |
| <p>Describe ways in which you are like someone in the book.</p>  |  |  |
| <p>What emotions did you feel as you read? Describe what was going on in the reading that made you feel that way.</p>  |  |  |
| <p>What lesson did you learn from the story?</p>   |  |  |
| <p>What described in Ishmael’s memoir could have occurred in your world?</p>   |  |  |
| <p>How would you have reacted differently to Ishmael’s situation?</p>  |  |  |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p>List at least three problems the characters faced. Which was the most life changing? Explain.</p>                            |  |  |
| <p>What did you think was the most interesting part of the book? Why?</p>   |  |  |
| <p>If the author were here, what two questions would you ask him? Please provide a text reference for <i>each</i> question.</p> |  |  |
| <p>Describe what was either believable or unbelievable about the tale; defend your opinion.</p>                                 |  |  |