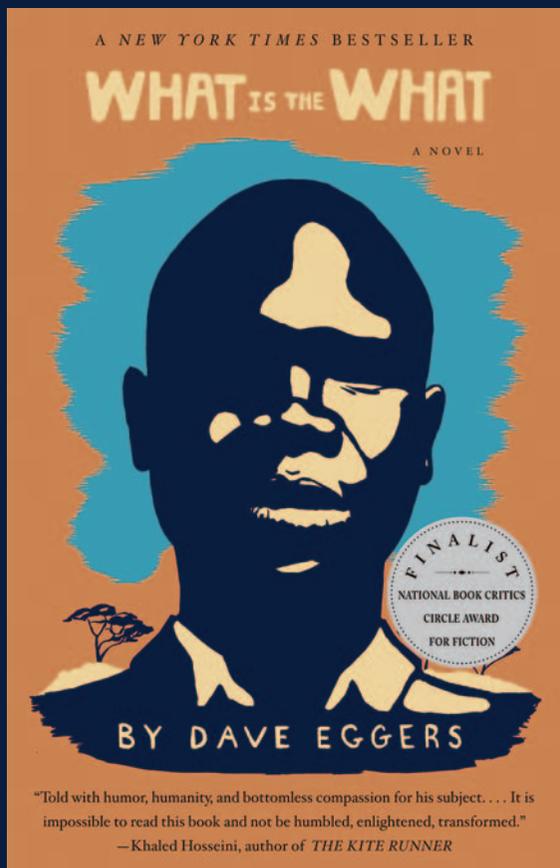


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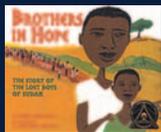
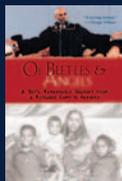
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IN PHILADELPHIA EVERYONE IS READING



JANUARY 8 – MARCH 20, 2008

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One Book, One Philadelphia is a joint project of the Mayor's Office and the Free Library of Philadelphia. The mission of the program—now entering its sixth year—is to promote reading, literacy, library usage, and community building throughout the Greater Philadelphia region.

This year, the *One Book, One Philadelphia* Selection Committee has chosen Dave Eggers' *What Is the What* as the featured title of the 2008 *One Book* program. To engage the widest possible audience while encouraging intergenerational reading, two thematically related companion books were also selected for families, children, and teens—Mawi Asgedom's *Of Beetles and Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard* and Mary Williams' *Brothers In Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan*. Both of these books provide children and adults opportunities to further understand and discuss the history of the conflict in Sudan,

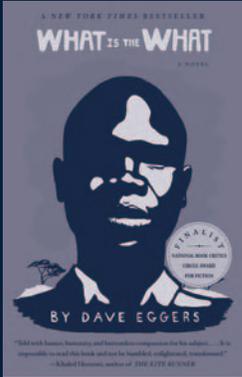
as well as other issues of violence in the world and in our own region.

Read one, or read them all—just be sure to get out there and share your opinions!

For more information on the 2008 *One Book, One Philadelphia* program, please visit our website at www.freelibrary.org, where you can view our calendar of events, download podcasts of *One Book* author appearances, and post comments on our *One Book* Blog.

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2008 Featured Title

What Is the What

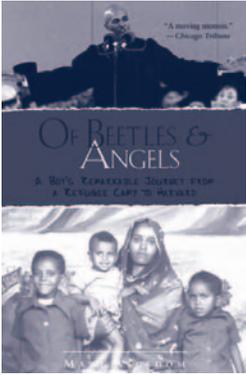
by Dave Eggers (Vintage Press)

What Is the What is an epic novel based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng who, along with thousands of other children—the so-called Lost Boys—was forced to leave his village in Sudan at the age of seven and trek hundreds of miles by foot, pursued by militias, government bombers, and wild animals, crossing the deserts of three countries to find freedom. When he finally is resettled in the United States, he finds a life full of promise, but also heartache and myriad new challenges. Moving, suspenseful, and unexpectedly funny, *What Is the What* is an astonishing novel that illuminates the lives of millions through one extraordinary man.



The Author

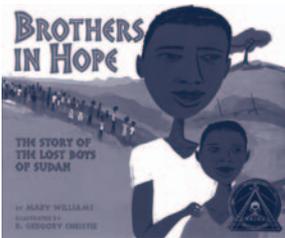
Dave Eggers is the author of three previous books—*A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, *You Shall Know Our Velocity!*, and *How We Are Hungry*. He is the founder of McSweeney's, a magazine and publishing company, and is co-founder of 826 National, a network of nonprofit writing and tutoring centers for young people. As a journalist, his work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Esquire*, and the *Believer*. In 2004 he co-taught a class at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, out of which grew *Voice of Witness*, a book series designed to illuminate contemporary human crises through oral history. The first in the series, *Surviving Justice: America's Wrongfully Convicted and Exonerated*, was published in 2005. *Voices from the Storm*, about New Orleans residents who survived Hurricane Katrina, was published in the fall of 2006. Eggers lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife and daughter.



2008 Companion Titles

Of Beetles & Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard by Mawi Asgedom (Little, Brown and Company)

Of Beetles and Angels tells the unforgettable, true story of a young boy's journey from a refugee camp in Sudan to an affluent Chicago suburb, where his family survived on welfare. Following his father's advice to "treat all people—even the most unsightly beetles—as though they were angels sent from heaven," Mawi Asgedom overcame language barriers, racial prejudice, and financial disadvantage to eventually realize his dream of a full-tuition scholarship to Harvard University. *Of Beetles and Angels* is a compelling survival story sure to inspire readers of all ages and backgrounds. (This book is recommended for middle school readers and above.)



Brothers In Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan by Mary Williams (Lee & Low Books)

Eight-year-old Garang is tending cattle far from his family's home in southern Sudan when war comes to his village. Frightened but unharmed, he returns to find everything destroyed. Soon Garang meets other boys whose villages have also been attacked. Before long they become a moving band of thousands, walking hundreds of miles seeking safety. Along the way they face many hardships and dangers, but their faith and mutual support keep alive the hope of finding a new home. Based on heartbreaking, inspirational true events in the lives of the so-called Lost Boys of Sudan, *Brothers in Hope* is a story of enduring courage and an amazing testament to the unyielding power of the human spirit. (This illustrated book is recommended for younger readers and families.)

Questions for Discussion

The following questions are intended to enhance your reading group's discussion of the 2008 *One Book, One Philadelphia* featured selection and companion books.

What Is the What by Dave Eggers

Questions courtesy of Vintage Press.

1. In what ways can *What Is the What* be understood as a hero's journey? What features does it share with classic works like Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*, or more modern works such as Richard Wright's *Black Boy* or Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*? What are the most significant features of Valentino's journey? In what ways is Valentino's story both unique and universal?
2. When he is in the United States, Valentino says that he wants everyone to hear his stories. "Written words are rare in small villages like mine, and it is my right and obligation to send my stories into the world, even if silently, even if utterly powerless" (p. 29). Through Eggers, Valentino has found a way to send his stories into the world. Are they powerless to alter the suffering he and his fellow Sudanese have endured? What powers do they possess?
3. What is the significance of Valentino addressing his stories to people who aren't listening—to Michael, TV Boy; to Julian, the intake person at the hospital; to members of the gym where he works, etc.? Why would Eggers make this narrative choice?
4. Why is a personal story—Valentino's story—of the violence and oppression in Sudan more valuable than any purely historical account could be? What emotions does Valentino's story arouse that a more objective treatment could not?
5. What are Valentino's most harrowing experiences? In what ways do they shape his character? What enables him to survive these ordeals and even excel in the refugee camps?
6. What is the "what" of the *What Is the What* story? Does the novel point to a solution to this riddle?
7. At the end of the novel, Valentino addresses the reader directly: "All the while I will know that you are there. How can I pretend that you do not exist? It would be almost as impossible as you pretending that I do not exist" (p. 535). Why would Eggers and Valentino choose to end the novel in this way? In what ways have Westerners pretended that people like Valentino don't exist? What is Valentino saying here about the power of the imagination and the power of storytelling?
8. Explore the irony of Valentino escaping from Africa, and the terrible violence there, to being beaten and robbed in Atlanta. Why does Valentino feel, after he has been victimized—and after his experience with the police and the hospital—that he doesn't actually exist?
9. Why does Valentino describe America as "a miserable and glorious place" (p. 351)? How are his struggles in the United States both different from and similar to his struggles in Africa?
10. Valentino says that "the civil war became, to the world at large, too confusing to decipher, a mess of tribal conflicts with no clear heroes and villains" (p. 349). To what degree is it true that there were no clear heroes and villains—no clear victims and oppressors—in Sudan's civil war as Valentino describes it? In what ways do SPLA forces behave just as brutally as the murahaleen and government forces they are fighting?
11. *What Is the What* is about war, displacement, acculturation, and the struggle to survive. In what ways is it also a novel about friendship, love, and family? What moments of compassion stand out in the novel? What are Valentino's most positive relationships?

Of Beetles & Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard

by Mawi Asgedom

*Questions courtesy of Vera DaVinci, Program Manager, Office of Accelerated Learning,
School District of Philadelphia.*

- 1.** Mawi formed and shared his life story from what he remembered, as well as what he had been told. How do the sources of his memories affect the way his memoir is recounted?
- 2.** Compare Mawi's school experiences at the Sudanese refugee camp to his school experiences in Wheaton, Illinois. What are the similarities and differences in these two sets of experiences?
- 3.** Mawi uses the technique of foreshadowing in the chapter "A New Life" when he states, "If he could have read his future, my father might have feared the headlights" (p. 23). How did this statement prepare you for what happens later in Mawi's life?
- 4.** American television played an important role in how Mawi's family viewed life in the United States. What advice did his parents give him based on what they saw on TV? What influence does television have on how you live your own life?
- 5.** Mawi selected a photograph to introduce every chapter in his story. Discuss the effectiveness of the selected images in supporting the content of each chapter.
- 6.** In the chapter "Days of Mischief," Haileab relates the egg fable as a cautionary tale. Compare this fable to other stories you're familiar with that deliver the same message.
- 7.** Through self-determination and self-discipline, America offered opportunities for Mawi, but less so for his father. Mawi contrasts his father's life in two chapters, "The Making of a Man" and "The Unmaking of a Man." Why was achieving economic success more difficult for his father? In what other ways did his father make a success of his life?
- 8.** What lesson did Mawi learn from the results of the National Honor Society Presidential Election?
- 9.** One of the last things the villagers told Mawi's family was, "Remember us." When Mawi gave his commencement address at Harvard, he started by sharing a piece of advice his mother gave him: "Always remember where you came from." Why did she give him that advice? Why is it important to remember where you came from?
- 10.** Mawi's father stated, "Angels never looked like angels. They were disguised as the lowliest of beetles: beggars, vagrants, and misfits" (p. 29). How did Mawi use this lesson over the course of his life? How can you use this lesson in your daily life?

Brothers In Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan

by Mary Williams

Questions courtesy of Adrienne Jacoby, Ed.D., Executive Director, Philadelphia Reads, and Maria E. Mills-Torres, Lead Academic Coach, Latino-American Studies, School District of Philadelphia.

1. Garang's father says to him, "Your heart and mind are strong. There is nothing you cannot do." What does this statement mean to Garang? What does it mean to you?
2. What does wealth mean to Garang and his family? Does wealth mean something different to you and your family?
3. Why are the children in this story called the Lost Boys?
4. Why was Garang chosen to be a leader? What are some of the qualities a good leader must have?
5. Why do the boys prefer to travel at night? How do they see their way in the dark?
6. What are some of the problems the boys face while they are walking from Sudan to Ethiopia, and from Ethiopia to Kenya?
7. When the boys finally reach the refugee camp, how is their life different?
8. Garang considers himself to be a health educator in the camp at Kenya. What does it mean to be a health educator in Kenya?
9. How do the children make toys?
10. Why do the boys feel that a mud hut can be similar to a palace?
11. Why do Garang and many of the other boys decide to go to school?
12. What does Tom do to help the Lost Boys when he leaves Kenya?
13. Where do many of the Lost Boys finally go to make a new life?
14. What is important to Garang that he save when he and the boys cross the Gilo River? Why do you think these things are important?
15. How is your life different from Garang's? How is it similar?
16. If war came to your country, what would you do to survive?
17. What have you learned from this book? What worried you? What questions do you have?

Timeline: A Recent History of Sudan

Courtesy of the Valentino Achak Deng Foundation.

1820: Egypt conquers northern parts of Sudan, developing ivory and slave trades.

1880s: Nationalist revolts, led by Muhammed Ahmad Al Mahdi, begin to form in opposition to Egyptian and British rule. (At the time, Egypt was under British occupation.) The British and Egyptians are defeated in 1885, and Al Mahdi establishes a theocracy in Khartoum.

1890s: Britain regains control of Sudan with military campaigns led by Lord Kitchener. In 1899, Egypt and Britain agree on joint government of Sudan.

1930: The British Civil Secretary in Khartoum declares the “Southern Policy,” officially stating what had always been in practice—the north and south, because of their many cultural and religious differences, are governed as two separate regions.

1946: Britain and Khartoum—by this time Egypt is effectively out of the picture—abruptly decide to merge north and south into a single administrative region. Arabic is made the language of administration in the south, and northerners begin to hold positions there.

1956: Independence is granted to Sudan as a single unified nation.

First Civil War: 1955 - 1972

1955: Anticipating independence and fearing domination by the north, southern insurgents stage a mutiny in Torit. These early rebels develop a large secessionist movement in the south, called the *Anyanya*, “Snake Poison.” Valentino’s father, along with many southern Sudanese men of his generation, was a member of the Anyanya. The Anyanya struggled with a lot of internal factionalism and instability, much as the Sudanese People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) would during the second civil war.

1972: All rebel factions gather under the Southern Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM) to negotiate a peace agreement with the Sudanese government. The Addis Ababa Agreement is signed, granting the south considerable autonomy and a share of natural resources. A 10-year hiatus in the conflict follows.

Mid-1970s: As Sudan gains legitimacy in peacetime, Western countries begin supplying the government with arms. The United States sells Sudan a great deal of equipment, hoping to counteract Soviet support of Marxist Ethiopians and Libyans.

1978: Chevron finds large oil fields in the Upper Nile and southern Kordofan regions. Shortly thereafter, oil is discovered throughout southern Sudan.

1980: Khartoum attempts to redraw the boundaries of southern Sudan, transferring oilfields to the north. When this fails, Khartoum begins taking the territory by force. In *What Is the What*, Valentino tells the story of his friend Lino, whose family was driven from their home in the Muglad Basin around this time. The Muglad Basin is an area near the north-south border that was claimed by Khartoum and renamed, using the Arabic word for “unity.”

Second Civil War: 1983 - 2005

Late 1970s: Repeated violations of the Addis Ababa Agreement by the north lead to increased unrest in the south.

May 1983: Battalion 105, stationed at Bor and composed mostly of ex-Anyanya troops, is attacked after refusing to transfer to the north. Led by Kerubino Bol, the battalion flees to Ethiopia.

June 1983: The Sudanese government officially abolishes the Addis Ababa Agreement and divides the south into three regions. The southern regional government is dissolved. President Nimeiry institutes a bold Islamization campaign, transforming Sudan into a Muslim Arab state. Mutinies occur throughout the south and rebel forces grow.

July 1983: The Sudanese People’s Liberation Army (SPLA), led by John Garang, forms in Ethiopia.

September 1983: Nimeiry issues a set of decrees, known as the September Laws, imposing sharia law throughout the country. In Valentino’s story, these laws are realized by the appearance of a handless man—punished for stealing in Khartoum—“who in 1983 brought the first portents of war to our village.”

Mid-1980s: Civil war rages through the south. The SPLA battles government forces and attempts to gain control. Raids by the murahaleen—government-armed Arab militias—reach their peak. Villages throughout the south are repeatedly attacked and destroyed. Slavery becomes widespread. As villages are ransacked and survivors flee, the so-called Lost Boys begin their walks across southern Sudan into Ethiopia.

Late 1980s: President Nimeiry is deposed and Sadiq al-Mahdi rises to power. Various peace negotiation attempts between al-Mahdi and the SPLA fail as the conflict worsens.

1989: As al-Mahdi moves toward signing certain peace agreements, he is ousted in a coup and Omar al-Bashir seizes power. Al-Bashir is supported by the fundamentalist National Islamic Front (NIF), headed by hard-line Islamist Hassan al-Turabi. The new government fiercely enforces Islamic code throughout Sudan, banning trade unions, political parties, and other “non-religious” institutions.

1989: The Sudanese government begins deploying army militiamen notoriously known as the People's Defense Forces to raid villages in the south alongside the murahaleen. As Dut Majok lectures Valentino and Deng in *What Is the What*, "The strategy is to send all they can to destroy the Dinka. Have you heard the expression, *Drain a pond to catch a fish?*"

August 1991: Valentino and all refugees at Pinyudo are forced to leave Ethiopia when that country's dictator, Mengistu Haile Mariam, is overthrown. Around the same time, the Nasir faction of SPLA splits off; a second rebel faction forms in 1992, followed by a third in 1993. Eventually, the dissident rebel factions unite in a coalition called SPLA-United.

1992: The UNHCR Kakuma Refugee Camp in northwestern Kenya begins accepting Sudanese refugees.

1993: A peace initiative for Sudan is pursued by Eritrea, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), but has little effect. Conflict in Sudan continues to worsen.

1998: After embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, the United States launches a missile attack on a pharmaceutical factory outside Khartoum that it believes is producing chemical weapons for terrorist groups.

1999: Almost 4,000 Sudanese refugee boys are approved for resettlement to the United States.

2001: Famine affects three million Sudanese.

September 2001: President George W. Bush appoints former U.S. Senator John Danforth as the President's Special Envoy for Peace in Sudan. Valentino is approved to resettle in Atlanta.

February 2003: The Darfur conflict begins.

January 9, 2005: Peace is finally brokered between southern rebels and the government of Sudan. The Nairobi Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is signed, granting autonomy to the south for a six-year trial period, after which the south will have the opportunity to vote to secede. The agreement calls for a permanent ceasefire and sharing of oil revenues. Islamic law remains in effect in the north, while its use in the south is decided regionally.

August 1, 2005: John Garang dies in a helicopter crash three weeks after being sworn in as First Vice President of Sudan. Riots result, but peace continues.

September 2005: A power-sharing government is formed in Khartoum.

October 2005: An autonomous government is formed in the south, in accordance with the CPA.

May 2006: The Sudanese government and the Sudanese Liberation Movement (SLM), the main rebel faction in Darfur led by Mini Menawi, sign a peace accord; however, two smaller rebel groups refuse to sign the accord, and fighting continues.

August 2006: The Sudanese government rejects a United Nations resolution calling for a UN Peacekeeping force in Sudan, on the basis that such a force would compromise Sudanese sovereignty.

October 2006: The UN's top official in Sudan, Jan Pronk, is expelled from the country.

November 2006: The African Union (AU) extends the mandate of its peacekeeping force in Darfur for six months. The following months bring what is thought to be the heaviest fighting between northern and southern Sudanese forces since the CPA.

April 2007: The Sudanese government accepts partial UN troop deployment to reinforce AU troops.

July 31, 2007: The UN Security Council approves a resolution authorizing a 26,000-strong force for Darfur, called the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). The Sudanese government says it will cooperate with UNAMID.

August - September 2007: The worst floods in West Africa for decades leave more than 250,000 people homeless.

September 2007: UN talks on the composition of a Darfur peacekeeping force conclude without an agreement.

Per the CPA, a referendum is scheduled to be held in 2011 to determine if southern Sudan will remain a part of Sudan or secede and gain its independence. The people of southern Sudan await their historic opportunity for peace and stability, after a 20-year conflict that has claimed at least two million lives. Meanwhile, in Darfur, the number of dead and displaced continues to grow, and the conflict rages on with no clear end in sight.

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Map of Sudan



Related Materials

All materials listed below are available at the Free Library of Philadelphia. Visit www.freelibrary.org for Library locations and general information.

Supplemental Reading for Adults

Fiction

Acts of Faith

by **Philip Caputo**

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of the highly praised novels *The Voyage and Horn of Africa* comes a stunning, timely new novel about the physical perils and moral crises faced by a group of men and women who try to relieve the suffering caused by war and famine in contemporary Sudan.

Half of a Yellow Sun

by **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

Winner of the 2007 Orange Prize for Fiction, Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun* weaves together the lives of three characters swept up in the turbulence of Nigeria in the 1960s. Thirteen-year-old Ugwu is employed as a houseboy for a university professor full of revolutionary zeal; Olanna is the professor's beautiful mistress; and Richard is a shy young Englishman in thrall to Olanna's twin sister, an enigmatic figure who refuses to belong to anyone. As Nigerian troops advance and the three must run for their lives, their ideals are severely tested, as are their loyalties to one another.

Minaret

by **Leila Aboulela**

Najwa never imagined that one day she would be a maid. Exiled to London and orphaned soon thereafter, the upper-class Sudanese refugee falls in love with her employer's brother. Aboulela's novel offers an illuminating glimpse into a culture few Westerners understand.

Nonfiction

A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide

by **Samantha Power**

This book explores how past American presidents have failed to stop genocide in other countries, describing how the United States has responded to genocide since the Holocaust, while offering insights into how current U.S. policy can be improved to prevent future killings.

Alek: From Sudanese Refugee to International Supermodel

by **Alek Wek**

This inspirational and accessible story follows the life of a Sudanese-born international supermodel who was forced to flee her country's rising civil war.

Darfur: A Short History of a Long War

by **Alex de Waal and Julie Flint**

The humanitarian tragedy in Darfur has stirred politicians, Hollywood celebrities, and students to appeal for a peaceful resolution to the crisis. But despite United Nations resolutions and agreements, the genocide continues. Beyond the horrific pictures of sprawling refugee camps and lurid accounts of rape and murder lies a complex history steeped in religion, politics, and decades of internal unrest.

Darfur Diaries: Stories of Survival

by Jen Marlowe, with Aisha Bain, Adam Shapiro, with foreword by Francis Mading Deng

Darfur Diaries compiles testimonies of Darfurian refugees, civilians, resistance fighters, teachers, students, and children. Their stories—woven together with the personal experiences of a group of documentary filmmakers—provide a political and historical context for the conflict in Darfur.

Escape from Slavery: The True Story of My Ten Years in Captivity and My Journey to Freedom in America

by Francis Bok with Edward Tivnan

Escape from Slavery is at once a dramatic adventure, a story of desperation and triumph, and an important commentary on the plight of millions held in slavery today.

God Grew Tired of Us: A Memoir

by John Bul Dau with Michael S. Sweeney

In this memoir John Bul Dau describes his experiences as one of the so-called Lost Boys of Sudan. Dau describes his childhood in a Sudanese village, years spent in refugee camps, and the unexpected challenges associated with life in America.

Not on Our Watch: The Mission to End Genocide in Darfur and Beyond

by Don Cheadle and John Prendergast

Shocked and enraged by the ongoing genocide in Darfur, actor Don Cheadle teamed up with human rights activist John Prendergast to focus the world's attention on the suffering and violence there, offering six strategies readers can implement themselves to effect change.

The Devil Came on Horseback: Bearing Witness to the Genocide in Darfur

by Brian Steidle and Gretchen Steidle Wallace

This vivid report and call to action from the heart of Darfur—written by a former U.S. Marine working in Africa—is a powerful memoir of a young man's awakening to conscience and the first extensive on-the-ground account of the genocide in Sudan.

The Lost Boys of Sudan: An American Story of the Refugee Experience

by Mark Bixler

A tragic but inspiring story of four Sudanese refugees who make their way to the United States to rebuild their lives.

They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan

by Benson Deng, Alephonsion Deng, and Benjamin Ajak, with Judy A. Bernstein

Two brothers and their cousin—three of Sudan's so-called Lost Boys—present a stunning literary survival story, hailed by the *Los Angeles Times* as a “moving, beautifully written account, by turns raw and tender.”

War and Slavery in Sudan

by Jok Madut Jok

This book draws historical parallels between the slave-trade and warfare in Sudan, challenging the international community to move beyond diplomatic measures and to take coordinated action to bring liberation to the people of Sudan.

Supplemental Reading for Teens

Fiction

Angel of Hope

by Lurlene McDaniel

Angel of Hope describes the experiences of Heather Barlow, an American missionary who is profoundly affected by her visit to war-torn Uganda and Sudan. She encounters poverty and violence, and comes to view her life in the United States differently upon her return.

Dream Freedom

by Sonia Levitin

This book begins in an American classroom, where grade school student Marcus learns of the atrocities occurring in Sudan. Alternating chapters include vignettes set in Sudan, with first-person accounts from villagers including a girl stolen from her family to serve as a slave.

Mud City

by Deborah Ellis

This book tells the story of an orphaned Afghan refugee who leaves a Pakistan border camp and joins other homeless children on the streets of the city of Peshawar. Her dream, retained from the time before the Taliban when she was still in school, is to reach the ocean and a place called France.

The Other Side of Truth

by Beverley Naidoo

After their mother's murder, Sade and her brother are smuggled out of Nigeria and sent to foster homes in London. Their father escapes to join them, but he will be sent back to Nigeria unless Sade can tell the world what happened to her family.

The Return

by Sonia Levitin

Part of a small, isolated mountain community of Ethiopian Jews, 15-year-old Desta and her siblings leave their aunt and uncle and set out on a long and dangerous trip to freedom—an airlift from Sudan to Israel. They travel barefoot, facing hunger, thirst, and bandits.

Tangled Threads: A Hmong Girl's Story

by Pegi Deitz Shea

For the Hmong people living in overcrowded refugee camps in Thailand, America is a dream. In 1995, ten years after their arrival at the camp, 13-year-old Mai Yang and her grandmother are about to experience that dream.

Young Warriors: Stories of Strength

by Tamora Pierce and Josepha Sherman

What makes a warrior? This gutsy collection of 15 original short stories compiled by bestselling author Tamora Pierce, with Josepha Sherman, tackles this question with thought and heart.

Nonfiction

Ten Thousand Children: True Stories Told by Children who Escaped the Holocaust on the Kindertransport

by Anne L. Fox and Eva Abraham-Podiez

This book tells the true stories of children who escaped Nazi Germany on the Kindertransport, a rescue mission led by concerned British citizens to save Jewish children from the Holocaust.

Supplemental Reading for Children

Fiction

Along the Tracks

by **Tamar Bergman**

During the Nazi invasion of Poland, Yankele—a young Jewish boy—is driven away from his home and forced to flee to the Soviet Union, where he lives as an orphan and creates a new life for himself.

The Color of Home

by **Mary Hoffman**

Hassan, newly arrived in the United States and feeling homesick, paints a picture at school that shows his old home in Somalia as well as the reason his family had to leave.

Drita, My Homegirl

by **Jenny Lombard**

When 10-year-old Drita and her family—refugees from Kosovo—move to New York City, Drita is teased about not speaking English well, but after a popular student named Maxie is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita, the two girls soon bond.

Good Night, Maman

by **Norma Fox Mazer**

After spending years fleeing from the Nazis in war-torn Europe, twelve-year-old Karin Levi and her older brother Marc find a new home in a refugee camp in Oswego, New York.

Lily's Crossing

by **Patricia Reilly Giff**

During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.

Little Cricket

by **Jackie Brown**

After the upheaval of the Vietnam War reaches them, 12-year-old Kia and her Hmong family flee from the mountains of Laos to a refugee camp in Thailand, eventually settling in the alien world of Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Lonek's Journey: The True Story of a Boy's Escape to Freedom

by **Dorit Bader Whiteman**

Lonek's Journey is based on the true story of an 11-year-old Jewish boy's escape from Nazi-occupied Poland and his subsequent deportation to a Siberian gulag. When he is freed from the Russian labor camp, he begins a two-year journey over thousands of miles of sea and land, to find freedom in what was then Palestine.

The Roses in My Carpets

by **Rukhsana Khan and Ronald Himler**

When a young boy travels with his mother and sister to a refugee camp to escape the war in Afghanistan, he finds some comfort in the beauty of the carpets he is learning to weave.

The Storyteller's Beads

by **Jane Kurtz**

During the political strife and famine of the 1980s, two Ethiopian girls—one Christian, the other Jewish and blind—struggle to overcome many difficulties, including their prejudices about each other, as they make a dangerous journey out of Ethiopia.

Films

Bling'd: Blood, Diamonds, and Hip Hop (2007, 66 min.)

American hip-hop artists, including Kanye West, travel to Sierra Leone to meet the victims of the wars dramatized in the film *Blood Diamond* and to learn about the connection between diamond slavery and hip-hop culture.

Blood Diamond (2006, 143 min.)

This harrowing drama focuses on the devastating 1999 civil war in Sierra Leone and the wake of personal destruction caused by the brutal insurgents' exploitation of the vast diamond industry.

Darfur Diaries: Message from Home (2006, 57 min.)

This film is a call to action and a plea for help from the victims and survivors of the human tragedy currently unfolding in Darfur.

Dinka Diaries (2005, 56 min.)

Over the course of 10 months, this film follows the lives of three Sudanese refugees who resettle in the Philadelphia area and adjust to American culture and ways of life.

Empire of the Sun (1987, 144 min.)

Based on the novel by J.G. Ballard—and the featured selection of the inaugural year of the *One Film* program—*Empire of the Sun* tells the story of a wealthy British boy's experience in an internment camp during the Japanese invasion of Shanghai.

God Grew Tired of Us (2007, 89 min.)

This award-winning documentary tells the story of four refugee Sudanese boys who wandered the sub-Saharan continent seeking safe passage to America.

Hotel Rwanda (2004, 121 min.)

This film showcases Paul Rusesabagina's experience as a hotel keeper who manages to send 1,200 people to safety during the horrific Rwandan genocides of 1994.

Lost Boys of Sudan (2004, 87 min.)

Filmed with poignancy and humor, this extraordinary documentary follows two Sudanese boys on their journey out of Africa to a new life in America.

On Our Watch (2007, 60 min.)

Three years of fighting in Darfur have destroyed hundreds of villages, displaced 2.2 million people, and led to more than 400,000 deaths. This PBS *Frontline* documentary provides a harrowing account of the current situation in Darfur, and challenges the international community to take action.

Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars (2005, 80 min.)

The Refugee All Stars is a band of Sierra Leonean musicians forced into exile during the decade-long (1991-2002) civil war. This inspirational film recounts their triumphs and losses as they make their way back to Sierra Leone to fulfill their dream of finally recording an album.

Tibetan Refugee (2004, 60 min.)

Richard Martini's insightful film chronicles the plight of the thousands of Tibetans who take the punishing Himalayan trek into northern India, home of the exiled Tibetan government, to commune with the Dalai Lama.

Supporting Sudan

A number of Philadelphia-based, national, and international groups are aiding refugees and working for peace in Sudan. Contact the agencies below or visit their websites for more information.

African Cultural Alliance of North America

ACANA works to help refugee and immigrant families access healthcare and other social services during their resettlement process in Pennsylvania. They also work to promote the preservation of African cultural values through supporting refugee artists.

www.acanaus.org

AFRICOM

AFRICOM is a coalition of African communities in the Philadelphia area working to improve access to healthcare and social services, while promoting economic development and advocating for issues pertinent to its members. AFRICOM also strives to educate the public on African cultures, and to facilitate conflict resolution.

www.africom-philly.org

Concern

Concern brings food and supplies to war-ravaged areas. Their work in Sudan focuses on nutrition, water sanitation, and shelter for people affected by warfare.

www.concern.net

Darfur Alert Coalition

Darfur Alert Coalition unites Sudanese and Americans to offer educational programs, advocacy initiatives, and relief for survivors of genocide in Darfur, Sudan. DAC is committed to standing with the people of Darfur until their land, their lives, and their livelihoods are restored.

www.darfuralert.org

Genocide Intervention Network

The Genocide Intervention Network supports African Union peacekeepers currently on the ground in Sudan by channeling private donations into needed resources and catalyzing government support.

www.genocideintervention.net

HIAS and Council Migration Services

HIAS and Council Migration Services of Philadelphia were founded 125 years ago to help Jewish immigrants and refugees, fleeing persecution, to immigrate to America. HIAS and Council Migration Services continue to resettle, reunite, and represent immigrants and refugees of more than a hundred nationalities in the Greater Philadelphia region. Their services include representation and legal counseling, refugee resettlement and social services provision, citizenship services, and advocacy and education.

www.hiaspa.org

International Crisis Group

The International Crisis Group is an independent, nonprofit, non-governmental organization that works to prevent and resolve deadly conflict through field-based analysis and high-level advocacy.

www.crisisgroup.org

International Rescue Committee

The International Rescue Committee responds to the world's worst crises, helping refugees flee from war and persecution. They provide immediate relief and work to enable those given a new home in the United

States to become settled and self-reliant. For 75 years the IRC has been raising alarms with a global call to action.

www.theirc.org

Lutheran Children and Family Services

LCFS offers social, legal, educational, and healthcare services to foreign-born children, adults, and families seeking security, safe haven, and a new life in the United States.

www.lcfsinpa.org/refugee_resettlement

Nationalities Services Center

The Nationalities Services Center is a multifaceted organization working with immigrants and refugees in Philadelphia. They aim to protect the legal rights of immigrants, to provide outlets to strengthen families and promote self-sufficiency, and to eliminate language and cultural barriers while promoting diversity.

www.nationalitiesservice.org

Save the Children

Save the Children is involved in many efforts to aid Sudanese who have suffered as a result of civil war, and has been instrumental in bringing former slaves and abductees back to their villages of origin.

www.savethechildren.org

Save Darfur Coalition

The Save Darfur Coalition includes more than 170 organizations working towards increased international involvement in combating the violence in Darfur.

www.savedarfur.org

Sudanese National Rally

Established in 1995 by a group of concerned Sudanese living in the United States, the Sudanese National Rally's primary goal is to raise awareness among Sudanese living in the U.S. about ongoing human rights violations against Sudanese citizens living in Sudan. Since its founding, the SNR has worked to stop inhumane warfare with the hope of ultimately building a Sudan in which human rights are respected, democracy and freedom are enjoyed by all, and citizenship is based solely on nationality—regardless of religion, ethnicity, race, or political affiliation.

www.snrphiladelphia.net

Valentino Achak Deng Foundation

All of the proceeds from hardcover sales of *What Is the What*—as well as a percentage of paperback sales—have been directed to the Valentino Achak Deng Foundation. Founded by Dave Eggers and Valentino Achak Deng, the foundation aims to help rebuild southern Sudanese communities through the implementation of community-based development projects, while also empowering war-affected Sudanese refugees to enhance their educational, social, and economic opportunities. The Valentino Achak Deng Foundation also strives to improve United States international policy by educating the public and government on the current situation in Sudan.

www.valentinoachakdengfoundation.org

Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians

The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians is a nonprofit organization serving immigrants and refugees across the Philadelphia region. WCNP provides employment, small business, legal, informational, and referral services to people from around the world.

www.welcomingcenter.org



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For more information on the 2008 *One Book, One Philadelphia* program, please visit our website at www.freelibrary.org, where you can view our calendar of events, download podcasts of *One Book* author appearances, and post comments on our *One Book* Blog.

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