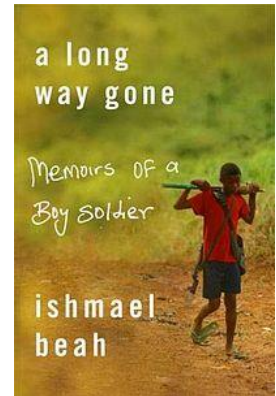


AP Language Summer Reading – *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah

Read the memoir *A Long Way Gone: Memoir of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah. A memoir is a record of events written by a person with intimate knowledge of them based on personal observations. It is non-fiction (true) and accounts one's personal life and experiences. This narrative, published in 2007, is about the decade-long civil war in Sierra Leone and the plight of child soldiers.



Once you finish reading the text, complete this two-part assignment:

Part I (60 points): Choose one literary element of the text for a creative presentation on the first day you return. In your presentation (complete with a worthy, attractive, intelligently considered poster—NO PowerPoint presentations, please), be prepared to assess what you consider the strongest literary element of the book. By presenting this information, you are saying, “I thought this aspect of the book was most noteworthy.” Literary element is an intentionally broad term; explain what literary qualities you find most striking in this text. You could explore a symbol, perhaps, or a theme, imagery, metaphors, etc. The choice is yours.

Your presentation should be three to four minutes long and you should

- Identify and explain the strongest literary element (15 points for justification)
- Explain how the poster relates to the literary element (10 points)
- Exhibit strong vocal qualities (volume, pacing) and poise (15 points)
- Be sure to give the poster some aesthetic appeal (creativity, neatness, use of color, use of text). Sloppy or haphazardly made posters will not score well.

In your presentation, don't tell the plot. Explore one outstanding literary element. This is due the first day of class. Your poster will be displayed in class; graphic depictions of violence and weapons should not be prominent on your poster. I prefer a poster that is easy to hang on a wall in a classroom, so please avoid tri-fold poster boards and foam poster boards.

Part II (40 points): You will also be expected to recognize and classify different kinds of phrases and clauses from *A Long Way Gone*. For review, you should identify and label TWO examples of each of the following grammatical structures:

Phrases

Prepositional
Participial
Gerund
Infinitive
Appositive

Clauses

Adjective
Adverb
Noun

Type the examples on a sheet of paper, underline and identify what they are, and cite them according to MLA style. This also is due the first day of class. All examples should come from *A Long Way Gone* only.

EXAMPLE:

Adjective clause: Families who had walked hundreds of miles told how relatives had been killed and their houses burned (5).

Questions? Send an email to erin.atkinson@signature.edu