

A Long Walk to Water

Linda Sue Park

Reviewed by, Rachel Johnson, 41

Teen Star Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

www.bethestaryouare.org

A Long Walk to Water follows two stories that come together at the end. Salva Dut is a ten-year-old boy who lives with his family in a village in Southern Sudan, 1985. When the war approaches his village, he is separated from his family and finds himself on a long, painful journey with other refugees headed for Ethiopia. Salva lives in many refugee camps over the years until one day at the age of 22 he is moved to America and embraced by a loving family. Salva has plans to help the people of Sudan.

Nya is an eleven-year-old girl, who lives with her family in Southern Sudan, 2008. She is not able to attend school because she must spend the day making multiple trips to the pond to collect water for the family. She does this every day of the week. During the dry season, the family must move camp near the pond so they can dig for water, which produces little and causes illness. One day Nya and her village get the help they need.

Truly Inspiring, based on the true story of one of the Lost Boys of Sudan during The Second Sudanese Civil War. A look into Salva Dut's experiences, going from being a refugee to an activist. It is an incredibly sad story and will pull on your heartstrings. There is violence, death, and struggle throughout the story. The story had a great take away, highlighting that good things can come out of a situation that seems tough or impossible. Salva goes on to do remarkable things for the villages in Africa. See how his life was transformed and how he transformed the lives of others in this MUST READ. After researching the story, I learned his work continues to this day. This story closes on a note that will make you smile. This would make a great gift for ages 12+.

Recommended Titles

Jars of hope, by Jennifer Roy

Attack of the Turtle, by Drew Carlson

Moccasin Trail, by Eloise Jarvis McGraw

