

World Lit Unit 1: Adolescent Lives in Times of War and/or Conflict

Objective: To expand students' understanding of themselves and others in the world and of the issues of **difference** and **diversity**.

Choose a book that features children or adolescent characters in narratives where **race, ethnicity, or nationality**, along with other forms of **social difference (gender, religion, social class, language, disability)** are central to the story.

In these stories, a focus on **cultural diversity and difference and social power** is possible. Books like these tend to **expand the understanding of ourselves and others in the world**.

Projected completion of book and project: February 2nd

As you read, you will identify:

1. Setting: Provide a map of the continent/country and city/village
2. Main characters and descriptions (2 to 4 main characters)
3. Author background. Who wrote the book and from what perspective?
4. The CURRENT (2016) government or political system and situation in the country where the book is set.
5. A CURRENT (late 2015-early 2016) event in the form of an article about this country.
6. New Vocabulary from the novel. Note a MINIMUM of 5 words unique to the culture you are reading about. Keep a sticky note in your book and jot down new words as you encounter them. Define the word and find a photo representing it.
7. 3 important passages with page numbers. These may be the passage that relates to the title or a turning point in the book or a conflict.
8. A list of traditions of the culture you read about. What are the issues concerning cultural difference and diversity in this text?
9. Common themes or archetypes in the story. Consult your notes. Identify AT LEAST two common themes. For example, were there sacrifices made? Was the family bond important?
10. How does the text support or challenge the dominant or conventional ways of understanding self and others in the world?