

2021
Global Humanities Summer Reading
Murphy

Assignment

Please read and annotate the book cited below. Come to school in the fall prepared to discuss 1.) the events in the book, 2.) the forms of inequality reflected in those events, and 3.) the strategies different people use to resist such inequalities. We will reflect on these three topics in writing and in discussion at the beginning of the coming academic year.

Mortenson, G., & Relin, D. O. (2007). *Three cups of tea: One man's mission to promote peace -- one school at a time*. New York: Penguin Books.

Purpose & Goals

I've chosen this text for you to read over the summer because it is simultaneously a light "beach read" and presents many persons' well-intentioned – but imperfect – efforts to address global inequalities in ways that improve peoples' lives. The latter part maps onto a central focus of the Global Humanities class.

The purpose of such an assignment is to provide you with a book you can easily read while relaxing and then patiently – even methodically – *reflect* on over the course of a couple months.

It is important that we remain on the same page regarding what I mean by "reflect." I lean on John Dewey's definition of reflection (a scholar widely considered the 'father of education' since nearly all of your teachers were made to read his writing by their mean-but-well-intentioned college professors). Dewey suggests

[reflection is the] ... active, persistent, and careful consideration of any belief or supposed form of knowledge in light of the grounds that support it and the further conclusions to which it tends (Dewey, 1933, p. 9).

Dewey's definition, in this excerpt, has three parts – each of which tells you what I'd like you to do *with* the book this summer.

First, reflection is active. This means you are to annotate for forms of inequality and efforts to address those inequalities in *Three Cups of Tea*.

Second, reflection is persistent. You are encouraged to take your time annotating, put the book down for a while, and then come back to it days later when you're bored or trying to ignore a sibling.

Lastly, reflection is careful thought. This means that you should look between the lines for inequalities, and you should come to class in the fall with considered evaluations of the book, and the efforts of those within it.