

Global Understanding:
a booklist of titles available in the NHS Library*



Achebe, Chinua. *No Longer at Ease* - Obi Okonkwo feels separated from his African roots because of his education, and he is forced to choose between his culture's traditional values and the demands of his social class.

Amir & Khalil. *Zahra's Paradise* - In the aftermath of Iran's fraudulent elections of 2009, a young protester named Mehdi vanishes and his mother and brother search for him desperately. (Graphic Novel)

Ardalan, Davar. *My Name is Iran: A Memoir* - The author relates the stories of her American grandmother's love affair with an Iranian physician, her Iranian-American parents, and her own return to an Islamic Iran without the freedoms she experienced in the West.

Beah, Ishmael. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* - A human rights activist offers a firsthand account of war from the perspective of a former child soldier, detailing the violent civil war that wracked his native Sierra Leone and the government forces that transformed a gentle young boy into a killer as a member of the army.

Boo, Katherine. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* - Examines and provides real-life accounts of urban poor families living in Bombay, India. (National Book Award Winner)

Budhos, Marina. *Ask Me No Questions* - Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family.

Dau, John Bul. *Lost Boy, Lost Girl: Escaping Civil War in Sudan* - Chronicles the experiences of a husband and wife who as children fled the poverty and violence of southern Sudan, describing the devastating impact of famine and war on the region while sharing memories of their efforts to adapt to American life.

Gann, Marjorie and Janet Willen. *Five Thousand Years of Slavery* - Traces the practice of slavery throughout the millennia, drawing on historical narratives, personal accounts, and visual sources to cover such examples as the ancient Sumerian practice of selling children into bondage and the oppression of Zanj salt marsh workers.

Hall, Shyima. *Hidden Girl: The True Story of a Modern-Day Child Slave* - An autobiography of Shyima Hall, who at the age of eight, was sold by her Egyptian parents into domestic slavery.

Harden, Blaine. *Escape From Camp 14: One Man's Remarkable Odyssey from North Korea to Freedom in the West* - Chronicles the life of Dong-hyuk Shin, who was raised in a political prison camp in North Korea, and describes the inhuman conditions inside, his harrowing escape from the camp and the country, and his efforts to raise awareness of the camps to others.

Hashimi, Nadia. *The Pearl That Broke Its Shell* - In Kabul, 2007, with a drug-addicted father and no brothers, Rahima and her sisters can only sporadically attend school and rarely leave the house. Their only hope lies in the ancient custom of bacha posh, which allows young Rahima to dress and be treated as a boy until she is of marriageable age.

Kidder, Tracy. *Mountains Beyond Mountains* - A portrait of infectious disease expert Dr. Paul Farmer follows the efforts of this unconventional Harvard genius to understand the world's great health, economic, and social problems and to bring healing to humankind.

Kamkwamba, William. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* - A true story of tenacity and imagination describes how an African teenager built a windmill from scraps to create electricity for his home and his village, improving life for himself and his neighbors.

McCormick, Patricia. *Never Fall Down* - Cambodian child soldier Arn Chorn-Pond defied the odds and used all of his courage and wits to survive the murderous regime of the Khmer Rouge.

McCormick, Patricia. *Sold* - Thirteen-year-old Lakshmi leaves her poor mountain home in Nepal thinking that she is to work in the city as a maid only to find that she has been sold into the sex slave trade in India and that there is no hope of escape.

Nordberg, Jenny. *The Underground Girls of Kabul: In Search of a Hidden Resistance in Afghanistan* - Foreign correspondent, Jenny Nordberg, reveals the secret Afghan custom of disguising girls as boys to improve their prospects, discussing its political and social significance as well as the experiences of its practitioners.

Qamar, Amjed. *Beneath My Mother's Feet* - When her father is injured, fourteen-year-old Nazia is pulled away from school, her friends, and her preparations for an arranged marriage, to help her mother clean houses in a wealthy part of Karachi, Pakistan, where she finally rebels against the destiny that is planned for her.

Resau, Laura. *The Queen of Water* - Living in a village in Ecuador, a Quechua Indian girl is sent to work as an indentured servant for an upper class "mestizo" family.

Sacco, Joe. *Palestine* - Explores the complex, real-life saga of Palestinians living in occupied areas and the hardships they must endure. (Graphic Novel)

Satrapa, Marjane. *Persepolis* - The author presents her youth during the Islamic Revolution in Iran. (Graphic novel)

Stassen, J. P. *Deogratias: A Tale of Rwanda* - Deogratias is just a teenager when he experiences genocide in Rwanda with the tale unfolding only before and after the massacre revealing the madness and horror of one young boy and his country. (Graphic Novel)

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. *Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind* - When eleven-year old Shabanu, the daughter of a nomad in the Cholistan Desert of present-day Pakistan, is pledged in marriage to an older man whose money will bring prestige to the family, she must either accept the decision, as is the custom, or risk the consequences of defying her father's wishes.

Yousafzai, Malala. *I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up For Education and Was Shot By the Taliban* - Malala Yousafzai's describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education, and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her.

**Summary descriptions from NHS Destiny Library Catalog
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