

Dear 10th Grade Students,

As you prepare for 10th grade, I want to challenge you with a powerful memoir that will not only improve your reading and analytical skills but also deepen your understanding of the world.

This summer, you'll be reading *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah—a gripping, emotional, and ultimately hopeful story of a boy forced to survive a brutal civil war. It's a book that asks hard questions, stirs empathy, and shows the strength of the human spirit.

As you read, please take notes using **Post-it notes**. This will help you engage with the text without writing directly in the book. Stick your notes directly onto the relevant pages—they'll help you keep track of important ideas and be ready for class discussions in the fall.

I'm excited to hear your reflections and perspectives when we return!

Mr. Olivencia

How to Use Post-it Notes While You Read

Use **small Post-it notes** to mark and respond to the following kinds of content. Stick them right on the page where the moment or idea appears. Try to write clearly and concisely (just 1–2 sentences per note is enough).

Use Post-it Notes for:

- Important plot points or major events
- Changes in Ishmael's character or emotional state
- Key relationships and how they evolve
- Major themes or big ideas (like survival, loss, or resilience)
- Powerful quotes or passages
- Literary techniques (imagery, symbolism, flashbacks, tone)
- Moments that confuse you or raise questions
- Personal reactions or emotional responses
- Connections to current events or your own experiences

Bring your **copy of the book with Post-it notes inside** to class on **Day 1**. We'll begin discussions and assignments based on *A Long Way Gone* right away.