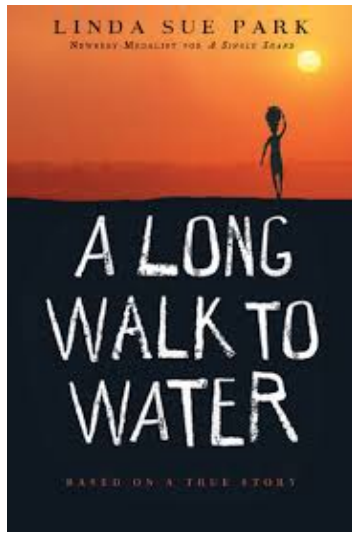


# FULL LENGTH BOOK EXTENDER: Group Reading Aligned to Common Core

by Joél Hartline



## *A Long Walk to Water*

By Linda Sue Park, 2010  
GRADES for USE: 6-9

**SUMMARY OF BOOK:** Park tells the story of two young people growing up in Sudan, one in 1985 and one in 2008. Their stories are told in a dual narrative style but their intertwining histories eventually merge. The story of Salva, which begins in 1985, is based on the true story of this “lost boy” refugee who seems to have lost everything as Sudan is torn apart by war. His search for family leads him into horrendous situations, including lion and crocodile attacks, rebel shootings, and severe dehydration and malnutrition. Simultaneously, we are told the fictionalized story of Nya who is a young girl who spends most of her day walking back and forth to fetch water for her village. As their stories merge, Salva’s perseverance and determination to help the future of Sudan is an inspiration to all.

## Grade 8 Discussion Questions

**RL 8.2 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.**

What character traits helped Salva survive as a Lost Boy? How did Salva change throughout the novel, and what contributed to his decision to help change things for people like Nya?

**RL 8.3 Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.**

How are people able to survive against adversity? In the epilogue, Salva Dut writes, “I overcame all the difficult situations from my past because of the hope and perseverance I had.” (Park, 2010, pg. 117). How does Salva’s perseverance in the face of adversity help him survive?

**RL 8.5 Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader create such effects as suspense or humor.**

Why did the author choose to write this as a dual narrative? What effect did Nya’s fictional story have on the true story of Salva? Could the author achieve her purpose with only one narrative?

## Grade 8 Activities

**W 8.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence**

March 22 is World Water Day; write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper informing your community about the plight of the world’s water supply and persuading them to help. Use research and elements from the book to support your position in this letter.

**W 8.6 Use technology to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently as well as to interact and collaborate with others.**

Set up a plan of action to raise money and awareness for the need for fresh water in this area of the world. Create a public service announcement, brochure, poster, or speech to inform the public about this issue.