

# Summer Reading

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*Booker T. Washington High School  
2017/2018 Rising Sophomores (Grade 10)*

## **English PreAP II – *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah**

This is how wars are fought now: by children, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s. Children have become soldiers of choice. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them.

What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become a killer? How does one stop? Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through this hell and survived.

In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.

This is a rare and mesmerizing account, told with real literary force and heartbreaking honesty.

### **We recommend that you:**

- **PURCHASE THE BOOK NOW!** Books can be in short supply and libraries will have long “hold” lists, especially by the end of summer.
- Go in together with a friend and share the expense and the book.
- See if the title is available for purchase in used book stores or even in local libraries.

**Take notes!** There will be a link to a model for your notes. It will be posted on the school website under the “Students” section –[btw.tulsaschools.org](http://btw.tulsaschools.org)—beginning **March 31<sup>st</sup>**.

**Expectations for the beginning of the school year** – \*As you read and take notes, look for evidence that will help you answer the question, *what is the nature of responsibility?* \*Focusing on this question will help you prepare for class discussions and writing assignments. \*Your notes will help you prepare for the exam over the book. \*Your teacher will tell you when to turn in your notes.