

Delve Deeper into "Rain In A Dry Land"

A film by Anne Makepeace

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Shaun Briley of the San Diego Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Rain In a Dry Land" that premieres on June 19, 2007 at 10 PM on PBS (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

How do you measure the distance from an African village to an American city? What does it mean to be a refugee in today's "global village?" "Rain in a Dry Land" provides eye-opening answers as it chronicles the fortunes of two Somali Bantu families, transported by relief agencies from years of civil war and refugee life to Atlanta and Springfield, Massachusetts. As the newcomers confront racism, poverty and 21st-century culture shock, the filmmaker Anne Makepeace (P.O.V.'s "Baby, It's You") captures their efforts to survive in America and create a safe haven for their war-torn families. Their poetry, humor and amazing resilience show us our own world through new eyes. A co-production with the Independent Television Service (ITVS).

ADULT NONFICTION

Abdo, Geneive. *Mecca and Main Street: Muslim Life in America After 9/11*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press 2006. Examines the challenges of being a practicing Muslim in America today.

Adeshina, R. Fola. *My Survival As an African in America: A Story of My Struggle*. Baltimore: R.F.A. Publications, 1995. A personal account of the cultural differences and unexpected challenges faced by an African (Nigerian) immigrant in America.

Barnes, Virginia, L. and Boddy, Janice Patricia. *Aman: The Story of a Somali Girl*. New York: Vintage Books, 1995. This coming of age story recounts the struggles of a young Somali against the restrictions traditional Somali society places on women.

Barrett, Paul M. *American Islam: The Struggle for the Soul of a Religion*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006. Describes how Muslims in post 9/11 America find themselves in a subculture treated with suspicion.

Besteman, Catherine. *Unraveling Somalia: Race, Violence, and the Legacy of Slavery*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999. Focuses on the Bantu people of Somalia who suffered the worst violence in the 1990s because of their heritage as former slaves. The book reveals racial and class discrimination within Somalia and the struggle of the Bantu to be recognized as legitimate Somalis.

Bloemraad, Irene. *Becoming a Citizen - Incorporating Immigrants and Refugees in the United States and Canada*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006. Examines government policy on the integration of the foreign born and compares experiences in Canada and the United States.

Burnett, John. *Where Soldiers Fear to Tread: A Relief Worker's Tale of Survival*. New York: Bantam Books, 2005. A civilian relief worker with the World Food Program in Somalia gives a personal account of the war-torn country and life in its refugee camps.

D'Alisera, JoAnn. *An Imagined Geography: Sierra Leonean Muslims in Washington, D.C.* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004. Explains how African Muslims from Sierra Leone cling to their religion and customs to retain a sense of identity in America.

Diriye Abdullahi, Mohamed. *Culture and Customs of Somalia*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2001. A Somali writer gives an overview of the nation's social life and customs from the native viewpoint

Drysdale, John. *Whatever Happened to Somalia?: A Tale of Tragic Blunders*. London: Haan, 2002. Looks at recent Somali history with particular attention to peacekeeping efforts by the United Nations and the U.S.

Farah, Nuruddin. *Yesterday, Tomorrow: Voices from the Somali Diaspora*. New York: Cassell, 2000. A series of interviews with Somalis reveals how they cope with being refugees in foreign lands.

Gardner, Judith (ed). *Somalia-- The Untold Story: The War Through the Eyes of Somali Women*. Jackson, TN: Pluto Press, 2004. Somali women describe their experiences with physical violence and changing family roles against the backdrop of a society in breakdown.

Gehrke-White, Donna. *The Face Behind the Veil: The Extraordinary Lives of Muslim Women in America*. New York: Citadel Press, 2006. A Pulitzer Prize winning journalist looks at the everyday lives and motivations of ordinary Muslim women in the United States.

Jolie, Angelina. *Notes from My Travels: Visits with Refugees in Africa, Cambodia, Pakistan, and Ecuador*. New York: Pocket Books, 2003. Actress Angelina Jolie recounts her impressions of refugee conditions during her journeys as Goodwill Ambassador for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Leutinger, Richard Wolcott. *A Scorching Hot Time in Sudan: A Relief Worker's Story from Inside an African Refugee Camp*. Baltimore: PublishAmerica, 2006. A look at life in a camp for foreign refugees in the Sudan, through the eyes of a Western volunteer.

Lewis, I.M. *A Modern History of the Somali: Nation and State in the Horn of Africa*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2003. An overview of Somali history and the way life in the country has adapted to modern challenges.

Delve Deeper into "Rain In A Dry Land"

A film by Anne Makepeace

Martin, David A. *The United States Refugee Admissions Program: Reforms for a New Era of Refugee Resettlement*. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute, 2005. Discusses a decline in refugee resettlement in the U.S. since 9/11 security measures were introduced and considers reforms to better address refugee needs.

Mollica, Richard F. *Healing Invisible Wounds: Paths to Hope and Recovery in a Violent World*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt, 2006. A counselor who has helped victims of both natural disaster and manmade violence in Rwanda, Bosnia, the Ivory Coast and other trouble spots looks at what victims do to restart their lives.

Ndubuike, Darlington Iheonunekwu Iheanacho. *The Struggles, Challenges and Triumphs of the African Immigrants in America*. Queenston, Ontario: Edwin Mellen Press, 2002. Documents aspects of the culture of recent African immigrants in America and their struggles in adapting to American society.

Obiakor, Festus E. *Foreign-Born African Americans: Silenced Voices in the Discourse on Race*. Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers, 2002. Immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean describe the racism and cultural divide they have encountered in America.

Owolabi, Robert O. *An African's View of the American Society: An Eyewitness Account of over 15 Years of Living, Studying and Working in the United States of America*. Chapel Hill, NC: Professional Press, 1996. A Nigerian describes what it's like for an African to come to terms with American culture.

Peterson, Scott. *Me Against My Brother: At War in Somalia, Sudan and Rwanda*. New York: Routledge, 2000. A foreign correspondent's first hand account of experiences in Somalia and other war ravaged areas of Africa.

Yan, Yorn. *New Americans, New Promise: A Guide to the Refugee Journey in America*. Saint Paul, MN: Fieldstone Alliance, 2006. Examines the experiences of refugees in America and lays out the different stages of adaptation they might go through.

ADULT FICTION

Farah, Nuruddin. *Gifts*. New York: Penguin, 2000. The story of a Somali family facing up to its own wounds in a country beset with war and starvation.

Farah, Nuruddin. *Knots*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2007. A Somali woman brought up in America returns to Mogadishu to find her roots and reclaim her family home from a warlord. Echoing the novelist's own recent experiences in trying to reclaim property there, it illustrates the difficulties faced by returning refugees.

Werner, Alice. *Myths and Legends of the Bantu*. London: Cass, 1968. A collection of folklore belonging to the Bantu speaking people of Africa.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Ashabranner, Brent K. *The New African American*. North Haven, CT: Linnet Books, 1999. A history of African immigration into the U.S. up to the present day (Grades 6-10).

Dalton, David. *Living in a Refugee Camp: Carbinio's Story*. Milwaukee, WI: World Almanac Library, 2006. The true story of a boy living in a refugee camp in Africa.

Graf, Mike. *Somalia*. Mankato, MN: Bridgestone Books, 2002. An illustrated guide to the landscape and culture of Somalia for young readers.

Howard, Helen, et al. *Living As a Refugee in America: Mohammed's Story*. Milwaukee, WI: World Almanac Library, 2006. Story of a 15-year-old Afghani's trip from refugee camp to life in America.

Hussein, Ikram. *Teenage Refugees from Somalia Speak Out*. New York: Rosen Pub. Group, 1997. First person accounts of the adjustment from anarchy and violence to a new life in America.

Naidoo, Beverley. *Making It Home: A Child's Eye of Life As a Refugee*. New York: Dial Books, 2005. Life as a refugee seen through the eyes of children in this collection of interviews.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Roble, Abdullahi Hassan, et al. *Somali Folktales*. Stockholm, Sweden: Scansom Publishers, 2000. Compilation of Somali folktales in Somali with English translations.

Zephaniah, Benjamin. *Refugee Boy*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2004. The story of a 14-year-old African boy from a war-torn country who is sent to live in England.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

"Letter: American Town and 'the Somali Invasion'." A film by Ziad H. Hamzeh, Arab Film Distribution, 2003. (76 min.) A documentary about how Americans in the town of Lewiston, Maine, have either rallied around or against an influx of Somali immigrants. www.arabfilm.com

"P.O.V.: Lost Boys of Sudan." A film by Megan Mylan and Jon Shenk, Lost Boys Film, 2003. (87 min.) A documentary that follows two Sudanese boys on their journey to America after being orphaned by civil war. www.lostboysfilm.com