



Talking Book Center
1 Churchville Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401
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Global Reading Challenge: Nigeria

DB47295 Aké: The Years Of Childhood by Wole Soyinka (biography)

A memoir of boyhood experiences in the Nigerian village. He describes the mixture of traditional African customs and Christian influences that shaped his first eleven years. 1981. (1986 Nobel laureate in Literature)

DB20195 Double Yoke by Buchi Emecheta (African literature)

Two Nigerian undergraduates fall in love and face the conflict of choice--tradition versus modernity. Nko, a modern woman, wants both the world of wife and mother and the academic world. Ete Kamba, if he wants Nko, will have to learn how to be a modern African man, although he would prefer an old-fashioned wife like his mother. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 1982.

DB62008 Waiting For An Angel by Helon Habila (political fiction)

Lagos, Nigeria; 1990s. Follows Lomba and his transformation from a political student to political prisoner. While working as a journalist Lomba attends an anti-junta rally and is arrested. His roommate and his first love also must cope with the brutality and poverty around them. Violence. 2002.

DB100235 The Death Of Vivek Oji by Akaweke Zmezi (contemporary)

In Nigeria, a mother finds her dead son's brightly wrapped body on her doorstep. Vivek suffered mysterious blackouts as a child, tied to his struggles against the strict Nigerian ideas about identity. His only close friendship is with his cousin Osita, who has secrets of his own. Unrated. 2020.

DB78983 Every Day Is For The Thief by Teju Cole (contemporary)

A man returns home to Lagos, Nigeria, fifteen years after moving to New York. He reconnects with family, friends, and a former girlfriend. He is amazed at both how much and how little have changed in the land of his childhood. 2007.

DB93043 My Sister, The Serial Killer by Oyinkan Braithwaite (mystery)
Though it wears on her, Korede has grown very good at cleaning up her sister's messes--namely, those left after she murders her boyfriends. The bright spot in Korede's life is a kind doctor at the hospital where she works--until the day he meets Korede's sister and asks for her number. Some violence. 2018..

DB77188 Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi (contemporary)
After studying in the United States for thirteen years, Ifemelu, a Nigerian woman who blogs about race, returns home to Lagos. She has endured enough cultural issues and misses her first love. But the Nigerians label her an "Americanah." Some strong language. 2013.

DB81490 There Was A Country: A Personal History Of Biafra
by Chinua Achebe (history, memoir)
Novelist Chinua Achebe has described the Nigerian Civil War, also called the Biafran War, as the defining experience of his life. Already a renowned author, Achebe took the Biafran side in the conflict and served as an ambassador. He relates the horrors he witnessed and experienced. Violence. 2012.

DB106945 My Name Is Tani... And I Believe In Miracles: The Amazing True Story Of
One Boy's Journey From Refugee To Chess Champion by Tani Adewumi
Memoir of Adewumi, who moved from Nigeria to America as a child with his family after they were threatened by Boko Haram. As the family struggled to make ends meet, Tani discovered he had an unusual mind for chess, going on to win the New York State chess championship. Unrated. 2020.

DB72637 Meet Our New Student From Nigeria by Anna Ojunnaike (juvenile fiction)
A lesson about the West African nation Nigeria taught to Mrs. Harkins's class in preparation for a new student's arrival. Discusses the country's history and ancient civilizations, geography and crops, social customs, and religions. Includes a recipe for fried plantain and instructions for making a mask. For grades 3-6. 2009.