



Talking Book Center
1 Churchville Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401
540-885-6215

Global Reading Challenge: South Africa

DB16799 *Burger's Daughter* by Nadine Gordimer (political fiction)

Novel of South Africa explores the destiny of a young woman whose life must be lived in the shadow of her dead parents, dedicated Communists who fell victims to the savage system of apartheid and its police-state cruelty. She struggles desperately to find her own identity and to keep their cause alive. Some strong language. 1979. (1991 Nobel laureate in Literature)

DB46652 *Boyhood: Scenes From Provincial Life* by J.M. Coetzee

Portrays the author's childhood in 1940s and 1950s South Africa from a third-person perspective. He describes his feeling of being different from his classmates, and he grimly recalls his teachers' canings, his parents' arguments, and his own actions that injured his brother. Among his few joyful memories are riding his bicycle and visiting his grandparents' farm. 1997 (2003 Nobel laureate in Literature)

DB60566 *The Heart Of Redness* by Zakes Mda (general fiction)

Seeking a beautiful woman he glimpsed after returning to Johannesburg from America, Camagu goes to Qolorha, a village afflicted by a hundred-year-old tribal feud threatening to derail its casino development plans. He is drawn into the aged cultural dispute--and into a bizarre love triangle. Some violence and strong language. 2000.

DB104599 *The Promise* by Damon Galgut (historical fiction)

Pretoria, South Africa. When the matriarch of the Swart family died, her last wish was that their servant Salome be given the house she lived in. But Black property ownership is illegal under apartheid, and the wish is ignored. This unfulfilled promise affects the family for decades. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2021.

DB18891 *A Chain Of Voices* by André Brink (historical fiction)

Reconstructs the events that led up to a slave revolt on a remote South African

farmstead in 1825. The personal narratives of the main characters reveal the interpersonal intimacies and passions between master and slave. 1982

DB17882 Asking For Trouble: The Autobiography Of A Banned Journalist
by Donald Woods (autobiography)

A white South African newspaperman tells of his life in South Africa, details his growing political and moral opposition to the apartheid regime, and recounts the horrifying events that led to his daring escape from that country in 1977. 1980.

DB73049 The End of Apartheid In South Africa by Liz Sonneborn (history)
Traces the history of apartheid from its 1950s beginnings in the South African legal system to its 1990s dismantlement. Discusses abuses that occurred during racial segregation, political struggles to change the laws, and Nelson Mandela's role. Follows the progress of integration through 2009. For grades 6-9 and older readers. 2010.

DB39555 Long Walk To Freedom: The Autobiography Of Nelson Mandela
Memoirs of the South African leader who spent twenty-seven years in prison for opposing apartheid. Son of a tribal chief, Mandela had a traditional country childhood and a college education. As a leader of the African National Congress, he began talks that led to the mitigation of apartheid. Released from prison in 1990, he became president in 1994, with blacks voting for the first time. Bestseller. 1994.

DB79101 The Book Of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path For Healing Ourselves And Our
World by Desmond Tutu (1984 Nobel laureate Peace Prize)
Nobel Peace Prize laureate and his daughter, both Anglican priests, discuss the process and benefits of forgiving. Contrasts the revenge cycle versus the forgiveness cycle. Includes meditations, rituals, and exercises to assist the reader. 2014.

DB85906 The Elephant Whisperer: My Life With The Herd In The African Wild
by Lawrence Anthony (animals nonfiction)

Conservationist relates his experiences caring for a rogue herd of elephants on his South African game reserve. Describes his misgivings in accepting them, challenges faced with both the herd and local communities, lessons learned from individual elephants, and the joys and sorrows he encountered. 2009.