



Questions and Answers

Everyone who completes reading the book and posts a picture on social media with the hashtag **#TangiReads** is eligible to receive a Celebrating the Written Word tote bag!

What is a Common Read?

A Common Read is when a large group of people read the same book at the same time and then have discussions about that book. The discussions can be in book clubs, classrooms, or gatherings in the library.

Is this the first time the Tangipahoa Parish Library is conducting a Common Read?

This is our third year conducting a Common Read.

What is this year's Common Read book?

The book is the *New York Times* bestseller *A Long Walk to Water*, by Linda Sue Park. *A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home; she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.

How can I get a copy of the book?

The library has purchased a number of copies of the paperback edition. Many of these will be cataloged for our branches, and cataloged for totes that will be loaned out to book clubs, senior centers, classrooms at schools, etc. People may check the book out from one of our libraries, borrow a copy from the tote that will be loaned to the Hammond Regional Arts Center, or participate in a book club or other organization reading the novel.

Who else will be part of the Common Read?

Free copies of the book will be available for each principal and school librarian in the parish, as well as community leaders, for them to read and encourage others to get the book and read. These community leaders include the Parish Council and Parish President, as well as members of local Parish governments.

What is the object of the Common Read?

The object is three-fold:

1. To encourage reading.
2. To stimulate dialogue about the themes in this novel—the Sudanese War, assisting marginalized people groups, and having perseverance and hope through hardships.
3. To foster a sense of community by bringing people together through literature.

What are the dates of the Common Read?

The library and the Hammond Regional Arts Center plan to begin Celebrating the Written Word with the Common Read on Monday, April 22. It will tie into the library's Summer Reading Program for adults, which begins in early May.

Can I start reading the book and be part of the Common Read after the April kickoff?

Of course. The Common Read will last through the summer and fall. There will be many opportunities to discuss the book during our Adult Summer Reading Program.

Is the author Linda Sue Park coming to Tangipahoa Parish?

Yes! On Friday, November 8, the Tangipahoa Parish Library will host author Linda Sue Park at its Ponchatoula Branch at 7 p.m. Ms. Park will speak about the book, read, and autograph copies for those who attend. Then on Saturday, November 9, the Hammond Regional Arts Center will host Linda Sue Park at its Gallery on Thomas Street at 10 a.m. She will speak and sign copies of books brought by those who attend.

Follow Tangi Library on Facebook for the latest Common Read events.

