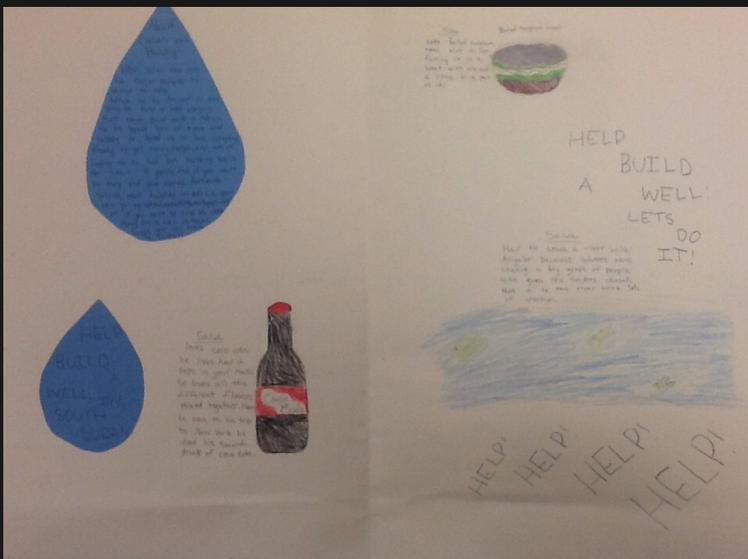


June 8, 2016
Daniel Bagley Elementary
Seattle, WA



Dear Salva,



"I am 10 years old and I love dogs."

The book that my class read (A Long Walk to Water) was very powerful for me and the rest of my classmates. The book A Long Walk to Water was the book that inspired my class to raise money to help build the well. This book was powerful because it told the story of a boy who lived a very hard life that was different from mine.

Some ways I raised money were that I sold jewelry that me and my friends Izzy and Meghan made. I also baked cookies for our class bake sale so we could donate more bake sale money to the well project. Another way I helped raise money was that I donated \$20 of my birthday money.

Salva inspired me to help other people in need. He also inspired me to keep going even when times are hard. I appreciate Salva because he has a lot of perseverance and is very helpful to other people, and he is always thinking of more and more ways to help.

Grace

Isabelle

A Long Walk To Water really made me think about how lots of people don't have clean water and have to walk for hours and hours just to get water that's dirty. It also surprised me that girls don't get an education and have to stay home and help with housework, including fetching the water. This book made me want to help people in Africa.

I wrote letters to my friends and family asking them for donations. I also donated money for my friends' birthdays. My class had a kid store and a bake sale. At the kid store we raised over \$300, and at our bake sale we raised about \$400!

I appreciate Salva because he's a hero. He's amazing when it comes to making the world a better place. It was really kind of Salva to go back to Africa and help other people. Salva's story and Salva changed my life.



"Hi! I'm Isabelle and I'm 10. I love animals and I especially love, love, love PINK!!! I also love soccer."

Veronica

I think this book is powerful because there aren't really many books about the Lost (walking) Boys. This book is a very impactful one. Before we read, *A Long Walk To Water*, I didn't really know much at all about the Lost (walking) Boys. Also I didn't really know how hard some people's lives are. I'm also very glad that Nya got to go to school, and that we're helping other girls go to school too! I think the book really helped me realize how hard some other people's lives are.

I helped raise the money by asking the people in my family, then I wrote letters to my family and friends. Later, I walked all over Greenwood, and delivered letters to many of the businesses. Meghan and I made a short presentation to say to the businesses when we delivered the letters to them. Next we traveled to many other places in Seattle to deliver the letters to more businesses.

You (*Salva*) are inspirational to me because you not only had to survive in hard times, and stay positive. But you came back to help others that needed water and a safe place to stay. I appreciate *Salva* because you were very brave. Also it was very kind to come back, and help your country. It changed peoples' lives.



"I like cats, soccer, and ultimate Frisbee. I have two cats, and one of my favorite subjects is reading."



Paige

The book is more than breathtaking. It has many details and emotions. It feels like you are in the story.

I helped raise the money to donate by doing some things. I bought something at the bake sale. I also donated \$400 to the cause.

Why I appreciate Salva is that he went through a hard life yet he always had courage. He inspires me by how much courage he has. He had hope and courage.

"Hi I'm Paige and I am 11 years old. I like drawing."



" I love art, animals, reading, baking, cooking, writing, climbing, and, well I could go on and on."

Both Nya's story and yours(Salva) were truly inspiring. Even in the pages of the book there was a life before your eyes. A life of everything even though nothing was the limit, and it also made me realize how even though those people couldn't go to school, they knew so much more than others, they knew how to hope and how to be strong, and that's the hardest subject to learn, and even harder to remember.

When we started to raise the money I was very excited. The first thing I did when I got home was start filling a jar and asking for donations. By the time span of two weeks, I had raised \$45. At Christmas I got a donation of \$350. I also participated in our kid stores.

I really appreciate Salva's determination to help people. You truly transform everyone's lives. You are very brave. You make a life change with every drop of water.

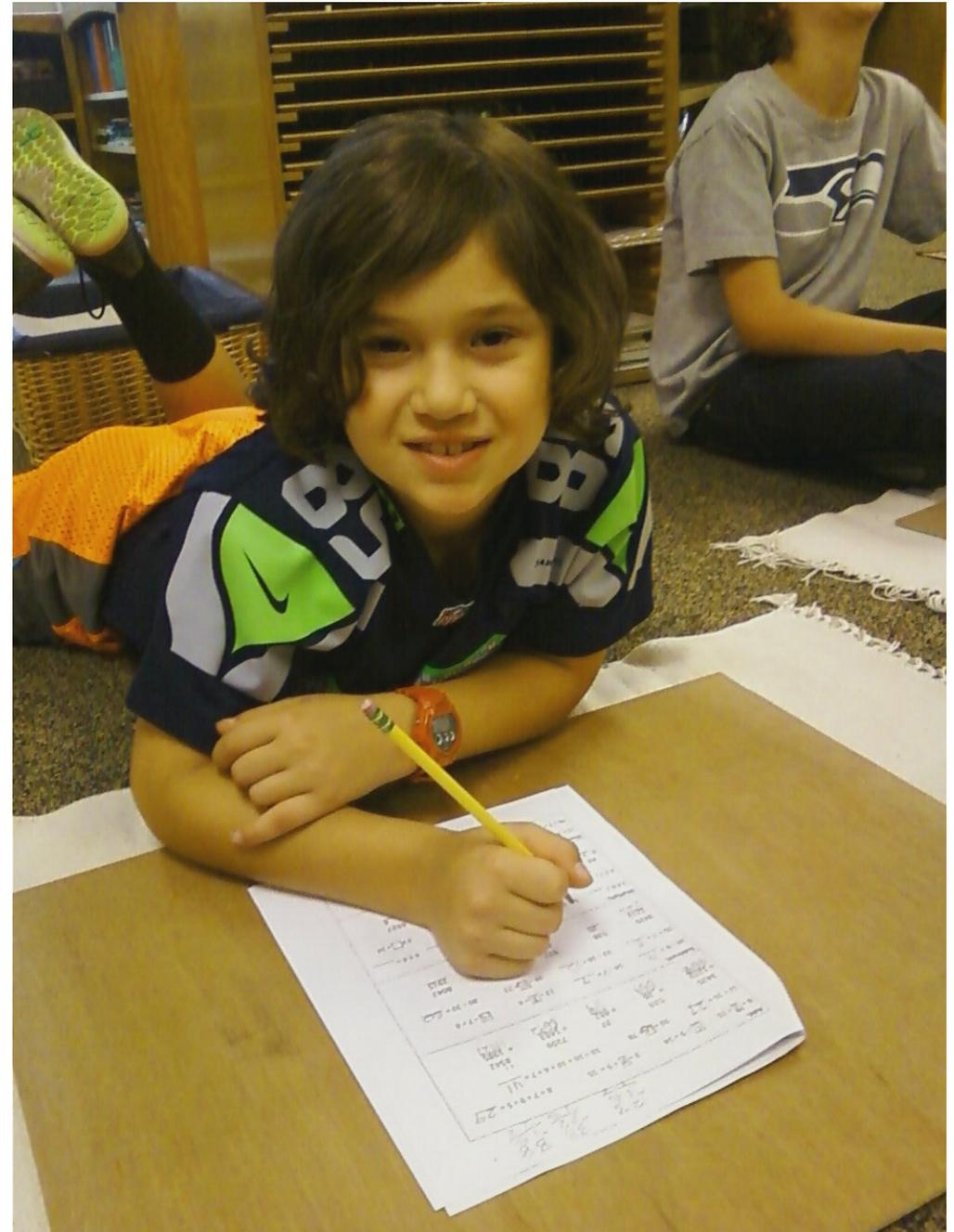
Stella

Jordan

What I thought was powerful about the book was it told me I'm very lucky to have a home, water and food. Another thing that was powerful about the book was how Salva got through that very long and difficult journey. I can't imagine having to deal with knowing your family is lost and having some of them passing away.

How I raised the money was our class made an online website so people can donate. I donated ten dollars. Also our class had a bake sale to raise the money. I bought a muffin, it cost one dollar.

Salva inspires me to keep on going to make my dreams come true. He also inspires me because when I'm struggling I think of Salva and his journey and how he struggled and how it was much more difficult. Salva is an amazing and inspiring person.



What was powerful to me about the book was that Salva had to walk so far just to survive. And all the other boys that had to survive too. It must have been hard to walk without anyone that was in your(Salva) family.

How I raised the money was I had bake sales, and wrote letters to friends and family. I also wrote letters to businesses.

How Salva inspires me is he is brave, kind, loving, inspiring and amazing. It would be hard to walk just to find food and water. But you found a way to help them by starting a nonprofit and I think that is amazing!

Mason





I think the Book "A Long Walk to Water" is powerful because of these reasons. First is because it tells me no matter who you are or where you are, you can make a difference. I also find the book really powerful because what Salva has gone through tells you that whatever you do nobody can stop you.

I helped raise money by sending letters. These are the companies/sources I sent letters to: Card Kingdom, REI (Recreational Equipment Inc.), and relatives. I chose those two companies because we were allowed to choose partners. So I picked Kai, back to why I chose those two companies, we chose those two companies because both of our dads worked there. (My dad works at REI and Kai's dad works at Card Kingdom).

Salva inspires me because of all his bravery and because he never gives up. Salva also inspires me because of what he has done really encourages me to help people in need. He also inspires me because he will do anything to help someone.

Jordhen

EMILY



"Hi I'm Emily and I'm 10. Also I'm really happy that you came."

I think that when you read A Long Walk To Water you feel the book because there is so much emotion. Also it lets you wonder about South Sudan and the people who live there, like the walking boys and you.

I did three things to raise the money. The first thing I did was Kalli and I wrote a letter to this big foundation that we didn't get a reply from. The second thing I did was I made bracelets out of loom bands for the kid store. The last thing I did was I made pudding filled mini-pies for the bake sale.

Anyway back to you. You inspire me because you're making it easier to live in South Sudan. You're building wells so girls can go to school and they don't have to get the water!

The book A Long Walk to Water is inspiring to me because Salva made the well so the tribe and himself do not end up sick and die from dirty water. The war made Salva and other boys lost and homeless.

My school did a fundraiser and ended up with \$6,000.00. My class also spread the word around the city.

He inspires me because he helped his tribe build a well. Salva saved lots of people by building the well that has new and clean water.

Tor



"I like basketball, purple and orange. I also like to eat."

Cleo

One of the reasons this book is powerful is that it encourages people to keep going and keep moving forward, even if they may want to quit. It also made over 100 schools contribute to the Iron Giraffe Challenge. It's amazing that each class that contributed raised over six thousand dollars just for Water for South Sudan.

How I contributed to raising money was I donated fifty dollars and made food for the bake sale we had. I also sent out letters to friends and family telling them that they could donate to our website. I also advertised that we were having a bake sale afterschool.

Why Salva inspires me is that he always keeps positive. He also has helped so many different people get fresh water and so many girls go to school are some of the reasons he inspires me.



"I am in the 5th grade. I enjoy playing basketball, baseball, and football."



Jazell

The power of A Long Walk to Water is it made me cry, jump in joy, laugh, and wonder. Also it made me want to help others more. I think everyone should read A Long Walk to Water because it is very powerful and encouraging. And everytime I have water I wonder about A Long Walk to Water and I am very grateful for the water. It also made me think differently.

I raised the money by asking my family and sending a letter to Starbucks with my friend Adison for money. I also baked blueberry muffins with my mom and I also made lavender bags and friendship bracelets. For the bake sale I made brownies and rice Krispy treats and my mom made strawberry lemonade. I also gave some of my Easter candy to the bake sale.

Salva inspires me by going in hard times but having courage to push through then. Salva also inspires because he have so much hope. Salva you are another half of me. If you never came into my life I would be a whole different person.

Simon



"Hi I'm Simon my favorite color is blue ...
with a cherry on top."

As the class read the book it made me want to be more grateful. The book made me cry and laugh, I was upset every time we stopped reading for the day. I wanted to help so much and I got to. The book had an effect on me. When I heard the book it made me happy to help people.

I bought baked goods from both bake sales that my class did. I told my family and my grandparents. We all gave money to donate. I told lots of people about it. I even told people when I went to Florida. Me and my friend Karim wrote a letter to a company. I hope I raised a good amount of money.

Finally, someone with a sense of love to help people in Africa. I mean come on! Salva is so inspiring for helping and a lot of other stuff. If Salva didn't exist in my life, I would be less strong, grateful, and helpful. Since he does exist I'm more of everything! Salva is my idol. Salva is completely awesome.

The book was such a powerful way to learn about Africa and about one of its many hardships. A Long Walk to Water showed all of the people in my class that we are super lucky to have clean and fresh water. We all learned about one of the many many things people need to live.

I helped raised the money by making posters and telling a lot of people I know about raising money for the well. At one point a girl named Emily (a girl in my class) and I wrote a letter to Microsoft. I think that it was so cool seeing everyone in class working towards our goal!

Reasons Salva inspires me are because of the long, long, long journey and how he persevered and worked around the problems. Salva never gave up and he kept on going. Salva also never gave up hope. That takes a lot of courage.



Kalli

Niall

I think the book was very powerful. It put my feet in your (Salva's) shoes. And I felt many emotions.

I helped raise money by finding people that would donate money. I also made paper airplanes to sell at the kid store. I also did some advertising.

I appreciate you because I thought it was strong to travel so far and take care of so many people. And I thought it was strong to go back to Africa to help Sudan. This event changed my life forever.





"I enjoy learning new things, exploring, and animals, (particular cats). I read a lot and it's one of my favorite things to do, along with soccer and playing with my friends and family."

Reading the book *A Long Walk to Water*, was the beginning of the project. Your trip to America made me think of what it would be like to try to re-learn everything. The hardest thing for me would probably be learning the language. It made me think differently. *A Long Walk to Water* made me realize how hard other people work just to get water. I think it's really unfair that girls can't go to school because they have to fetch the water. It's really amazing how by just giving water you not only give them something essential to survival, but you also give girls a chance to get an education.

The thought of helping others get water started at 5th grade camp (a camp the 5th graders go to in the beginning of the year for 3 days and 2 nights). We were having a conversation about what we wanted our big project for the year to be. Someone suggested water. We had other ideas but water won in a vote.

Then Ms. Hoyer found a book all about the importance of water. The book was *A Long Walk to Water*. Ms. Hoyer read it aloud to us in October. We saw your website link at the end of the book and went to your website. After a vote we decided to join the Iron Giraffe challenge. The 1st thing I did was to send letters to family and friends explaining the cause and asking for donations. Then after winter break Veronica, (my partner, classmate, and friend for this project) and I wrote letters to local businesses. Over the weekend we delivered the letters to the businesses. After that we had a kid store. For the kid store I made scarfs, and hats, for stuffed animals. As the final push to get to \$6,000 we had a bake sale. Stella, my friend and classmate, and I made peanut butter cookies with chocolate in the middle and sold them at the bake sale. One of my ideas to raise more money is to have a birthday party but instead of presents I would ask for donations to the WFSS.

Why I appreciate you *Salva* is because you are brave. You persevere even when it is very,very hard. You overcame great losses. You have hope even in hard times. You risk your life to help others. You are inspirational because you continue to bring hope and peace to people. You do this by the simple gift of providing clean water.

Meghan

Emmett

Why the book A Long Walk to Water was inspirational was because it reminded me that many people are less fortunate than I am. I was surprised that Salva could go through all the stuff with people dying and the alligators eating people. If that all happened to me I would go running home screaming.

How I helped raise money was at my birthday party instead of asking for presents I asked for donations. Also my family donated 200 dollars.

Why Salva inspires me is because he has a interesting life story with many sad and amazing things. This is what will happen when I meet Salva. My mouth will be overflowing with questions and then I'll faint.



The power of the book A Long Walk to Water is it probably can inspire anyone. It gets you hooked, you can't put it down, and when you put it down you don't want to stop. So you don't. You try to start raising money and every penny helps. One small book can change the world.

I raised the money by having my family donate \$100. The class also did a bake sale, and I donated lemonade to it.

Reasons Salva inspires me are: He is a good leader and never gives up. In the book he was the leader of 15,000 people and he got 12,000 out alive. I don't know how he did that.



Lukas

Miles

The book is so powerful because it tells a story of bravery and perseverance. If anyone reads this book they have to feel bad for Salva. I think it inspires kids to help people in need of clean water.

I raised money by buying baked goods from the bake sales we had. I also raised money by writing letters to my friends and families. I put a jar out on my kitchen table and put loose change in it.

Salva inspires me because of how brave and confident he is. I find it so amazing how he went back to his country to help his people. I can't believe from the start of his story to end there were so many horrible things but he's still happy and helping and grateful for what he has.



"I enjoy running, dogs, and ultimate frisbee. My favorite sport is cross country running."



"Hi, I'm Adison and I'm a 10-year-old writer."

The book impacted me by teaching me that people are less fortunate than I am. This book influenced me to want to help raise money. I've gone to and helped food banks. I've laughed and cried throughout this book. Our entire class also does food bank every month.

I raised the money by my Mom and Dad giving \$200 to the cause. I also asked people at my birthday party to help and donate. Me and my friend also wrote a letter to Starbucks, they declined but we still reached our goal!

I appreciate Salva because he is a very powerful person when it comes to making the world a better place. He is also a really nice guy from what I can tell and he is really selfless. I could never imagine myself without knowing Salva through this book.

Adison

Kai



When our class, P5 read "A Long Walk to Water" I thought it was very meaningful and inspiring. Everyday when it was time for recess me and the rest of the class got upset and sad because it was so good and we didn't want to stop. I think it was amazing that you led thousands of walking boys so far and kept them alive. I can't imagine how hard that must have been, especially for you. I think it's so powerful that after you got to America you decided to go back and drill wells for Dinka and Nuer villages.

The way I helped raise the money was I sent out letters to friends and family and one to my Dad's work (Card Kingdom) which we got \$500 from! I also gave money to the bake sales we had.

I think you are such a powerful and inspiring person because of how you kept the walking boys going and alive. And how you got to America but kept helping your people by building wells and starting the non-profit. If you hadn't done that, we wouldn't have read the book, done the challenge, or gotten to meet you so thank you.

Angel

The book *A Long Walk to Water* is a big page turner. This book impacted me a lot giving me many emotions. There aren't many books that I've read that are as life changing as this book. It's amazing how one well can change the lives of girls and then they can go to school. A quote that I got from the book is, "Perseverance, and small starts can come to something big."

How it started was when I went to 5th grade camp, for our class leadership we talked a lot about water. So we just went with that. About 1 month later Ms. Hoyer presented a book called *A Long Walk to Water*. She told us about something called the Iron Giraffe challenge, we entered it and we started off with \$150. How I raised the money was by asking friends and family, and sending letters to businesses. Also by knitting hats, scarves, and hand warmers for stuffed animals. Having a bake sale was one of my favorite things to do. Projects like posters and signs were great. But perseverance and time were also important.

Salva inspires me because he had to go through something that an eleven year old should not have to go through. Also he is very brave, encouraging and helpful. Why he is encouraging is because he encouraged the walking boys of Sudan. I think he is brave because he came back to help his country when war was going on.



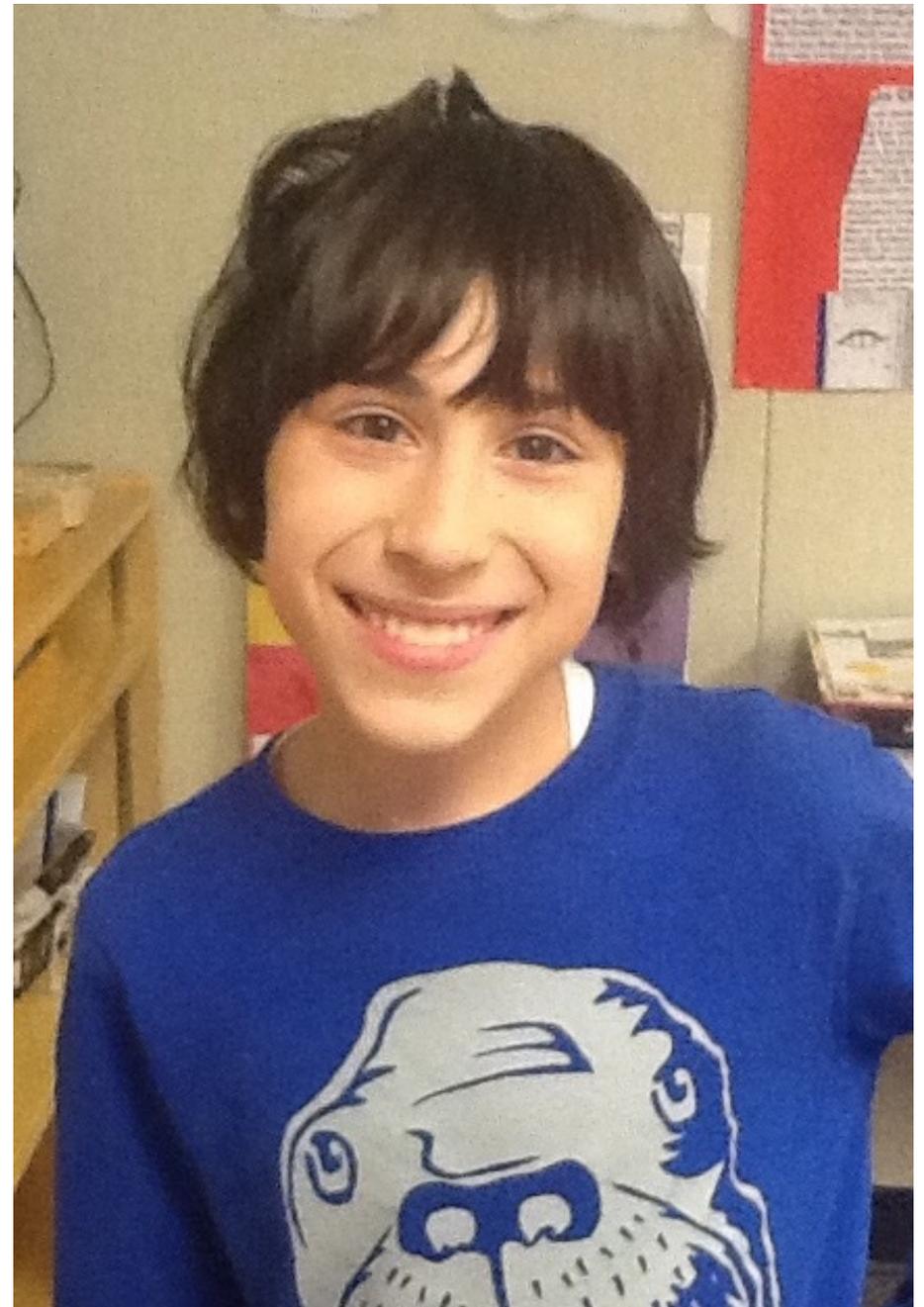
"I enjoy learning about animals (focus on cats), geography, and exploring. I read a lot of interesting books. I love gymnastics, and I travel a lot."

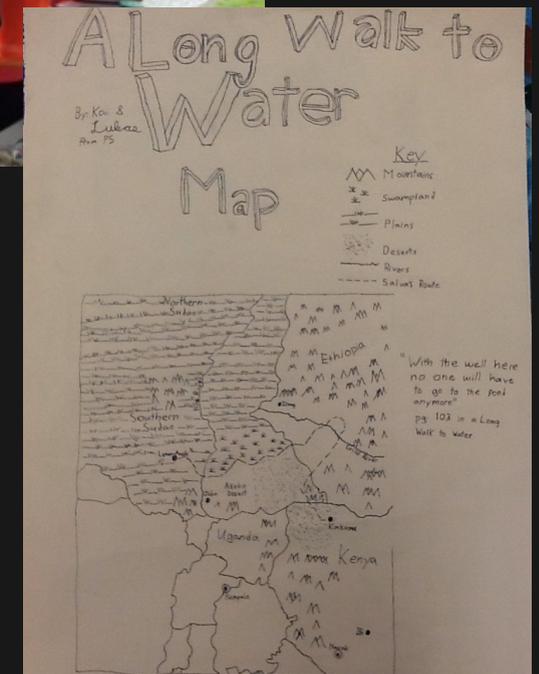
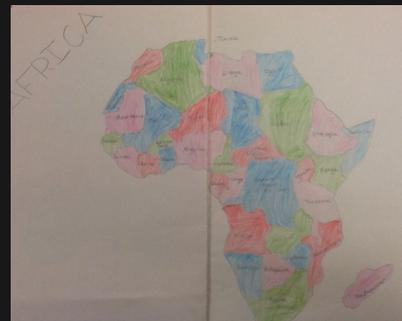
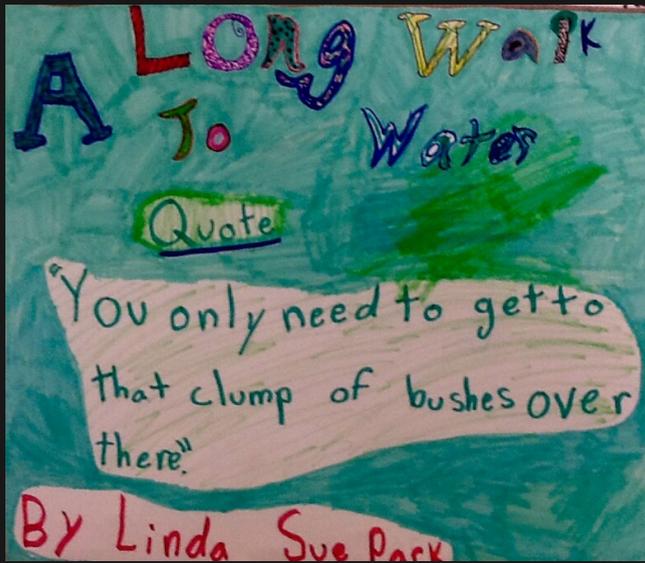
The class and I really enjoyed A Long Walk to Water. It was really sad when Mariel and uncle Jawier died. If that happened to me I would've not been able to go on. I really enjoyed performing as Salva in the puppet show.

How I raised the money was by donating money. I also helped by holding up a sign and advertising around the playground. I tried to make a card game but I did not have it ready in time.

Salva inspires me because Salva is independent because he had to do a bunch of things by himself. I think if anyone could be a god Salva can.

Karim





This book is dedicated to all of the children of the world. Special recognition to children who also participated in the 2015/2016 WFSS Iron Giraffe Challenge.