Suggested Reading for the 29th Annual Camden Conference

Acknowledgements: The Camden Conference wishes to acknowledge long time member, Bob Sargent and librarian, Charlotte Cushman for their material contributions in the development of these resource materials.

I. Non-Fiction

A. Pan-African:


**B. Specific Countries**


II. Memoirs/Popular Non-Fiction


**La Grange, Zelda.** *Good Morning, Mr. Mandela*. Viking. 2014. ISBN: 0525428283


III. Nobel Prize Recipients

With a rich tradition of African writers who have won the Nobel Prize, The Camden Conference salutes these great Africans for championing the voice of African literature on the global stage:

**Wole Soyinka: Nigeria (1934-xxxx)**


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wole_Soyinka

Playwright and political activist Wole Soyinka received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986, thus becoming the first African to ever win this prestigious
prize. He was recognized for “applying a wide cultural perspective and poetic overtones to fashion the drama of existence.”


Naguib Mahfouz: Egypt (1911-2006)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naguib_Mahfouz

Mahfouz, who was awarded the 1988 Nobel Prize in Literature for “works rich in nuance – now clear-sightedly realistic, now evocatively ambiguous” that have “narrative art that applies to all mankind.” Over a 70-year career, he published more than 50 novels, over 350 short stories, dozens of movie scripts, and five plays. Many of his works have been made into Egyptian and foreign films.


Nadine Gordimer: South Africa (1923-2014)

Awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1991 in recognition of her epic writing, which in the words of Alfred Nobel, “has been of very great benefit to humanity.”


John Maxwell Coetzee: South African & Australian (1940-xxxx)

Coetzee is the most recent African winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature having received the prize in 2003. He was recognized as a writer “who in innumerable guises portrays the surprising involvement of the outsider.”


Maathai, Wangari: Kenya (1940-2011)

The first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.

Kofi Annan: Ghana (1938-xxxx)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kofi_Annan

The seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations, serving two terms from January 1, 1997, to December 31, 2006. He was the first to emerge from the ranks of UN staff. In 2001, Kofi Annan and the United Nations were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, with the citation praising his leadership for bringing new life to the organization.


IV. Fiction, Classics and Favorites.


V. Websites and Articles of Interest:


http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/823.Africa

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/01/opinion/sunday/africa-on-the-rise.html

VI. Discussion questions:

1. How firmly has democracy taken root in Africa?

2. In what ways has globalization included or not included Africa?

3. How do traditional beliefs continue to influence government?

4. In what ways has Africa’s colonial past shaped current events and the present situation there?

5. Why has the development of Africa lagged substantially behind that of other developing countries, despite years of aid?

6. What should we make of China’s surging interest in Africa?

7. What are the results of the “brain drain” of talented Africans migrating to the west? Are there alternatives?

8. Can Africa be viewed as a whole continent or is it better understood regionally or nationally?

9. What are some of the common misconceptions about Africa among Americans? Why do these beliefs persist?

10. What does the future hold for Africa in terms of the AIDS epidemic and other diseases, such as malaria?