

Title: Three Cups of Tea

Author: Greg Mortenson

Grade Level: 6-8

Category: Novel

Synopsis:

In 1993 Greg Mortenson, an American nurse, tried to climb K2, the world's second tallest mountain. He was climbing in honour of his sister who died. After helping to rescue a fellow climber, Greg Mortenson lost his way and became very ill. He eventually found his way to a remote Pakistani village named Korphe, where the villagers took care of him for 7 weeks. To show his gratitude, Greg Mortenson promised to build the first school for the impoverished village. Eventually his work led to the start of the Central Asia Institute and the building of more than 50 schools in rural Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Thematic/Curriculum Connections: activism, peace, mountain climbing, education, gender issues, fundraising, global awareness, Islam, bridges, clean water, war, character education, poverty, Afghanistan, Pakistan

Activities:

Geography: Find K2 on a map

Find newspaper articles about this story

How would you convince someone to give you money to help build schools in Pakistan or Afghanistan?

Write a persuasive letter to a potential donor. Tell them why you think they should help you build this school and how it will affect the village.

Write a radio ad or newspaper ad to ask others to take action.

The children in Korphe didn't have a school. They learned their lessons outside and wrote with sticks in the mud. How is their experience of school different from yours? Make a list of what you have in your school and what they have in theirs.

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Diary – Write an entry about your life before the school is built, during the building and after it is finished.

Google “Greg Mortenson in the news” to see dozens of newspaper articles on his work.

Other book connections:

- Ryan and Jimmy and the Well in Africa by Herb Shoveller
- Peace Begins with You by Katherine Sholes
- Peacejam by Ivan SuvanjiEFF
- Listen to the Wind by Greg Mortenson
- Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis

Useful Websites:

www.gregmortenson.com
www.ikat.org
www.penniesforpeace.org
www.threecupsoftea.com