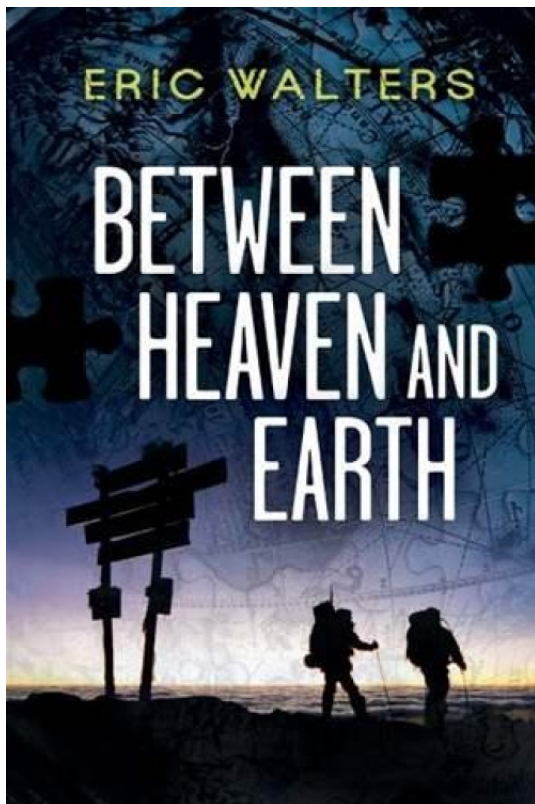


## Between Heaven and Earth

Walters , E



As the eldest grandson, DJ is the one to scatter his beloved grandfather's ashes on Mt Kilimanjaro. He's always been the best at everything, so climbing Kilimanjaro is just another thing he expects to accomplish almost effortlessly - until things start to go wrong.

**Collections** ARC-BC Novel

**Subject** Career Education

**Grades** 6-9

**Primary Identifier** 9781554699414

**Evaluation Date** Apr 2013

**Copyright** 2012

## Resource Evaluation

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## CURRICULUM FIT

**Does the resource support BC curriculum?**

Moderately

**This product supports the Core Competencies of the BC curriculum:**

- Reading
- Social Responsibility

Between Heaven and Earth explores overcoming challenges, interdependence, friendship, and sensitivity to cultural differences. Therefore, it ties into the Health and Career outcomes. However, there are many moral and legal decisions made by characters that go unquestioned by the author. It is necessary for the teacher to engage students in critical thinking opportunities by presenting these dilemmas for discussion.

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## SUGGESTED CLASSROOM USAGE

The novel is suitable as a read aloud, Literature Circle selection, and/or class novel study. (Would encourage teacher direction/involvement)

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## SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

### **Gender Roles, Identity & Sexual Orientation:**

The novel identifies that some cultures reserve some roles for men only; the story features a teen who wants to be the first female porter to climb the mountain.

### **Indigenous Peoples:**

Chagga are the local people and some of their beliefs and customs are depicted.

### **Multiculturalism:**

Chagga, Finnish, English, Canadian and Australian characters climb the mountain together.

**Ability:**

People of all ages climb Mt. Kilimanjaro; even fit climbers suffer mountain sickness and get carried down.

**Belief System:**

There is a belief that spreading ashes at the top of a mountain brings the deceased's soul between heaven and earth. "It does not matter if it is right or wrong, this is what must be done." This quotation applies to a variety of situations throughout the book. Discussion should take place.

**Socio Economic:**

"Those boys who stole...did not do it out of greed, but out of need. It does not make it right, but...less wrong"

**Violence:**

The possibility of fighting is implied.

**Ethical:**

Ashes from cremation were smuggled illegally. The smuggling is detected but the boy escapes consequences because the judge is a family friend. A girl lies in order to climb the mountain as a porter and a boy supports the lie despite the risk to her safety.

**Safety:**

There are considerable safety risks: a 17 year old is on his own in foreign country; inexperienced climbers ignore cautions and climb to the summit without an expert guide; protagonists visit the thieves' market to buy back their stolen goods.

**Language:**

There is mention of 'crap'.

**Do the social considerations support, rather than detract from, student learning?**

Moderately

**Social Considerations Comments:**

The protagonist does learn and grow along his journey; however, some of the choices made are morally and/or legally questionable. Teachers should be encouraged to lead rich discussions from issues such as keeping another's lie a secret despite risks to safety, going against expert

advice in order to meet personal goals, and smuggling and escaping consequences due to personal connections.

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## **GENERAL CONTENT**

### **Content**

**Should this product be identified as Canadian?**

Yes

**Is the resource engaging?**

Extensively

**Is the content current for the intended curriculum and grade?**

Extensively

**Is the content accurate for the intended curriculum and grade?**

Extensively

**Is the content timely and important for student broad understandings?**

Moderately

### **Perspectives:**

International

### **Audience:**

**Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?**

Not at all or slightly

**Does the resource provide opportunities for creative and critical thinking?**

Extensively

**Can the content be differentiated?**

Moderately

**Can reading level be adjusted?**

Moderately

**Is the level of detail appropriate?**

Not at all or slightly

**Is the content of particular interest to male students?**

Extensively

**Is the content of particular interest to female students?**

Extensively

**Is the language use appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?**

Extensively

With teacher direction and guidance, "Between Heaven and Earth" could challenge students to delve into philosophical discussions and enrich their critical thinking skills. Without teacher input, students may get caught up in the plot and miss some of the ethical questions inherent in the story which are not highlighted by the author as moral dilemmas.

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## **TECHNICAL DESIGN**

This novel includes a family tree and map at the beginning to help readers understand character relationships and location of events.

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## **INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN**

Between Heaven and Earth is a novel that does not include an instructional guide or discussion questions.

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## **PRINT NOVEL**

**Does the text show insight into the complexity of the human condition?**

Extensively

**Does the text broaden students' experiences and understanding?**

Extensively

**To what degree is this text stylistically rich?**

Moderately

### **Plot description:**

His grandfather's will gives a 17 year old boy the task of climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro to spread his grandfather's ashes. The plot emphasizes the importance of focusing on giving one's best effort in the present. DJ learns the importance of humility, teamwork and friendship as he encounters challenges and questions his ability to succeed. Stereotypes are challenged by the successful climb of an elderly woman and a teen girl while fit young men succumb to mountain sickness.

### **Related Comments:**

The novel is appropriate for upper intermediate/middle school learners interested in social responsibility issues, goal setting, challenging themselves and/or mountain climbing.

### **Genre:**

- Adventure
- Mystery / Suspense
- Realistic Fiction

### **Literary Highlights:**

- Complex conflict

- Rich Characterization
- Well-developed themes
- Point of view

**Type:**

Novel

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

**Readability:**

- At intended grade level(s)

This is one of seven books in the series, each written by a different author

**Resource URL**

<https://focusedresources.ca/en/k-12-evaluated-resource-collection/between-heaven-and-earth>