

# KASCC

KANSAS AFRICAN  
STUDIES CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS



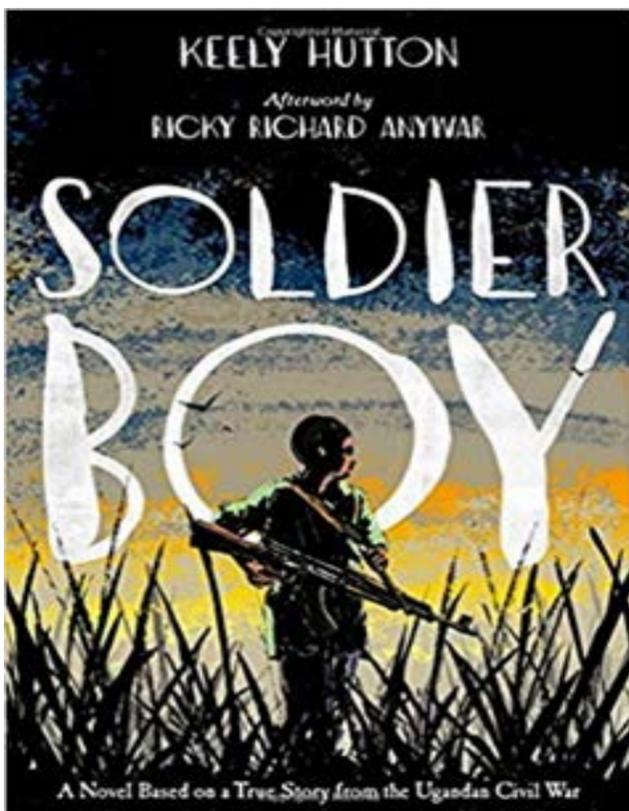
## Bringing Africa to your Classroom

### *Soldier Boy* by Keely Hutton

#### Topics Covered | Things to Introduce:

- Children agency
- Violence, war, hope
- Value of stories/story-telling

- Level: High school, young adult
- Country Focus: Uganda
- Language Focus: Kiswahili



**S**oldier Boy begins with the story of Ricky Richard Anywar, abducted in 1989 to fight with Joseph Kony's rebel army in the Ugandan civil war (one of Africa's longest running conflicts). Ricky is trained, armed, and forced to fight government soldiers alongside his brutal kidnappers, but never stops dreaming of escape.

#### From Author's Blog: About Keely Hutton

Keely Hutton is an educational journalist and former teacher. She is the recipient of the Highlights Foundation Writers Workshop scholarship at Chautauqua. Since 2012, she has been working closely with Ricky Richard Anywar to tell his story. *SOLDIER BOY* is her first novel. Ricky Richard Anywar is the founder of the internationally acclaimed charity Friends of Orphans, and a former child soldier in Ugandan warlord Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Since escaping the LRA, Anywar has dedicated his life to rehabilitating other survivors and advocating for peace in their communities. When she's not writing, Keely enjoys playing piano, reading, and planning Disney trips with her family.

## Discussion Questions

- Ricky's brother's name was \_\_\_\_\_?
- Ricky and Samuel were forced to join the \_\_\_\_\_?
- Ricky and Samuel are from what country? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many years was Ricky a part of the LRA? \_\_\_\_\_
- Where was Samuel's injury located? \_\_\_\_\_
- Oral histories, and other ethnographic methods, are used to gather qualitative data. This is data that gives a lot of detail about one thing or by a few people. This is different from quantitative data, which uses a large quantity of participants for data, but little detail. What are the benefits of using ethnographic methods and getting the details, perceptions, and memories of a person rather than checking an answer on a survey?
- How was Ricky's story used to help Samuel? Why is storytelling important? How can storytelling be used aside from retelling the history of an event?

## Activity Suggestions/ Resources

Opinion:

Short essay: In the book, young Ricky thinks that the politics of his home country were of no interest to him (pg. 34). After having read the book, describe how you feel about the involvement of children in politics and the repercussions of politics on children. Should younger individuals be more aware of political news and current events? What are the pros and cons of watching, reading about, and understanding political action in your home country, as well as across the globe? How can you tell if the information you come across is valid or accurate? What are some resources you can access to learn more about these topics?

Possible follow-up: Practice an ethnographic method, like creating and giving an interview or doing participant observation in something you have never done before.



## Country Fact Box: Uganda

**Capital:**  
Kampala

**Population:**  
41 Million People

**People from Uganda are called:**  
Ugandans

**Main Languages Spoken in Uganda:**  
Kiswahili, English, Luganda, and other Bantu Languages.



## Language Box: Kiswahili

**How many people speak Kiswahili as their mother tongue?**

5 Million, with speakers in Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa, Congo, and many more!

**Practice some Kiswahili!**

English	Number	Kiswahili
One	1	Moja
Two	2	Mbili
Three	3	Tatu
Four	4	Nne
Five	5	Tano
Six	6	Sita
Seven	7	Saba
Eight	8	Nane
Nine	9	Tisa
Ten	10	Kumi

**For more information on Kiswahili and what it sounds like, visit**  
<http://aboutworldlanguages.com/swahili>