



Bringing Africa to your Classroom

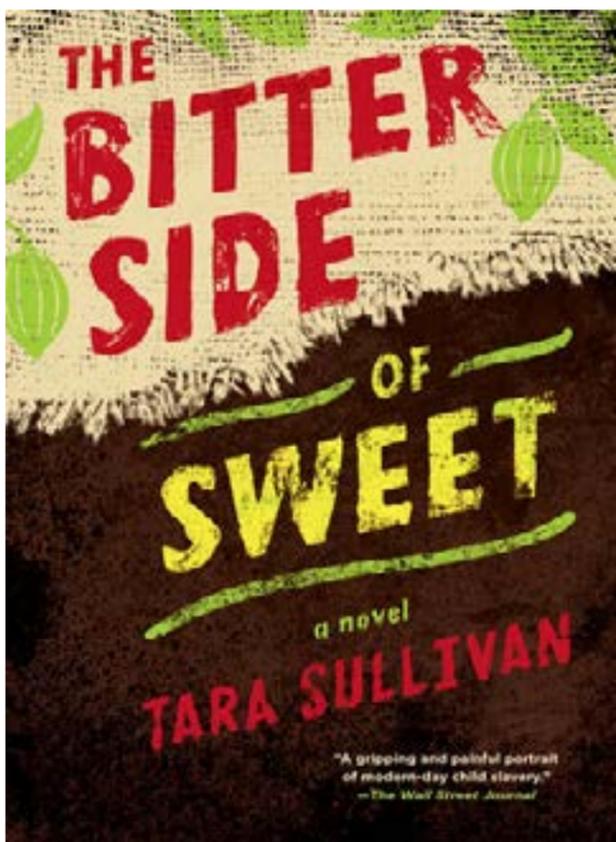
The Bitter Side of Sweet

by
Tara Sullivan

Topics Covered | Things to Introduce:

- Introducing the story/origin of chocolate
- Modern-day child slavery

- Level: High school, young adults
- Country Focus: Ivory Coast
- Language Focus: French



Fifteen-year-old Amadou counts the things that matter. For two years what has mattered are the number of cacao pods he and his younger brother, Seydou, can chop down in a day. The higher the number the safer they are. The higher the number the closer they are to paying off their debt and returning home. Maybe. The problem is Amadou doesn't know how much he and Seydou owe, and the bosses won't tell him. The boys only wanted to make money to help their impoverished family, instead they were tricked into forced labor on a plantation in the Ivory Coast. With no hope of escape, all they can do is try their best to stay alive--until Khadija comes into their lives. She's the first girl who's ever come to camp, and she's a wild thing. She fights bravely every day, attempting escape again and again, reminding Amadou what it means to be free. But finally, the bosses break her, and what happens next to the brother he has always tried to protect almost breaks Amadou. The three band together as family and try just once more to escape.

From <https://www.bookbrowse.com> : About Tara Sullivan

Tara Sullivan is the author of the award-winning and critically acclaimed Golden Boy. She was born in India and spent her childhood living in Bangladesh, Ecuador, Bolivia, and the Dominican Republic with her parents, who were international aid workers. She received a BA in Spanish literature and cognitive science from the University of Virginia, and an MA in Latin American Studies and an MPA in nonprofit management from Indiana University. She currently lives with her family in Massachusetts.

Objective/Discussion

Build students appreciation for history and development of cocoa and chocolate, how its grown and how different types of chocolate are produced. To raise awareness of the health effects of chocolate, today's methods of sustainable growth, and the people and cultures that produce this delicious product. Students can also learn the many different ways that cocoa and chocolate can be included in a healthy lifestyle.

Activity Suggestions/ Resources

With teams, have students do research to learn more about sustainable cacao farming and how sustainable farming practices may be applied to growing other tropical crops such as sugar cane, coconut palm trees, and coffee. Present findings when finished, encourage them to use technology such as PowerPoints or videos, remind them that they will need to show references for the info they use.



Country Fact Box: Ivory Coast/ Cote D'Voire



Capital:

Yamoussoukro, Abidjan (economic capital)

Population:

24 Million People

People from Ivory Coast are called:

Ivorians

Main Languages Spoken in Ivory Coast:

French, Baoulé, Sénoufo, Yacouba, Agni, Attié, Guéré, Bété, Dioula, Abé, Mahou, Wobé, Lobi

Language Box: French

How many people speak French as their mother tongue?

275 Million, with speakers in France, Canada, Belgium, Djibouti, Chad, Benin, Senegal, Madagascar, Switzerland, Togo, the United States, and many more.

Practice some French!

English	French
French	<i>Français</i> (people) or <i>français</i> (language)
English	<i>Anglais</i> (people) or <i>anglais</i> (language)
Yes	<i>Oui</i> (<i>si</i> when countering an assertion or a question expressed in the negative)
No	<i>Non</i>
Hello!	<i>Bonjour !</i> (formal) or <i>Salut !</i> (informal) or "Allô" (Quebec French or when answering on the telephone)
Good evening!	<i>Bonsoir !</i>
Good night!	<i>Bonne nuit !</i>
Goodbye!	<i>Au revoir !</i>

For more information on French and what it sounds like, visit

<http://aboutworldlanguages.com/french>