This multi-media resource list, compiled by Gina Blume of the Monroe Township Public Library, includes books, films and other materials related to the issues presented in the film Good Fortune.

**Good Fortune** is a provocative exploration of how massive international efforts to alleviate poverty in Africa may be undermining the very communities they aim to benefit. In Kenya’s rural countryside, Jackson’s farm is being flooded by an American investor who hopes to alleviate poverty by creating a multimillion-dollar rice farm. Across the country in Nairobi, Silva’s home and business in Africa’s largest shantytown are being demolished as part of a U.N. slum-upgrading project. The gripping stories of two Kenyans battling to save their homes from large-scale development present a unique opportunity to see foreign aid through eyes of the people it is intended to help.

**ADULT NONFICTION**

**Foreign Aid/Aid in Africa**


Easterly, William. *The White Man’s Burden: Why the West’s Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*. New York, NY: Penguin, 2007. This former research economist at the World Bank asserts that the current model of Western aid to impoverished countries does not have measures for accountability or instruments offering advice from the people the aid is intended for.

Lancaster, Carol. *Foreign Aid: Diplomacy, Development, Domestic Politics*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2006. This book examines why governments give foreign aid to poor countries and how this aid is not only used as a tool of domestic policy and political agenda, but also one of political pressure.


**Effective Philanthropy**

Bishop, Matthew and Michael Green. *Philanthrocapitalism: How the Rich Can Save the World*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury Press, 2008. Philanthrocapitalist describes the new generation of billionaires who are reshaping the way they give. This new business movement is presented through interviews with the most powerful and influential people in the world, including Bill Gates, Bill Clinton, George Soros and celebrities Angelina Jolie and Bono.


Wood, John. *Leaving Microsoft to Change the World*. New York, NY: Harper, 2007. During a much needed vacation from his high powered job with Microsoft’s Asia division, author Wood discovers the lack of books and literacy in the remote village schools of Nepal. He promises the villagers he would return with books, and used his business skills learned from Microsoft, connections, and determination to create Room to Read, a non-profit organization providing books and funding for libraries in these remote areas of the world.

**International Development**


Delve Deeper into Good Fortune
A film by Landon Van Soest


Kenya

Dinesen, Isak. Out of Africa. New York, NY: Random House, 1937. Writing under the pen name Isak Dinesen, Danish aristocrat Baroness Karen Blixen chronicles her life operating a coffee plantation in Kenya between 1914 and 1931. She describes her experience in British East Africa before the start of WWII and details the vast landscape and indigenous population surrounding her farm.


Weiss, Thomas G. “Halting Atrocities in Kenya.” Great Decisions 2010 (2010): 17-30. This UN policy addresses the right of neighboring countries, in this case, the African Union and former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan to intervene in a sovereign country in order to prevent escalating violence from becoming an all out civil war or genocide.

Out of Africa. A film by Sydney Pollack. Universal Studios, 1985. TRT: 161 min. Out of Africa is an epic tale of love, loss, and self discovery in pre-WWII British East Africa (Kenya), and a winner of 7 Academy Awards®, including Best Picture. Robert Redford and Meryl Streep star in the true story of a woman who travels to Kenya to be with her cold husband and falls in love with a mysterious adventurer.

What Are We Doing Here? A film by Brandon Klein. Klein Pictures, 2009. TRT: 84 min. This controversial documentary discusses why after 50 years of Western involvement, billions of dollars in foreign assistance and countless promises, Africa is still so poor.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Chamberlin, Mary. Mama Panya’s Pancakes. Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books, 2006. The timeless story of loaves and fishes told through this tale of mother and son as they share their meager meal amongst their village friends. This classic folklore teaches about community and generosity while introducing children to the beauty of east Africa.


FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

Masai: The Rain Warriors. A film by Pascal Plisson. Art Mattan, 2005. TRT: 94 min. This debut fictional film uses real-life Masai warriors speaking in their native tongue, chronicling their quest to bring rain to their land. Plisson filmed this on the savannas of Kenya.

Nowhere in Africa. A film by Caroline Link. Sony Pictures, 2002. TRT: 141 min. Academy Award®-winner for Best Foreign Language Film, Nowhere in Africa is about a Jewish family that fled Germany in the 1930s to work on a farm in Kenya, where they must make some major adjustments.