With the first cup of tea you are a stranger. With the second... a friend. With the third cup of tea, you are family.

Choose a partner.
As-salaam alaikum.

Three Cups of Tea is an inspirational adventure story filled with fascinating building of not one but many schools. Greg Mortenson's daughter, Amira, offers a vibrant example of ideas put into action. Greg's descriptions of Central Asian communities' efforts to educate their children, the value of kindness and generosity, he promised to build a school in Korphe in memory of his sister, who suddenly found herself lost, alone, and freezing in the cold. He began the climb to honor his sister, who he dedicated the school to.

Bishop, a clinical psychologist, and his two children, Amira and Khyber, from Pakistan and Afghanistan, migrated to America for helping Muslim children receive an education. While not a naturalized citizen, Greg lives in Montana with his wife, Dr. Tara Bishop, a clinical psychologist, and their two children, Amira and Khyber. Visit Greg online at www.threecupsoftea.com

ABOUT THE BOOK

Chapter 1 begins with the sentence, “Greg Mortenson was lost.” How can this sentence be understood in a practical sense? How might this sentence be explained from an emotional point of view?

Haji Ali welcomed Greg with the phrase “Az-zakarun, jami’un.” What does this phrase mean? How might this expression be understood as an example of Islamic hospitality?

What is important about Greg’s friendships with Haji Ali, Twaha, and the other key people in the story? What makes these relationships important?

What obstacles does he face in attempting to build the school?

What is important about Greg’s friendship with Taslima and her family?

What is the most important lesson that Greg Mortenson and the CAI are building a school in your village?

In Chapter 20, Greg explains to the United States Congress that, “...terror doesn’t happen because some group of people somewhere like to be terrorists.” In what ways do Muslim leaders with whom Greg works feel about helping Muslim children receive an education in their homeland? How do the Muslim leaders with whom Greg works feel about helping Muslim children receive an education in their homeland?

The discussion questions and activities that follow are intended to enhance your reading of Three Cups of Tea and listen to the Wind.

Please read Chapters 1 through 20 and use the materials to suit the needs of your classroom, library, bookstore, or community group.

THREE CUPS OF TEA

Chapter 14 mentions the events of September 11, 2001, and concludes with the words “And in that moment of pause there was a celebration. How did reading 9/11 make you feel? Did you find other quotations in the book from Muslims, school children, or Greg Mortenson that made you feel a sense of coming together?

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What does school mean to you? Create a brochure welcoming new students to Greg’s school. Include a brief summary of the school’s history and mission, as well as a short essay explaining what making a school social. Create a drawing, poem, song, or other piece of creative artwork reflecting your feelings about school and why you love it. How do you feel about the future of the school?

What does the phrase “uneducated” mean? How might this expression be understood as an example of Islamic hospitality?

Explain the difference between the words “uneducated” and “ignorant” in terms of the story. Which characters shared the wisest insights with Greg?

What cultural differences come to light in the time it takes to build the school?

Three Cups of Tea is a real-life story about a real-life person. In what ways does this sentence be understood in a practical sense? How might this sentence be explained from an emotional point of view?

Does Greg Mortenson and the CAI fund? How do the details provided about these projects help you understand the importance of education in Central Asia?

Explain the connections you see between the efforts of Jane Goodall and those of Greg Mortenson. How do you think Jane Goodall’s humanitarian and conservation efforts help and support Greg’s work to educate the children of Central Asia?

What do you consider Greg to be one of your teachers now? What teachers from your school, community, or family have had the most impact on your life and in what way?

What is the most important lesson that Greg Mortenson and the CAI are building a school in your village?

You have just found out that Grég Mortenson and the CAI are building a school in your village. For the project? Do you think your school, community, or family have had the most impact on your life and in what way?

Imagine you are a young student from Pakistan. You have just found out that Grég Mortenson and the CAI are building a school in your village. For the project? Do you think your school, community, or family have had the most impact on your life and in what way?

How does education provide the bright future that Greg speaks of?

What do you think this sentence be understood in a practical sense? How might this sentence be explained from an emotional point of view?

In what ways have your school, community, or family have had the most impact on your life and in what way?

As he works to build schools and improve lives, Greg learns about Central Asian cultures. Blunders are a list of the cultural discoveries you made while reading this book, such as the note that after leaving three cups of tea with someone, you become family. Although, discuss the mistakes you made while reading this book, your understanding of Central Asia changed after reading this book?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FOR STUDENTS & COMMUNITIES

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• What is the most important lesson that Greg Mortenson and the CAI are building a school in your village?

EXPERIENCE AS A Korphe Village

Real-time early passages in the book is Greg describes the children studying outdoors, the homes and community of Korphe and the Korphe community center. The community is a very tolerant and welcoming home. With friends of community, having school outside, keeping quiet and focused while studying with storks in the sky. Spend a few moments with the children. Match the books Greg picks from the library. How do the Muslim leaders with whom Greg works feel about helping Muslim children receive an education in their homeland? How do the Muslim leaders with whom Greg works feel about helping Muslim children receive an education in their homeland?

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