

**FACING THE LION: A BRIDGE TO KENYA  
ABOUT THE CURRICULUM**

**Facing the Lion: A Bridge to Kenya** is an interdisciplinary Language Arts and Social Studies curriculum and Service Learning program based on the book *Facing the Lion, Growing up Maasai on the African Savanna*, by Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton and published by National Geographic. Through this innovative program, we offer the tools to inspire global citizenship. By building a cultural kid-to kid bridge to Kenya through cultural understanding and meaningful service, this program will help your students to gain global insight, engage in self discovery, use critical thinking and find their youth voice.

Joseph Lekuton, author of *Facing the Lion, Growing up Maasai on the African Savanna*, was born in a cow-dung hut, went on to earn a Masters in International Education Policy from Harvard University, and now serves as a member of the Kenyan Parliament. In the book, Lekuton, recounts his coming of age passage to become a warrior in his nomadic Maasai tribe in Northern Kenya. The program is recommended for middle school students who themselves are coming of age or for high school challenged readers due to its high interest content.

When used as part of a Language Arts or World Cultures curriculum, **Facing the Lion: A Bridge to Kenya** offers American students a firsthand look at growing up in Kenya as a member of a tribe of nomads whose livelihood centers on the raising and grazing of cattle. Lekuton's riveting text combines exotic details of nomadic life with the universal experience and emotions of a growing boy. His first encounter with a lion becomes symbolic of the many challenges he will face in his life as he overcomes obstacles to achieve his goal of a college education. *Facing the Lion, Growing up Maasai on the African Savanna* is a moving, personal and often funny narrative of a journey of self-discovery was published in 2003 by National Geographic. The book has eleven chapters and 125 pages (hardcover) and is available in soft or hard cover.

Through participation in a Service Learning project to benefit **Cows for Kids**, which was established in partnership with Lekuton, students have the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of the people whose culture they have come to better understand. **Cows for Kids** provides livestock and livestock support as a form of economic security for nomadic families of Northern Kenya. The cows and goats produce milk and offspring. The future sale of full-grown livestock helps pay for school fees and the health-care needs of a family. **Cows for Kids** is committed to completing the circle of community service by connecting students with the people who benefit from their philanthropy. **Cows for Kids** is a program of The Boma Fund. All donations are tax deductible.

To find out more about how your school or organization can join the nationwide school program **Facing the Lion: A Bridge to Kenya** go to [www.cowsforkids.org](http://www.cowsforkids.org). Language Arts and Social Studies curriculum materials and Service Learning project suggestions are available for download and include:

- Vocabulary Lessons
- Literature Questions
- Social Studies Theme Overview
- Mapping & Geography Skills
- Unifying Theme Student Assignments
- Fundraising Basics and Service Learning Projects Ideas
- Service Learning Standards (NYLC)
- Social Entrepreneurship & Goal Setting
- Photo Gallery for Teachers and Students

At our website, you will also find useful links and interactive blog opportunities to further enrich your students' learning experience. Go to [www.cowsforkids.org](http://www.cowsforkids.org) today and start your students on the path to global citizenship.