Literacy Lowdown
To advance your wider reading

A Level students should:

- undertake wider reading.
- use factual texts and discursive / creative material.

Summary
This book challenges your preconceptions about Africa starting with the point ‘even when foreigners alight on truth, too often speaking up for Africa has become speaking for it, and defending Africa’s interests has become deciding them.’ The Virungas mountains in the Great Rift Valley are ‘fiery peepholes into tectonic fissure’, which will one day ‘rend Africa in two from Eritrea down to Mozambique’. A metaphor for socio-economic change and a growing divergence in understanding between Europe and Africa.

Specification Links
Migration does not rise with poverty but with development. Spend any time in the migrant centres in Sicily and you’ll find them full of middle class Africans, many of them graduates xix AQA 3.2.1.2 Unequal flows of people, money, ideas and technology within global systems. At the beginning of the C21st a pygmy hunter can be hunting a wild pig in a forest with a spear while, six miles overhead, an African billionaire crosses the continent in their private jet p24 Edexcel 3.7 Globalisation has led to dramatic increases in development, but also widening development gap extremities. Eduqas 3.3.8 Development in an African context. Because food aid was handed out for free, it killed the market for Africa’s commercial farmers OCR 5.a. Food is a geopolitical commodity

Key Quotes
The question of whether aid can harm is rarely raised. As little thought is given to the paradox that haunts even the best aid: that by doing good, by finding a noble purpose in the lives of others, you can end up subtracting that purpose from those lives; that by trying to liberate others, you may diminish them. Somalia p25

News began filtering through to Christendom of a Muslim king [the Mali empire] in Africa of almost impossible wealth. Europe’s reaction would set the tone for centuries of exploration to come. Genesis p54

The [1884] conference participants took a continent of more than 150 nations with porous boundaries and redrew it – literally, applying rulers and pencils to a map. Genesis p65

The bases seemed to symbolise the dilemma confronting all assistance. By designating one people as able to help and another as in need of that help, empowerment programmes could disempower. South Sudan p103

Over time, lower levels of the Nigerian state learned to take their lead from their political masters…perhaps the greatest damage done was to public trust. Politicians lied, banks stole, heads of industry bribed, even football players fixed – and the infection spread. Nigeria p263