Literacy Lowdown
To advance your wider reading

A Level students should:

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

Summary
Tim has written an extraordinary book on 10 different places which are constrained or liberated by their physical geography. The chapters stretch from the geopolitics of the 1,900-mile long Indian-Pakistani border to the 5.4 million mi² of the up-for-grabs Arctic Ocean. In this sheet the focus will be on Chapter 5 Africa. The continent remains underdeveloped but remember the words of Nelson Mandela ‘it always seems impossible…until it is done’.

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Specification Links
The world’s idea of African geography is flawed…Mercator world map p116-117 AQA 3.4.2.2 Cartographic Skills. The DRC p123-127 AQA 3.2.5.2 Natural resource issues Global patterns of production, consumption and trade/movements of energy and ore mineral. China in Africa p193-196 and Chapter 2 China p31-59 Eduqas 3.3 China or Africa in an Economic Context. Nigerian oil extraction Edexcel 6.5 The development of unconventional fossil fuel energy resources has social costs and benefits, implications for the carbon cycle, and consequences for the resilience of fragile environments. Apartheid and the ANC in South Africa p136-137 OCR Global Governance Option C 1.b. Patterns of human rights violations are influenced by a range of factors.

Key Quotes
Look again at the standard Mercator map and you see…Africa is actually fourteen times the size of Greenland. Africa p117

The word Sahel comes from the Arabic sahil, which means coast, and is how the people…think of it – as the shoreline of the vast sand sea. The Sahara p117

[Africa is held back by] a virulent set of diseases, such as malaria and yellow fever, brought on by the heat and now complicated by crowded living conditions and poor healthcare. Underdevelopment p118

Libya [is an artificial construct of] three distinct geographical regions. Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and Fezzan p122

[The DRC is] bordered by nine countries. They have all played a role in the DRC’s agony…known as ‘Africa’s world war’. The Democratic Republic of the Congo p125

Africa has been equally cursed and blessed by its resources. The resource curse p127

Chinese involvement is an attractive proposition for many African governments… p135