**Highlighted Reading**—**Teacher Suggestions**

**Article: “Why Genocide Matters”**

**Vocabulary—Before reading, have students highlight the following vocabulary words:**

Malaria-

Moral Compass-

Genocide-

Epidemic -

Resonates -

Espionage –

Maelstrom -

**Highlight the following: Have students highlight with you as you read aloud at a medium to fast pace.** **Use the following directions to move the students through the text.**

**1st paragraph**

Number killed in Darfur so far (as of September, 2006)

**2nd paragraph**

Number killed by malaria each year

**3rd paragraph**

What makes genocide special?

Why does the Holocaust evoke special revulsion?

**4th paragraph**

How is Sudan raising the stakes?

**5th paragraph**

U.N. warnings

**6th paragraph**

Three things the U.S. can do now to stop the genocide

**Then have students return to the vocabulary words they highlighted and work in partnerships to determine the meaning of each word from context and/or from prior knowledge. Have partnerships share their results with the whole group.**

Appendix #12b3

**Why Genocide Matters** by Nicholas D. Kristof.

It’s a fair question.

The number of people killed in Darfur so far is modest in global terms: estimates range from 200,000 to more than 500,000. In contrast, four million people have died since 1998 as a result of the fighting in Congo, the most lethal conflict since World War II. And malaria annually kills one million to three million people — meaning that three years’ deaths in Darfur are within the margin of error of the annual global toll from malaria.

So, yes, you can make an argument that Darfur is simply one of many tragedies and that it would be more cost-effective to save lives by tackling diarrhea, measles and malaria.

But I don’t buy that argument at all. We have a moral compass within us, and its needle is moved not only by human suffering but also by human evil. That’s what makes genocide special — not just the number of deaths but the government policy behind them. And that in turn is why stopping genocide should be an even higher priority than saving lives from AIDS or malaria.

Even the Holocaust amounted to only 10 percent of World War II casualties and cost far fewer lives than the AIDS epidemic. But the Holocaust evokes special revulsion because it wasn’t just tragic but also monstrous, and that’s why we read Anne Frank and Elie Wiesel. Teenage girls still die all the time, and little boys still starve and lose their parents — but when this arises from genocide, the horror resonates with all humans.

Or it should. But for whatever reason, Sudan’s decision to kill people on the basis of tribe and skin color has aroused mostly yawns around the globe. Now Sudan is raising the stakes by starting a new military offensive in Darfur — and by eliminating witnesses.

The government charged Paul Salopek, an ace Chicago Tribune correspondent, with espionage in an effort to keep foreign reporters away (on Saturday it released him after a month in prison). And even

African Union peacekeepers may be forced out of Darfur by the end of this month.

Twelve aid workers have been killed since May — more than in the previous three years. These killings are forcing aid groups to pull back, and the U.N. warns that if the humanitarian operation collapses, the result will be “hundreds of thousands of deaths.” If all foreign witnesses are pushed out, the calamity is barely imaginable.

We urgently need U.N. peacekeepers, even over Sudan’s objections. (If Sudan sees them coming, it will hurriedly consent.) The U.S. should also impose a no-fly zone from Chad and work with France to keep Chad and the Central African Republic from collapsing into this maelstrom.

President Bush showed an important flash of leadership on Darfur early this year, but lately he has fallen quiet again. He should appoint a special envoy for Darfur and use his bully pulpit to put genocide on the international agenda — for starters, by employing his speech to the U.N. General Assembly this month to remind the world of the children being tossed onto bonfires in Sudan. He could also announce that the U.S. will choose candidates to support for U.N. secretary general based in part on their positions on the genocide.

Appendix # 12b1