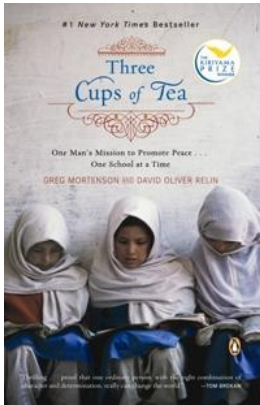


# Three Cups of Tea

Common Reading Selection for Wright State University Fall 2009



In *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . .*

*One School at a Time*, Greg Mortenson, and journalist David Oliver Relin, recount the journey that led Mortenson from a failed 1993 attempt to climb Pakistan's K2, the world's second highest mountain, to successfully establish schools in some of the



most remote regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan. By replacing guns with pencils, rhetoric with reading, Mortenson combines his unique background with his intimate knowledge of the third-world to promote peace with books, not bombs, and successfully bring education and hope to remote communities in central Asia. *Three Cups of Tea* is at once an unforgettable adventure and the inspiring true story of how one man really is changing the world—one school at a time.

In 1993 Mortenson was descending from his failed attempt to reach the peak of K2. Exhausted and disoriented, he wandered away from his group into the most desolate reaches of northern Pakistan. Alone, without food, water, or shelter he stumbled into an impoverished Pakistani village where he was nursed back to health.

While recovering he observed the village's 84 children sitting outdoors, scratching their lessons in the dirt with sticks. The village was so poor that it could not afford the \$1-a-day salary to hire a teacher. When he left the village, he promised that he would return to build them a school. From that rash, heartfelt promise grew one of the most incredible humanitarian campaigns of our time.



In an early effort to raise money he wrote letters to 580 celebrities, businessmen, and other prominent Americans. His only reply was a \$100 check from NBC's Tom Brokaw. Selling everything he owned, he still only raised \$2,400. But his efforts changed when a group of elementary school children in River Falls, Wisconsin, donated \$623.40 in pennies, who inspired adults to begin to take action. The 283 foot **Braldu Bridge** (pictured above) was completed in 1995 and the **Korphe School** (left) was completed in 1996. Since then, he's established 78 schools. In pursuit of his goal, Mortenson has survived an armed kidnapping, fatwas issued by enraged mullahs, repeated death threats, and wrenching separations from his wife and children. Yet his success speaks for itself.

*Three Cups of Tea is one of the most remarkable adventure stories of our time. Greg Mortenson's dangerous and difficult quest to build schools in the wildest parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan is not only a thrilling read, it's proof that one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, really can change the world.*  
-**Tom Brokaw**

"Greg Mortenson represents the best of America. He's my hero. And after you read *Three Cups of Tea*, he'll be your hero, too." -**U.S. Representative Mary Bono (R-Calif.)**

"*Three Cups of Tea* is beautifully written. It is also a critically important book at this time in history. The governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan are both failing their students on a massive scale. The work Mortenson is doing, providing the poorest students with a balanced education, is making them much more difficult for the extremist madrassas to recruit." -**Ahmed Rashid, best-selling author of Taliban: Militant Islam and Oil in Central Asia and Descent Into Chaos.**

"A Template For Peace" -**Bloomsbury Review**

Greg Mortenson has provided a [Three Cups of Tea Reading Guide](#) and a [Question & Answer Interview](#) for use in book clubs, interviews, classrooms, etc.