



## Optional Reading Guide for

### ***Mountains Beyond Mountains, by Tracy Kidder***

The all-school summer reading book this year, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, was chosen for two reasons: to deepen our understanding of the context of Haiti, where St. Edward has a partnership with Basile Moreau School in Carrefour, and to examine one example of a servant leader, Dr. Paul Farmer. As an individual, Paul is not perfect, and the author certainly does not shy away from including his flaws. But our quest in reading the book should be to identify the things that make him exemplary – the underlying parts of his character that drive his exceptional commitment to serve of the most poor and vulnerable and to achieve remarkable results in their care.

Paul is a physician and anthropologist, and the author includes some detailed medical terms in places, as well as frequent abbreviations (e.g. TB for Tuberculosis). Do not be overly concerned about the technical names or the processes of diseases. Rather, focus on the problems Dr. Farmer encounters, the choices he has to make, and the priorities he keeps in providing care.

*To check your comprehension, answer the following questions during or after reading. The last page includes additional resources to provide context and help you make meaning of the book.*

#### **Part 1: Dokte Paul**

##### **Ch 1:**

1. How did the author meet Dr. Paul Farmer?
2. About what did Dr. Farmer disagree with the American soldier, Captain Carroll?
3. What did Dr. Farmer do in Boston 4 months out of the year?
4. Where did Dr. Farmer live in the U.S.? In Haiti?

##### **Ch 2:**

5. What is Dr. Farmer's specialty at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston?
6. What disease in particular interests Dr. Farmer?
7. What does Dr. Farmer say he thinks when people call him a saint?
8. Why does Dr. Farmer say the author needs to come to Haiti?

**Ch 3:**

9. Emblematic of the challenges of transportation on roadways in Haiti, how long does the 35-mile trip on National Highway 3 last?
10. ZANMI LASANTE is Creole (the local language) for what name in English?
11. Why did the author consider PIH in Haiti to be a miracle? What was miraculous about it?
12. Where does Paul live in Haiti? What is supposed to be the distribution of his time in Haiti and Boston?
13. Who is in Paul's immediate family, and where are they?
14. What does Dr. Farmer mean by the use of "comma" in conversation?
15. What characteristics do all of Dr. Paul's patient encounters have in common?
16. According to the author, what are the roots of the Haitian people's belief in voodoo or magic?

**Ch 4:**

17. What was the result of farmers experiment and quotes that he conducted regarding TB patients when he was a 29 year old graduate student?
18. What insight did Paul understand when his Haitian patient asked, "Honey, are you incapable of complexity?"
19. What was the hydroelectric power project supposed to supply to the people of Haiti? And what happened to those who lived in the river basin?
20. According to Dr. Farmer, do the poor Hatians know that they live in poverty?
21. What does Dr. Farmer's acronym "WL" stand for?

**Part II: The Tin Roofs of Cange****Ch 5:**

22. How did he come to choose this life and this place?
23. Paul was one of how many children in his family growing up?
24. What was the Bluebird Inn from Dr. Farmer's past?
25. His father was nicknamed: \_\_\_\_\_

26. After young Paul Farmer read the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy at age 11, what did he read next that satisfied him?

27. Where did Paul first encounter Haitians? (Paul and his siblings tried to argue that white people don't do this thing.)

#### Ch 6:

28. How did Paul learn French?

29. Who did Farmer claim as a "mentor" for his medical study, despite his being dead for nearly a century?

30. "The Physicians are the natural \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, and the social problems should largely be solved by them," wrote this "mentor" of Paul's.

31. Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated in El Salvador because of his preaching of \_\_\_\_\_ Theology.

32. In learning more, Paul is impressed by the Church's declaration of its duty to provide a "\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ for the poor"

33. Haiti began as a \_\_\_\_\_ colony

34. Following a 1791 slave revolt (that not even Napoleon could put down), Haiti became Latin America's first independent nation and the world's first black republic in \_\_\_\_\_.

35. Note these 3 names that will appear throughout the story:

-Francois Duvalier (a.k.a. Papa Doc)

-Baby Doc Duvalier

-the *tontons macoutes*

36. What surprised Paul about the staff at the Hopital Albert Schweitzer, in the town of Deschappelles?

#### Ch 7:

37. What was the importance of Paul's line "tell me about your family" to Ophelia Dahl?

38. By what family nickname did Paul refer to Ophelia?

39. What is anthropology?

40. Under the rule of "Baby Doc" Duvalier, where did the money sent from the U.S. go instead of going to fix roads and build infrastructure?

41. What did Graham Green write to Ophelia in her book?

### Ch 8:

42. To Paul, tin roofs screamed poverty - the absence of tin screamed \_\_\_\_\_.

43. Farmer said he found his life's work not in books or in theories, but mainly through \_\_\_\_\_.

44. What is "the cult of resignation"?

45. Liberation Theology says Christ crucified is with \_\_\_\_\_.

46. How did the young doctor going home to the U.S. differ from Farmer?

47. Farmer didn't like the the Haitian Hospital required things to be paid for in advance, what did he decide to do?

48. Liberation theology required making choices among degrees of poverty. What was the poorest of the poor?

### Ch 9:

49. Where does Paul say that God can be found? (Unlike among most people at Harvard and Duke?)

50. What was the cause of the diarrheal disease common among children, and what solution was successful in reducing infant death?

51. What were the pieces of Farmer's public health strategy for Haiti? What was the importance of the school? How did Haitians feel about it as a priority compared to all of their other needs?

52. Who is Tom White? And what is his interest in Paul Farmers work in Haiti?

53. After Tom White gave Paul money for looking hungry, and Paul described how he signed his check over to a needy patient, Tom asked if Paul's approach wasn't impractical. What was Paul's response? "God \_\_\_\_\_."

54. What does Paul mean by saying that Tom's suggestion to "chuck it all" and work as a missionary in Haiti with Paul would be a sin?

**Ch 10:**

55. What was Paul's response to the political violence that he witnessed in Port au Prince with Ophelia? That is, what was he compelled to do that day?
56. According to Paul, what were the better questions peasants were asking?
57. How did Partners in Health get started? Who were the two early main funders? And what is the name of the sister organization in Haiti?
58. What did Partners in Health (PIH) say about the charge that such service to the poor creates dependence?
59. Their name for this, sending resources "down the steep gradient of inequality" is \_\_\_\_\_.
60. What are AMC's in the language of PIH ?
61. What did Ophelia say was one of Paul's most salient "priestly" qualities? (It was important after their decision to not get married.)

**Ch 11:**

62. What happened to prevent what would have been the first democratic elections in Haiti in a long time?
63. What was the role of the Catholic Church during the uprising?
64. How did Paul meet Jean-Bertrand Aristide? What were his first impressions of this leader and the Church?
65. What did Paul think of Aristide's run as president? How did he come to be removed from power?
66. What was the story of Chouchou? For what offense did he endure such a beating?

**Ch 12:**

67. What was Paul about to do when Jim Kim told him he was no good to anyone as a martyr?
68. In the confrontation with the soldier who walked into Zanmi Lasante, why is it that Paul was likely not injured or kicked out of the country?
69. How were Paul's book and his attempts to educate the American public about the situation in Haiti received?

70. Which event in 1994 precipitated Paul's return to Haiti?

71. Why did Dr Farmer think that Partners in Health would have to be content with a "somewhat marginal status" as a charity? That is, what did he say they were unwilling to do?

### **Part III: Medicos Aventureros**

#### **Ch 13:**

72. In addition to characteristics like race or gender, what characteristics almost all people on the wrong side of the epidemiology call divide share?

73. Tuberculosis (TB) is very prevalent worldwide, though mostly it is latent. What characteristics do most active TB patients share?

74. MDR stands for \_\_\_\_\_ .

#### **Ch 14:**

75. Who was Fr. Jack, and how did he get Partners In Health involved in Lima Peru?

76. What was Socios en Salud?

77. How did Fr. Jack die?

#### **Ch 15:**

78. DOTS stands for: \_\_\_\_\_.

79. The 10 patients who exemplified amplification went to the doctor sick and emerged sicker. What was the cause?

80. What happened when a MDR outbreak occurred in New York? How much was spent to stop it? What was frustrating about this to Paul and his colleagues with regard to Peru?

#### **Ch 16:**

81. How does Paul differ with the international TB experts with regard to the imperative to treat individuals? (This is why his talk was called "provocative" by the moderator in Chicago.)

#### **Ch 17:**

82. What was Paul's own illness that he ignored for too long?

83. What was the situation of the daughter of the Peruvian TB doctor to whom Paul gave a consultation? What did this say about the true feelings of TB experts in Peru?

**Ch 18:**

84. What was the dilemma faced by the Russians and their MDR-TB outbreak, having only six million dollars to treat?

85. Jim quotes famous anthropologist Margaret Mead, saying \_\_\_\_\_ was the only thing that could change the world.

**Ch 19:**

86. What is cost-effectiveness analysis?

87. When Ophelia contacts Paul and Jim about PIH financial problems, exceeding the money they had, which mainly had come from Tom, what two strategies emerge as possible ways forward for PIH?

**Part IV: A Light Month for Travel**

**Ch 20:**

88. Ophelia sums up Paul's situation fast when she says wherever he is, he is missing from \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Ch 21:**

89. According to the author, Farmers priority of patients, prisoners, and students includes whom?

90. Farmer had not put on the earth to make anyone comfortable except for his \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Ch 22:**

91. Which word did most Hatians use to describe themselves?

**Ch 23:**

92. What was Paul paid to lead the WHO effort against TB in Russia.

93. Who did they go to see in Moscow's central prison?

94. Why did Paul have to keep Alex Goldfarb "in check" during discussions with the World Bank about treating TB in Russia?

95. At the end of the chapter, Paul recognizes in conversation with the author that, for all of his influence, without his clinical practice, he \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Part V: O for the P**

## Ch 24:

96. What was the goal of the new PIH strategy for Peru?
97. What did Jim mean by saying that Paul is a model of what should be done, not of what has to be done?
98. How is Ophelia able to keep PIH in compliance with overtime laws? What was her secret?
99. How did Paul get to be in charge of the Russian project?
100. Why did the author say that the PIH approach to money was impractical? And yet, it appeared to be \_\_\_\_\_.
101. Dr. Howard Hiatt felt that Paul should spend less time in Haiti and more time solving world-wide problems. That is, until what event changed Dr. Hiatt's opinion of PIH in Haiti?
102. What made Zanme Lasante different than other medical sights, giving it unusually strong influence? It was the only one that chose patients based on \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_, and provided expert care for \_\_\_\_\_.
103. What political situation created financial issues for Zanme Lasante late in the year 2000 that made it difficult to operate?
104. The author said Paul didn't have a plan for his life so much as a \_\_\_\_\_.

## Ch 25:

105. What did Paul say John's father and three siblings died of?
106. John had a rare cancer. Why did John need to be treated in the U.S. instead of Haiti?
107. Why was the medivac flight a difficult decision for Serena, Ti Fifi and Paul?
108. After receiving the prognosis, what did Serena say were the rationales for bringing him to Mass General Hospital?
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.



109. What does Dr. Ezekowitz agree to following the episode?

**Ch 26:**

110. Regarding the approach to treating Alcante's family after he was cured, Paul says it is not a scattershot approach. "It's through journeys to the sick that we \_\_\_\_\_."

111. What are the two definitions of triage? How is the second definition related to the preferential option for the poor?

112. According to Paul, looking back at the case of John, why did they intervene as aggressively as they did?

113. What does Paul mean by the long defeat? What does it say about being on the side of the losers?

114. What does Paul say is the power of "unglamorous scut work" in disadvantaged places?

115. What does Paul say is the root of all evil in the world?

116. According to the author, how is the hike to Casse illustrative of how one person, Paul, exerts much influence over the world?

117. According to Ti Jean, what is the purpose of most, probably three quarters of Voodoo ceremonies? Answer to heal someone who is sick

**Afterward**

Note the impressive accomplishments of Partners in Health in Haiti and around the world.

**For More Information**

**About PIH and Dr. Paul Farmer**

- A recent profile of Dr. Farmer from the June 2015 issue of *St. Anthony Messenger*:  
<http://donistracy.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Paul-Farmer-2015.pdf>
- Dr. Paul Farmer's 2013 Ted Blog entry regarding his philosophy and a new book:  
<http://blog.ted.com/investigating-the-root-causes-of-the-global-health-crisis-paul-farmer-on-the-upstream-doctors/>
- Author Tracy Kidder discusses the book and reads an excerpt in this interview:  
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1472188>

### **About St. Edward Connections in Haiti**

- The documentary *Tributaries*, by Alec Battistoni '15 and Jon Poilpre '15 featuring the partnership between St. Ed's and Basile Moreau School in Carrefour, Haiti. <https://vimeo.com/121960756>
- A brief film from Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education about the Congregation of Holy Cross's work in rebuilding Basile Moreau School. <https://ace.nd.edu/haiti/video-school-rebuilding>