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## 🏔️ MOUNTAINS BEYOND MOUNTAINS 🏔️ – PEOPLE AND COMMONLY USED ABBREVIATIONS

When I'm reading a new book - I like to keep a list of who I am reading about so I don't confuse the characters. Here is my list from MBM - hopefully it's helpful to you too!

**Paul Farmer** - the main character!

**Ophelia Dahl** - Farmer's girlfriend who meets him doing charity work in Haiti

**Thomas White** - wealthy American who funds much of Farmer's work

**Didi Bertrand** - Farmer's wife

**Howard Hiatt** - medical school professor

**Jack** - priest in Peru and friend to Paul

**Jim Yong Kim** - doctor and anthropologist and friend to Farmer

**Jean-Claude Duvalier** - Dictator in Haiti

**Jean-Bertrand Aristide** - Haitian priest and politician who becomes the president of Haiti - but is overthrown by the military. He is supported by many Haitian people and Farmer.

**Jamie Bayona** - Harvard doctor and expert on MDR TB

**Chouchou Louis** - the man who is murdered by the army for his support of Aristide. Farmer writes an article about his murder for the Boston Globe and publishes it under a different name.

TB - tuberculosis

MDR - Multi Drug Resistant

DOT - Directly Observed Therapy

WHO - World Health Organization

PIH - Partners in Health

## 🏔️ MOUNTAINS BEYOND MOUNTAINS 🏔️ – VOCABULARY & BIG IDEAS 💡

Identify each word, how it is used in the book. *I have italicized the words that are NOT used explicitly in the book.*

Please be sure to explain how that CONCEPT is used in the book. The first half of the book is heavier on the vocabulary - as those same concepts and words repeat throughout the book - the second half of the book has more opportunities for you to share your reactions or predictions in open ended questions.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Choose **6** chapters from the book and complete the vocabulary work and the questions for 6 chapters. There are 5 parts to the book- you need to answer the questions for a chapter from EACH part and the 6th chapter is one of your own choosing from any part that is the most interesting to you. Please email me at [walterk@glenrocknj.org](mailto:walterk@glenrocknj.org) if you have any questions. I will be checking my email intermittently over the summer.

### PART 1

#### CHAPTER 1:

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS:	HOW IS IT USED IN THE BOOK?
Plateau:	
<i>Infrastructure:</i>	
Creole:	

Junta:	
Nation Building:	

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What does infrastructure look like in Haiti?
  
2. How are nation building, infrastructure, and migration related?

**CHAPTER 2:**

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Contrast the description of Boston's Hospitals and Haiti's from Chapter 1.

Medical Facility in Haiti:	Medical Facility in Boston:
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**CHAPTER 3:**

<b>DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS:</b>	<b>HOW IS IT USED IN THE BOOK?</b>
Infant mortality:	
Partners in Health/ <i>NGOs</i> :	

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Explain how colonialism affects the culture, religion, and the settlement patterns of the colonized (in general AND specifically in Haiti).

## CHAPTER 4:

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS:	HOW IS IT USED IN THE BOOK?
<i>Agribusiness &amp; the Second Agricultural Revolution:</i>	

### QUESTIONS:

1. How does lack of infrastructure relate to access to services? What did it take to check up on the patient? Why?
2. The last page of the chapter says: "To understand Russia, to understand Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Boston, identity politics, Sri Lanka, and Life Savers, you have to be on top of this hill... This view of drowned farmland, the result of the dam that had made his patients some of the poorest of the poor, was a lense on the world... Look through it and you'd begin to see all the world's impoverished in their billions and the many linked causes of their misery." Respond to this quote. How does it join together Human Geography concepts?

## PART 2

## CHAPTER 5:

### QUESTIONS:

1. Describe Farmer's transition between economic sectors. Where did he start? Where did he end up? How did he make this transition?

## CHAPTER 6:

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS:	HOW IS IT USED IN THE BOOK?
<i>Gender Inequality Index:</i>	
<i>Migrant Workers/Guest Workers:</i>	
<i>Pull Factors for Migration:</i>	

Romance Languages/ Indo European Language Family:	

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Kidder quotes Virchow in this chapter, "My politics are those of prophylaxis, my opponents preferred those of palliation." What does he mean by this? Knowing what you know about Farmer, how do you think he will apply this in his work?
2. How does ethnocentrism affect the perception of Voodoo?
3. How does colonization affect religion? Language? Culture? Use examples from this chapter as evidence.

**CHAPTER 7:**

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS:	HOW IS IT USED IN THE BOOK?
Urban Slums/ Squatter Settlements:	

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Explain Paul Farmer's theory of poverty.

**CHAPTER 8:**

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS:	HOW IS IT USED IN THE BOOK?
Squatter Settlements:	
Birth Rates, Death Rates, Life Expectancy:	

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What is liberation theology? Why might it be popular in Haiti?

## CHAPTER 9:

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS:	HOW IS IT USED IN THE BOOK?
Refugees:	
Census Data:	
Infant Mortality Rate:	
Luddite <i>vs. High Technology Industries</i>	
Women's Health, Education, and Fertility Rate <i>(and how they're related):</i>	

### QUESTIONS:

1. Farmer said, "Clean water and healthcare and school and food and tin roofs and cement floors, all of these things should constitute a set of basics that people must have as birthrights." Respond to this statement. Do you agree or disagree? How do you think he would change the inequality within countries? Between countries?
  
2. Infrastructure, if adequate and working correctly, isn't really noticeable. I don't think about the roads I drive on or the fact that when I go to wash my hands clean water comes out. What are some basic problems humans in countries that have little/no/failing infrastructure face? How does Farmer attempt to change those problems in this chapter?

## CHAPTER 10:

## CHAPTER 11:

### QUESTIONS & IDEAS TO CONSIDER:

1. Kidder mentions the fact that Farmer published the following article in the Boston Globe under a different name. What do you think the reaction was in the United States? Boston?

## Murder in Haiti: [City Edition]

Nyhan, David. *Boston Globe* (pre-1997 Fulltext); Boston, Mass. [Boston, Mass]19 Mar 1992: 17.

DAVID NYHAN

If there was ever a situation that cried out for a swift dose of the 82nd Airborne, it is Haiti's, where seven million people, unless they are rich or privileged, live at the mercy of bloodthirsty gunmen whose chiefs slither out from under rocks every time Uncle Sam looks away.

What follows is a letter from a doctor in Haiti, whose name must be withheld to prevent the killers -- the authorities, really -- from exacting retribution. For the same reason, all other names are changed:

"This is a brief account of the murder of `Chouchou' Joseph, who coughed up a great deal of blood on the morning of Feb. 26. Chouchou, a peasant, was killed in a country where 80 percent of the peasantry are illiterate. He knew no one who could put his story to paper.

"And since Chouchou was tortured to death in a country where a once-vibrant press is now silent, I take it upon myself to lay out the facts.

"To reveal my identity could mean permanent expulsion. It could also spell trouble for my co-workers, any one of whom could end up as dead as Chouchou Joseph.

"Chouchou's common-law wife, Chantal, is my patient. She has tuberculosis. She was doing fairly well until the father of her baby expired in their two-room hut. Chantal faces the unpleasant task of raising her daughter alone. Fortunately, the child will not remember her father's final hours.

"On Feb. 26, Chouchou, who'd been a handsome man in his mid-twenties, was scarcely recognizable. His face and left temple were swollen and lacerated; his right temple was scarred by an older wound. His mouth was a pool of dark blood, already coagulated; he had coughed up more than a liter in his agonal moments.

"His neck was also peculiarly swollen and . . . on his throat, the trace of a gun butt. His chest and sides were also badly bruised, and I would guess that he had a number of rib fractures. His genitals had been mutilated.

"Chouchou Joseph's back and posterior thighs were striped with deep lash marks. His buttocks were hideously macerated, with full exposure of his left gluteal muscles. Many of these stigmata were clearly infected.

"The beatings caused him to bleed, slowly at first, and then catastrophically, into his lungs. His head injuries, in any case, had not robbed him of his faculties, although this would have been merciful; it took Chouchou three days to die.

"The army, which `released' the moribund man on Feb. 25, scarcely took the trouble to circulate the rumor that he had stolen some bananas. Although complete fiction, that was the version I expected to hear on the radio. But the Haitian press is now so muzzled that not even a false version was broadcast.

"Only the frightened peasants of the region know how Chouchou died, and why." It was not his first beating in custody.

"The truth is that Chouchou, no stranger to the area's prisons, had already been marked as an outspoken advocate of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return. {Aristide, a Catholic priest, got 67 percent of the vote, but was overthrown by a military coup last Sept. 30.} One month after the coup, Chouchou was sitting in a truck en route to the town of . . . He made the mistake of speaking on behalf of Aristide's return.

"At the next military checkpoint, he was fingered by an un-uniformed soldier who had also been on the truck. The soldiers began beating Chouchou right there, in front of the other passengers, and they continued beating him in the military barracks in . . . The scar on his right temple was a souvenir of his stay over several days.

"Chouchou lived in fear of another arrest, his wife told me. His fears were well founded.

"Father Aristide was, and is, wildly popular here; in the impoverished village where I live, only a handful of votes were not cast for him

in a field of a dozen candidates.

"Chouchou Joseph was not killed because he is a supporter of Aristide -- practically everyone around here meets that description. He died because he dared to say as much out loud. This kind of gruesome murder is commonplace. There are whispered reports of similar killings throughout Haiti."

The doctor says Americans should not believe the US government's claims that returning boat people will not be persecuted. He contends it is folly to expect Aristide to coexist with the generals, to grant them immunity.

"Haitians elected Aristide precisely because they want desperately to end despotic and arbitrary rule. I saw Chantal yesterday. She had lost several pounds, troubling in a patient with tuberculosis. I'm amazed at her faith in a better tomorrow. I have a hard time hanging on to mine. I had to remove my stethoscope to make sure I heard her correctly: 'God is good,' she said without bitterness. 'God is stronger. One day we will triumph.'"

What do you think the reaction was in the United States? Boston?

## CHAPTER 12:

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS:	HOW IS IT USED IN THE BOOK?
United Nations:	
<i>Supranational Organizations:</i>	

### QUESTIONS:

1. *The Uses of Haiti*, the book Farmer wrote in Quebec City addresses the relationship between the United States and Haiti from a Haitian perspective. How might this perspective differ from those written from a US perspective?
  
2. Geographers conduct **personal interviews** and collect **field observations**. Define both and explain how Farmer's interviews and observations might differ from those of Ophelia. How might they differ from those of a person born in Haiti?

## PART 3

### CHAPTER 13:

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS:	HOW IS IT USED IN THE BOOK?
Epidemiological <i>Transition Model</i> :	

### CHAPTER 14:

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS:	HOW IS IT USED IN THE BOOK?
World Health Organization:	

#### QUESTIONS:

1. When **Supranational Organizations** like the UN or the WHO get involved in any country - that country loses a little bit of their own governing power in favor of a joint relationship with the countries that are a part of the organization. For example, during the pandemic, the United States withdrew from the World Health Organization based on the administration's lack of support for how the organization handled the pandemic and specifically how the WHO dealt with China. In Chapter 14 Kidder writes, "Word got back that guerrillas had planted the bomb because the pharmacy represented 'crumbs for the poor.'" How might this hesitancy about the involvement of supranational organizations explain the reception that the Partners in Health Pharmacy got in Peru?

### CHAPTER 15:

#### QUESTIONS:

1. The chapter ends with a contrast between MDR treatment in the US and MDR treatment in "developing countries." Share your reaction to that comparison.

### CHAPTER 16:

#### QUESTIONS:



1. Kidder writes, “The Peruvian authorities didn’t want to hear that their model TB program had a flaw, and it didn’t help that Harvard doctors brought the news.” Why might the authorities in Peru be leery to accept the advice of Farmer and other American doctors? Explain your thoughts here.

## CHAPTER 17:

### QUESTIONS:

1. React to Farmer’s statement in Chapter 17, “If I get sick, it’ll be nearly fatal.”

## CHAPTER 18:

### QUESTIONS:

1. Farmer and Kim work hard to create community based treatment for MDR TB in Peru. How do you think they might expand that program to be replicated or organized on a global scale? What **NGOs** or **Supranational Organizations** could help with this? How?

## CHAPTER 19:

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS:	HOW IS IT USED IN THE BOOK?
Ethnicity:	

### QUESTIONS & IDEAS TO CONSIDER:

1. In Chapter 19 we see Farmer and Kim think about globalizing their tactics to get low cost drugs (remember when they described the cost for the same drug they were trying to get for Peru?). Why might globalizing their work lead to lower drug costs? Is this true of other products? What are some of the effects of a global economy?

## PART 4

### CHAPTER 20:

#### QUESTIONS:

1. In Chapter 20 Farmer says, “It can’t support eight million people, and there they are. There they are kidnapped from West Africa.” In human geography we talk about **Environmental Determinism** (meaning that the environment determines how humans use the environment and how culture develops) and **Environmental Possibilism** (meaning that humans are capable of adapting and changing their culture in any environment to meet their needs). What are your thoughts about Determinism vs. Possibilism? Which of these apply to the situation Farmer is talking about

### CHAPTER 21:

#### QUESTIONS:

1. In Chapter 21 Kidder tells of a discussion Farmer has with some Harvard professors, she explains, “[the professors] said that the Scandinavian countries offered the best examples of how to provide both excellent public health and political freedom. Farmer said they were talking about managing wealth. He was talking about managing poverty. Haiti was a bad example of how to do that. Cuba was a good one.” What do you think he means by that? Explain your thoughts. Do you agree?
2. It is clear from Kidder’s description that the infrastructure in Cuba (a **Unitary State**) is far better than that of **Haiti** (a Federal State). Explain why this might be the case..

### CHAPTER 22:

#### QUESTIONS:

1. In Chapter 22 Kidder describes Farmer when she says, “At moments like that, I thought that what he wanted was to erase both time and geography, connecting all parts of his life and then tying them instrumentally to a world in which he saw intimate, inescapable connections between the gleaming corporate offices of Paris and New York and a legless man lying on the mud floor of a hut in the remotest part of Haiti. Of all the world’s

errors, he seemed to feel, the most fundamental was the ‘erasing’ of people, the ‘hiding away’ of suffering. ‘My big struggle is how people can not care, erase, not remember.’” Respond to this quote. Is this a reality that could happen? Explain your thoughts.

### CHAPTER 23:

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS:	HOW IS IT USED IN THE BOOK?
World Bank:	
<i>International Monetary Fund:</i>	

#### QUESTIONS:

1. **FIND AND WATCH** any interview with Farmer. Share the URL of what you found and write your reactions and response to the video you found here!

## PART 5

### CHAPTER 24:

#### QUESTIONS & IDEAS TO CONSIDER:

1. Describe the funding problem that Farmer describes in Chapter 24. How are community health networks funded in poor countries? Why is it that way? Can you imagine a better process? What is it?
  
2. Read the excerpts from the article below ([here is a link to the full article if you'd like](#)) - which is the one referenced in Chapter 24 from *The Lancet* Journal. Farmer said in the chapter, “I think, sometimes, that I’m going nuts, and that perhaps there is something good about blocking clean water for those who have none, making sure illiterate children remain so, and preventing the resuscitation of the public health sector in the country most in need of it.” *After reading the excerpts below of the personal stories from his article, why do you think Farmer is so frustrated when funding prevents treatment? Share your reactions.*

#### Panel 4: Adeline, 34 years old



Adeline, 34 years old, was born in the village of Kay Epin. Of Adeline's eight siblings, five are living. Her parents are peasant farmers, although her father supplements his income by helping to run a local school. Adeline grew up in the village, leaving rarely except to accompany her mother to market. When she was 18, she left for Port-au-Prince to continue her

primary education. Adeline didn't remain in school for long—her grades were poor; the cost of tuition, high—and she ended up in a part-time vocational school, where she learned to sew and embroider. She lived with a sister in Cité Soleil, a slum on the northern edge of the city. Finding enough to eat was a constant struggle. Not long after her arrival, Adeline married Joel, a young man from the Central Plateau. Joel fell ill shortly after their son was born, and Joel died only a year later.

Adeline does not know what killed him, but now assumes it was HIV. When Adeline's son was about 2 years old, she met Ronald, the father of her second child. He's still around, she notes, "but I'm no longer with him. He doesn't help me at all with feeding these children. I never see him."

During her early twenties, Adeline had an episode of pneumonia, which led her back to our clinic. She was also diagnosed with herpes zoster, which led to her diagnosis of HIV infection. For almost 10 years, Adeline's therapy was limited to treatment of opportunistic infections. By early 1999, Adeline's chronic enteropathy no longer responded to antimotility agents. By October, she weighed 79 pounds and could no longer get out of bed. In November 1999, Adeline began therapy with zidovudine, 3TC, and indinavir. Her diarrhoea disappeared within 2 weeks; she gained 26 pounds in the first 5 weeks of treatment.

#### Panel 2: Enna, 26-years-old



Enna has already had six children. Born to an impoverished family in Savanette, she was sent to Port-au-Prince as a *restavék*—a child servant—at 10 years of age: "I used to mop the floor and cook. I also used to babysit." Enna was not paid but "they gave me food to eat." At age 14, she was raped: "A

man who was a friend of the family where I was staying raped me. He waited until no one was home, then he jumped on me. I was just a child; I did not know what was happening. This happened four times, and then I was pregnant. The family [in Port-au-Prince] sent me away." Enna returned to Savanette, where she almost died in childbirth. She later sold produce in regional markets and in Port-au-Prince. At 18 years of age, while sleeping in a communal market depot, Enna was raped by three men. "I didn't see them, so what could I tell the police? Besides, I was afraid of the police." Enna regards "my entire life as a disaster. I had three children for two different men, but neither of them would help me [financially]." In 1997, sapped by recurrent fevers and chronic diarrhoea, she was diagnosed with tuberculosis and HIV co-infection. Treated for tuberculosis, she gained weight but later developed oropharyngeal candidiasis and mental slowing. She lost weight and had intermittent diarrhoea. Enna received zidovudine during her sixth pregnancy, but the newborn baby died of severe jaundice. When her weight dropped to 108 lb, she was started on a regimen of zidovudine, 3TC, and efavirenz. She gained 9 lb in the first 6 months of therapy and now has no symptoms.

#### Panel 3: St Ker, 41-years-old



St Ker, is from the village of Savanette. After completing 4 years of primary school, his parents could no longer pay tuition. "I went to Port-au-Prince to learn how to become a welder. I worked in factories." He lost his first job when the company he worked for was sold. He has since been intermittently employed. St Ker fathered two children, but his marriage foundered: "We used to

argue about money. Then I became sick and she left me." He later struck up a relationship with another woman, who bore him another child, but by then, the summer of 1998, he was too sick to work. He had chronic diarrhoea and weight loss.

"I wandered from clinic to clinic [in Port-au-Prince], but no one could tell me what was wrong. So I came back here." St Ker was diagnosed with HIV in June 1999, when he presented to our clinic with cachexia, chronic enteropathy, anaemia, and mucocutaneous candidiasis. He was treated with broad-spectrum antibacterials and loperamide, but continued to lose weight. He suffered cognitive decline and by May 2000, was too weak to stand. When his weight dropped to 90 lb, St Ker was started on a regimen of zidovudine, 3TC, and efavirenz.

"I feel that these drugs have been miraculous. My diarrhoea stopped and I started to gain weight." His candidiasis and odynophagia disappeared by December 2000, when St Ker weighed 140 lb. He is ready to resume his work as a welder.

## CHAPTER 25:

### QUESTIONS:

1. How was John's story as Kidder describes, "an object lesson in the difficulty of Farmer's enterprise"?

## CHAPTER 26:

### QUESTIONS & IDEAS TO CONSIDER:

1. As we end our reading - use Chapter 26 goes back to some of the early discussions of culture and Voodoo. Why do you suppose culture has developed in this way? How does the world perceive it? Why?

2. Reflect on the book - what are your takeaways? Questions? Comments? Concerns? Is there anything you'd like to further research or study? Why?