



AAU Free Printing & Publishing Proposal: Teaching Material in Sociology, Social Work and Public Health

Walking Between Worlds

**Letters to the Second Generation of the
Ethiopian Diaspora**



1975



Author & Intent

- Author: **Aynalem Adugna, PhD**— practitioner, teacher, bridge-builder
- Not rank, but witness; method translated into use
- Ten chapters, each ending with a Fireside Interlude (letters)
- Length by design (~150,000 words): completeness that equips



Why This Book — Why Now

- Fifty-year arc: Age 14 → Age 64
- Dual register: US systems ↔ Ethiopian application
- Second generation as hinge (double literacy)
- Usefulness > tools that travel



Structure

NARRATIVE + LETTERS (INTERLUDES)



Architecture of the Manuscript

- 10 Chapters: lone walk → household of twelve → public-service practice
- 10 Fireside Interludes: distilled tools & questions per chapter
- Portable tools:
 - Fix the denominator
 - Map the gap
 - Co-locate services
 - Make measures legible
- Audience: second-generation diaspora, civic practitioners, general readers



Narrative Anchors

SCENES & PORTRAITS THAT CARRY
THE METHOD



Excerpt — The Lone Walk

*“Hyenas in the hills, math
in my head—endurance as
my first fluent language.”*



Excerpt — Two Fathers, Two Lines

*“A tailor who kept boys from
feuds; Two roofs, two rooms in
my heart.”*



Excerpt — The Biffles

“I named the ship; she drives it. A council of second-gen Ethiopians who run on jokes and logistics—and serious friendship done right.”



Excerpt — Parenting in Diaspora

*“What we could not buy, we built.
What we could not control, we
narrated—so our children would not
mistake chaos for fate.”*



Method & Measurement

FROM STORY TO TOOLS



Household Portraits & Diaspora Parenting

BETHLEHEM, ABEL, AMERTI, ANDREAS



Household Portraits — Children

- Bethlehem (Betty):
 - Homecoming Queen; DEI/NAACP/ACLU; Stanford; bilingual ease
- Abel:
 - Amharic comprehension; taekwondo red-black; math acceleration
- Amerti:
 - Cheer via persuasion; straight A's; Valedictorian, UC Davis
- Andreas:
 - Student leadership (9–12); Three Amigos; inclusive logistics



Return & Responsibility

ADDIS TODAY; DIASPORA AS HINGE



Use Cases for AAU & Partners

- Course adoption: diaspora studies, policy, development practice
- Community seminars: interludes as discussion guides
- Policy labs: IBR + legibility workshops
- AAU ↔ diaspora networks: internships, capstones, co-authored briefs



Critical Contributions to AAU's Teaching

FIVE WAYS THIS BOOK SERVES
AAU CLASSROOMS



Contribution 1 — Weaving Personal & Professional

Patience & perseverance as teachable method

- Personal headwinds: stepmother years; midlife stalls (work permit wait)
- Professional scaffolding: maps, measures, field operations
- Pedagogical value: perseverance without romanticizing hardship
- Classroom use: pair a scene with an operational tool



Contribution 2 — A Usable Bridge to Ethiopia

From inheritance to action

- Interludes as letters: portable guidance for re/connection
- On-ramps: internships, capstones, ministry partnerships
- Respecting place: adapt tools to language, law, cadence
- Outcome: belonging → service, not slogans



Contribution 3 — Rebuke of Diaspora Hate

Civics over spectacle

- Rejects armchair extremism from the safety of exile
- Centers governance, not grievance; bread before banners
- Ethic of speech: evidence, empathy, proximity to impact
- Forum use: debate modules testing claims against data & cost



Contribution 4 — “The Harvest I Bring”

Breaking jargon — raising competence

- Research translated for grandparents & policymakers
- IBR example: legible bands tied to policy levers
- Design principle: count right; explain simply; act locally
- Teaching kit: one-pagers, worked examples, town-hall scripts



Contribution 5 — A Sixty-Year Bridge: Eritrea Then and Now

From a father's deployment to renewed tensions at the Ethio-Eritrea border

- Opening frame: father deployed to Eritrea; household reshaped by distance
- Sixty years on: border tensions return; echoes across families
- Use as longitudinal case: what persists, what changes, what can be repaired
- AAU prompt: student-led bridges that lower rumor and raise competence



Department of English — Applications

*Narrative craft, rhetoric, translation,
public writing*

- Close reading as method lab: scene → claim → evidence → counter-reading
- Rhetorical analysis of interludes: ethos, pathos, logos; audience & stance
- Genre translation: interlude → policy memo → op-ed → reflective essay
- Translation praxis: Amharic/Oromiffa lines rendered for clarity & fidelity
- Public-facing writing: briefs, one-pagers, FAQ sheets for non-specialists
- Oral history & editing: consent, accuracy, ethics of representation



Why AAU Free Printing & Publishing

- Archive of Ethiopian social memory
- Actionable civics for youth at a hinge—letters designed for use
- Plain-language method—research that travels beyond paywalls
- Amplifies AAU's role as a continental hub for scholarship + practice



Thank You

We welcome editorial guidance and a path to free printing & publishing at AAU.

Contact: AynalemA@gmail.com

- +1 (707) 333-7822