RECOMMENDED READING & MEDIA FROM GHANA
1

Homegoing: A novel
Yaa Gyasi

- A New York Times 2016 Notable Book
- One of Oprah’s 10 Favorite Books of 2016
- NPR’s Debut Novel of the Year
- One of Time’s Top 10 Novels of 2016

2

Making Futures
Sangu Delle

Written by Ashesi University Director Sangu Delle, this book brings together 18 young entrepreneurs from 14 countries doing incredible work across the continent.

3

My First Coup d’Etat: And Other True Stories from the Lost Decades of Africa
John Dramani Mahama

Chronicles the coming-of-age of former Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama in Ghana during the dismal post-independence “lost decades” of Africa.
Learning How to Play to Win: What Has 50 Years of Independence Brought Ghana? A Personal View of a 'Returnee'  
Nana Araba Apt

If you are interested in cultural and political conditions in Ghana, consider this book by the late Dr. Nana Apt, the founding Dean of Academic Affairs at Ashesi University.

Bright Lights, No City: An African Adventure on Bad Roads With a Brother and a Very Weird Business Plan  
Max Alexander

The hilarious story of two brothers, a truckload of batteries, and a brilliant plan to bring light--and new business opportunities--to Ghana.

For more Ghanaian literature, consider Marilyn Heward Mills, an emerging author whose two publications are based on historical moments in Ghana--Cloth Girl and Association of Foreign Spouses.
YEAR OF RETURN, GHANA 2019

2019 was named the ‘Year of Return’ by the Ghanaian government. The initiative encourages members of the African diaspora to come to Ghana to settle and invest in the continent. The year 2019 was symbolic as it commemorated the 400th anniversary of the start of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The initiative also recognizes the diaspora's achievements and sacrifices in the time since that event. Many international celebrities, politicians, and world leaders visited Ghana in 2019 to participate in speakers’ series, music festivals, cultural expositions, and other events highlighting Ghanaian culture.

How Ghana’s Historic Homecoming is Changing Africa
CNN Africa uncovers the appeal of Ghana’s ‘Year of Return’ campaign. “We are finding now that the diaspora wants to experience their culture and feel accepted in a place where racism is not so engrained as in many parts of the West,” says Ana Lucia Araujo, Professor of History at Howard University, of Ghana’s appeal.

Year of Return: The African Americans Moving to Ghana
This BBC Africa video shares the stories of young African Americans who have decided to move to Ghana. “For me, coming back here and reuniting with my ancestors makes me feel at home. I have a culture, I have a people, I belong,” says interviewee Angela (pictured).

Conan O’Brien Explores Ghana
As part of his series ‘Conan Without Borders,’ the TBS host traveled to Ghana with Ghanaian-American actor Sam Richardson. Follow Conan as he learns cultural dances, appears on Ghana’s number one cooking program, explores Accra’s marketplaces, and meets a local artist who specializes in creative renderings of movie posters.
THE 1619 PROJECT

An ongoing initiative from the New York Times observing the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery.

FEATURED STORY

Jacqueline Woodson on Africa, America and Slavery’s Fierce Undertow

The African-American novelist journeys to Ghana, once a hub of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, as the nation invites descendants of enslaved Africans to call it their “home.” But can you go home again? This article features photos from Ashesi alumnus Francis Kokoroko ’10 (above).
2018 Annual Report
Learn about our achievements and innovations over the past year, including welcoming 1,013 students, receiving our presidential charter, and completing five new buildings on campus.

The Ashesi Way of Liberal Arts
As Ghana’s first liberal arts college, Ashesi offers students a broad intellectual grounding and seeks to provide them with the skills and depth of perspective needed to become ethical leaders in their communities.

Fostering a Culture of Ethical Leadership
The success of our graduates as innovators tackling the continent’s toughest problems is proof that a university can effectively model, foster, and instill a culture of ethics and leadership. Here is how we do it.

Empowering African Women
Ashesi has built a strong reputation around empowering African women as university graduates. Here, we share our work to recruit and support women students at Ashesi.

Ashesi Venture Incubator (AVI)
The AVI is a one-year incubation experience for recent graduates and alumni of Ashesi University. The incubator is a program of NEXT I2I, which is a collaboration between Ashesi and MIT D-Lab.

Friends of Ashesi Podcast
This podcast offers a new opportunity for you to hear directly from the Ashesi community about issues relevant to our mission, Ghana, and Africa at large.
In March 2002, Ashesi started its first class in a rented building in Labone. 17 years later, the university has grown to become one of the finest in Africa, with a pioneering model of education that is now a blueprint being adopted by others across the continent.