

Welcome

Hello! from ZimLibrary with Love, as this is the month of love. How was your valentine's day? Did you donate a book on the 14th? International book giving day? If you haven't don't worry, we are still accepting donations at the Library, just pop in and a child will be eternally grateful. The year is still very young, are you reading? This is the best time to be retraining your mind and increasing your growth game. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for travelling with us on this journey, if you are just joining us, buckle up, take a book and lets have a good booky time



Author time: Saturday reading club members, making stories from magazine cuttings

Story of the month-Beacon of hope

“Bad Libraries build collections. Good libraries build services. Great libraries build Communities”

The first time I saw that quote, I read it over and over again, pondering in what class our library falls into. Is it a bad library? We sure have quite an impressive collection of personal development books (modelled after Bill Gates' reading list!), children's story books and some textbooks. Is it a good Library? We sure offer internet, homework support, typing, photocopying among other services. Is it a great Library? Well, having grown up in a typical African family, we were extolled on the virtue of not blowing our own trumpet, so I paused. We are a community Library, but are we building our community?

It was a noisy Saturday morning (we have those sometimes), when this lady walked in, a young boy in around grade 4 in tow. Something just didn't add up, but I could not put my finger around it. The lady spoke to us for several minutes and only then did I notice that the boy had hardly said a word.

The Lady, explained that the boy was her son and she couldn't afford to send him to school, someone in her street had told her that there is a library where children are taught to read and think.

"I figured that if I at least pay for him to come here, he will be able to read and at least be better than I am." We were at loss for words, we run reading clubs usually based on school level, but this boy was last in grade three and we were his only shot at a future.

The boy was extremely quiet, to a point where we even thought he was mute, the day his mother came with him to the library, but now a month later, he actually takes part in the animated debates and activities we are guilty of exposing the children to.

Every Saturday when we see him come through to the reading club, we are reminded of our existence. Even when we are feeling tired and beat down, he always reminds us that, we might not wear bright blue costumes and red cloaks, or shoot lasers from our eyes but there is someone out there who at least has a shot at life because we dared to dream proclaim that; EVERY CHILD CAN READ, EVERY CHILD MUST READ AND NO CHILD SHOULD BE LEFT BEHIND!



"A LIBRARY IN THE MIDDLE OF A COMMUNITY IS A CROSS BETWEEN AN EMERGENCY EXIT, A LIFE RAFT, AND A FESTIVAL. THEY ARE CATHEDRALS OF THE MIND; HOSPITALS OF THE SOUL; THEME PARKS OF THE IMAGINATION."

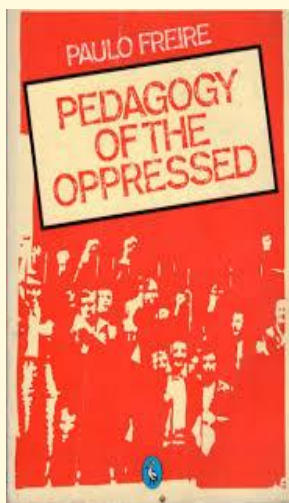
CAITLIN MORAN

Book Review: *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*

If you work in the field of development and you haven't read this book, then you should make it a top priority on your reading list. The title sounds like a treatise for guerrilla leaders or freedom fighters but I assure you, it is that and more! The book offers a whole new look at oppression, education and development. The most powerful assertion being **"This, then, is the great humanistic and historical task of the oppressed: to liberate themselves and their oppressors as well."** Who knew oppressors also need liberation??

Freire writes about the theory of education in the context of a revolutionary struggle, while the revolutionary theory he wrote about is Marxist and Brazilian, it is very relevant in any context, particularly the African context, given how most of our independences came on the back of Marxist philosophies. The education programmes he describes are focused on the poor and downtrodden- the "have-nots"

The book is guaranteed to open the eyes of anyone committed to the development of other people, you will never operate in the same way after reading it.



Freire presents a mix of education, dialogue, poverty, consciousness, and liberation. He shares how the powerful have historically dehumanized much of society through subtle yet oppressive means via the aforementioned themes. One of his most outstanding lines of reasoning derives from coming alongside of the poor as the starting point in authentic dialogue paving the way for true education and ultimately liberation of the oppressed.

One of the most striking points Freire makes is on what he calls Problem-posing education where he says: You start learning with inquiry, with actual questions you need to answer, based in needs in your life and community. Learning shouldn't be "preparation" for school, but be actual learning through life. Not abstractions, but concrete realities. Helping students to become more fully human, helping them see that they do not have to dwell in tedium but can actually take action against inequities and injustice. "...to alienate human beings from their own decision-making is to change them into objects."

RUWA PRIMARY SCHOOLS MATHS OLYMPIAD

Join us on the 31st of March at Old Windsor Primary School as over ten schools battle it out for the championship in the Maths Olympiad. Pupils from Grade 5 to 7, from Schools within Ruwa, engage in a mathematics competition, sponsored by ZimLibrary. See you there!

February Highlights



Our reader of the month is Tendai Mago (right). He read a total of 9 books

Members doing puzzles during the Saturday reading club

Moving in line with technology, we now have a website for your convenience. Visit us at

www.zimlibrary.org.zw



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Thank You!