

## Welcome

Welcome to our 5<sup>th</sup> issue of the ZimLibrary newsletter! Habari gani? Makadini? Linjani? Mwapona biyeni? Vho vuwa hani? Ku njani? Dumelang? Mulibwanji? Muli shani? Salaam-Alaikum. Well, perhaps you are wondering why we are greeting you in all these African languages. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of May we celebrated Africa Day, in commemoration of the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The OAU is the precursor to the African Union (AU) which we have today, so we are feeling very Pan African, we hope you are too, and as always we appreciate the time you spare for reading our newsletter.



20 books added this month including the development bible "From third world to first world", and CPS Rava Shona grade 1 series of books

**Our mission is to ensure every person has access to books in Zimbabwe.**

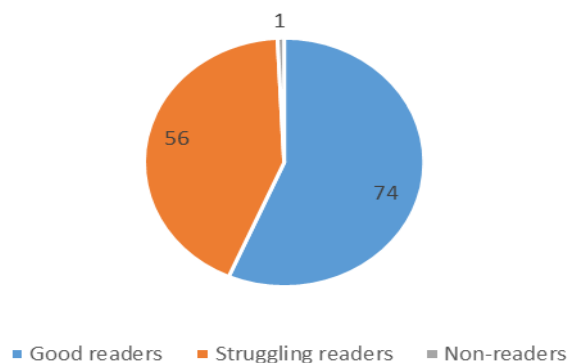
## Why your child's school needs a library?

Children are not born good readers. Reading, like any other skill is taught. They rarely, just naturally, love reading. We see what happens when we introduce toddlers to books. They fall in love. They carry their favorites around and admire the pictures over and over again. As they grow older and learn how to read, they love reading even more.

At the beginning of this term, we tested the reading skills of 131 pupils in 4 schools (2 private and 2 government) schools. I remember, one beautiful 9-year-old girl in grade 4 at a private school. She could speak very fluent English. She took at least 5 seconds trying to decipher each word. I waited patiently for three minutes as she struggled through the 60 worded passage. The sad part is that she was not the only one, 55 others out of the 131 struggled to finish the passage. That represents 47% of the children tested from grade 2 to 7 who struggled with their reading. Children may struggle with reading for a variety of reasons, including limited experience with books, speech and hearing problems, and poor phonemic awareness. Reading ability is linked to long-term success.

Many of the children we tested told us that they had no books to read at home. They also have very few books to read at school. The evidence suggests strongly that educators can foster reading development by providing children with access to books and reading instruction.

Results of Reading Tests



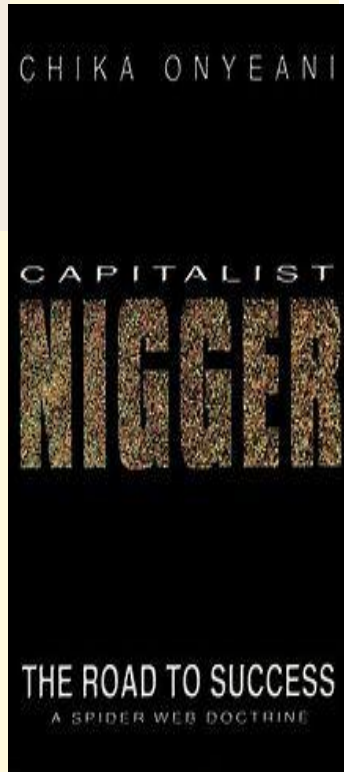
Schools with **functional libraries** are linked to **improved reading abilities** of students regardless of student poverty levels and overall staffing of the school. There is evidence that a well-run school library has an impact on pupils' literacy levels and enjoyment of reading. ZimLibrary is now providing school library services to schools without libraries. This ensures that each school has a library where the children have access to more than 2000 books delivered to their school 'library'.

## Book Review: Capitalist Nigger

Have you ever received a verbal lashing? That is exactly how I felt as I read CAPITALIST NIGGER. The book was written by an angry man, a fact he acknowledges when he says "I have often been accused of sounding angry, but if you are aware of the fate of the black race, I ask you why are you not angry?"

The book chastises the Black race as a consumer race and not a productive race. We like music but sadly there is no African company that makes music instruments, our houses are full of Japanese made radios! The Black Race depends on other communities for its culture, its language, its feeding, and its clothing, despite enormous natural resources," according to the author, "Blacks are economic slaves because they lack the "killer-instinct" and "devil-may-care" attitude of the Caucasian, as well as the "spider web economic mentality" of the Asian."

The author speaks at length about how Blacks are quick to blame situations and others for their misfortune; racism, colonialism, slavery.



"We must abandon the victim mentality baggage that we've carried for so long: the notion that somebody owes us something," the author says. "We've got to stop whining and stop begging. The Black race needs to wake up and stand on its own feet."

The book heavily criticizes African leaders, who have allowed Europeans and others to pillage and plunder Africa's wealth, without anything to show for it, other than more starvation, disease, and dictatorships. "We have as little today than when most of the African countries received independence from their colonial masters,"

The book is very provocative, starting right from the use of the "N" word which he dismissed beautifully with an African Proverb "it is not what you call me but what I answer to that matters the most." He does not just criticize but he also offers solutions as to how the black race can also up their game and take their rightful place among other races in the world. A definite must-read for every African!

## April Highlights



*Our reader of the month is Yvety James (left) in Grade 6 who read 6 books this month. Well done!*

*(Right) School library in session.*



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Thank You!