ZimLibrary Newsletter - October 2016

Welcome

Gosh, it's hot, the weather is beyond terrible! That of course will not wipe off the smiles on our faces as we bid you a good month. It is our hope that you are keeping well and voraciously reading. Robert RR Martin author of a song of Ice and fire, adapted into the TV Series Game of Thrones said, readers live a thousand lives while nonreaders live only once. Allow us to take you on yet another small journey as we bring you what we have been up to this month. May you always keep in mind how grateful we are for the time you take to read, this newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoy writing it!

Children reading aloud stories to each other

Reasons Why You Should Read to Your Children

- **A stronger relationship with you.** As your child grows older, they'll be on the move—playing, running, and constantly exploring his environment. Instead of being seen as a chore or a task, reading will become a nurturing activity that will bring the two of you closer together.
- **More logical thinking skills.** It increases their ability to grasp abstract concepts, apply logic in various scenarios and utilize good judgment. As your child begins to relate the scenarios in books to what's happening in their own world, they'll become more excited about the stories.
- **The knowledge that reading is fun!** Early reading for toddlers helps them view books as an indulgence, not a chore. Kids who are exposed to reading are much more likely to choose books over other forms of entertainment.

Story of the month- A Father's Gratitude

ZimLibrary has been running the school library at Destiny Primary school for two terms now. In that short time, there have been significant changes among the children. 53% of the students at the school had been classified as good readers at the initial reading test baselines. By the end of the term, this figure had increased to 68%.

Recently, Dinika, one of the library staff attended the Speech and Prize giving day at the school. He was met with a frenzy of wide smiles and frantic waving, chanting "uncle, uncle", by the children.

One of the parents sitting next to him remarked, "*I noticed the kids were very excited when you got here, but I don't remember seeing you at the parent teacher meetings*." Dinika explained that he was neither a teacher nor a parent but from the library.

"*Thank you for the amazing work you are doing, my daughter is now always reading, and her English has improved so much, I was surprised the other day when she told me about segregation*," the father said.

The father had so much praise and appreciation for ZimLibrary. It had even reshaped the dynamics at his house. His daughter was no longer constantly fighting with her sibling over the TV remote. She was now content to sit and read book. She was now always asking about new words and telling lots of stories. Later, Dinika was also introduced to the wife who also expressed the same gratitude.

This experience made him understand the impact the Library program was having, not just on the daughter whom we directly work with, but also the entire family.

Book Review: The Audacity of Hope- Barack Obama

Hope in the face of difficulty. Hope in the face of uncertainty. The audacity of hope! In the end that is God's greatest gift to us…A belief in things not seen. A belief that there are better days ahead. Barack Obama can be described as a legend, the first black American president of the USA. Almost everyone who reads, or has ears has heard about him. But in a country which has struggled with race issues what prompted the American voters to vote him into the Oval Office?

In the book, Obama lays out his simple philosophies on life and an alternative form of politics. The book's subtitle: Reclaiming the American Dream, points to an aspiration for a dream once expected but now no longer certain. The book is a rallying cry to a new brand of politics, where in his own words he says "we are getting more alike than different. Every republican is 40% Democrat and vice versa. He instead looks at the points of mutual interest than the areas of conflict. He actually comes out as a simple ordinary guy, a family man, who has known suffering, been through it and actually understands the electorate.

The book arranged in chapters, offers a crash course in American politics and actually has the effect of making the reader also believe in the Audacity of Hope. Obama writes the book in a captivating yet informative way that really brings out his convictions and also shows all of us how there is another way. The Chapters in the book are: Republicans and Democrats, Values, Our Constitution, Politics, Opportunity, Faith, Race, The world beyond our borders, and Family.

October Highlights

Our reader of the month is Lenin Makunike (Left) He read a total of 6 books.

Part of the Saturday reading club, watching an interactive video (Right)

We wish good fortune to our lovely library patrons who are writing their Advanced and Ordinary Level Examinations

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