



## DURING YOUR BOOK DRIVE

The heart of your book drive is collecting gently used books that will be treasured by African readers.

### Collecting Your Books

- If you are collecting books in a public space, set up large, waterproof containers (box, barrel, basket, etc.) in central, convenient areas. Make a display to explain your project. Be creative - make your display big, bold and beautiful!
- In some cases, you or your donors may want to purchase books. You can leverage the Amazon wish list on our [Resources page](#) of culturally diverse titles that we have put together for recommended primary books or secondary books.
- Keep track of the books you collect. Post a progress report or a progress "thermometer" near the collection box to keep people updated and engaged.

### BOOKS YOU SHOULD TRY TO COLLECT

- Mix of children's fiction, books with universal themes (friendship, animals, love)
- Children's nonfiction - Scientific books for students, reference materials like dictionaries
- Children's books teaching life skills about topics such as health, hygiene, adolescents and careers
- Books about Africa or African-Americans
- Children's books with diverse characters



## WHAT BOOKS SHOULD YOU **NOT** COLLECT FOR YOUR BOOK DRIVE?

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- Books filled with small, dense print that might be too intimidating or unfitting for the age level
- Books with lots of slang, which may be difficult for English learners to follow
- Books for young children that have many references to appliances and electronic gadgets
- Books written in any language besides English (U.S. or U.K.)
- Adult paperback romance novels
- Books that are heavily focused on United States or Canadian history or government
- Books about North American or religious holidays (Easter, Halloween, Christmas, 4th of July, etc.)
- Anything that evangelizes or promotes a particular religion
- Magazines except for children's educational magazines and National Geographics less than five years old

# SORTING YOUR BOOKS

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Make sure you are sending the right kinds of books. Your books should be of the reading age assigned by your container manager.

For books you can't use, you can:

- Re-sell to raise funds
- Donate to Goodwill, a local library, a jail, or a shelter
- Ship to Better World Books (BWB) for them to sell online. BWB will then donate a portion of the profits back to ALP, though not to your specific book drive.

Sort your books by size to make packing easier. If possible try to sort so that each library gets a variety of reading levels.

