



Book drive organizer Bela Gal et al.

## 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



Photo Credit: Creative Stars

## 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

**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.**

