



The Story Gift Project

Literacy is more than learning skills and practicing drills. It's when you fall in love with reading that your possibilities open. It's when you connect the dots between words and ideas and actions that your world changes. When you can enjoy reading for its own sake - and not because Teacher made you do it - that's when the magic happens.

A word that is more magical than abracadabra or hocus pocus is *free*. The Story Gift Project is an effort to extend the magic of reading for fun by giving free books to people who may not otherwise own and enjoy a book. The Spoken Word, whose mission is to use the arts and culture to serve the community, will use the Story Gift Project to acquire and then donate books to underserved or disenfranchised communities.

The Story Gift Project started in October, 2012 with a donation to H. D. Woodson Senior High School in Washington, DC of two cartons of books through First Book. It continues with support to Ballou Senior High School, also in Washington, DC, with support for their annual February event, the African American Read-In, organized by librarian Melissa Jackson. The Read-In has been endorsed by the International Reading Association. Over a million readers of all ethnic groups from the United States, the West Indies, African countries, and more have participated. The goal is to make the celebration of African American literacy a traditional part of Black History Month activities.

Future plans for The Story Gift Project are to reach adult learners by offering book discussions and writing workshops to augment traditional literacy programs and to provide books to patients in psychiatric facilities. We invite your support of literacy for adults and/or children. Tax-deductible donations to The Spoken Word for The Story Gift Project can be made by check to:

The Spoken Word
PO Box 29316
Washington, DC 20017

Receive more information at joyjones100@cs.com

Here's What Being Said About 'The Story Gift Project'

Because of your thoughtful donation our students have new books to pique their interest... Thank you for remembering that it takes a whole village to raise our children. We are glad that you are part of our village.

S. Michele Rucker, Counselor, H.D. Woodson Senior High School