

THE NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN



***Join over a million readers during the month of February in the
Twenty-Sixth National African American Read-In***

About the African American Read-In

During the month of February, schools, churches, libraries, bookstores, community and professional organizations, and interested citizens are urged to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month. This can be done by attending or hosting an African American Read-In in your community or workplace. Hosting a Read-In can be as simple as bringing together family, friends, and colleagues to share a book, or as elaborate as arranging public readings and media presentations that feature professional African American writers.

In 1990, the first African American Read-In was sponsored by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English. In 1991, the National Council of Teachers of English joined in the sponsorship. Over a million readers of all ethnic groups, from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the West Indies, and African countries have participated. Based on host reports submitted from 1990 - 2014, the African American Read-In has reached over 5.5 million participants. African American Read-In founder and National director Dr. Jerrie Cobb Scott explained "the goal is to make the celebration of African American literacy a traditional part of Black History Month activities."

Host an African American Read-In

You are invited to celebrate Black History Month by hosting an African American Read-In during the month of February. African American Read-In hosts are selected for their interest, experience, and knowledge in organizing groups, selecting appropriate reading materials, and **promoting literacy**. We ask only that reading materials be selected from works authored by African Americans, professional or novice writers, and that each host return, after the event, the Host Report Card by March 15, 2014. Only those who return the Report Card are considered to be formal participants. To be counted as participants, please follow these three steps:

- Select books, speeches, poems (anything) authored by African Americans;
- Hold your event during the month of February; and
- Report your results by submitting the African American Read-In Host Report Card by March 15, 2015.

The main responsibilities of African American Read-In hosts are to plan an African American Read-In, select a site, invite participants, submit a host report, and have fun!

Types of African American Read-Ins

Over the years, African American Read-Ins have varied in size and scope, but what remains the same is the focus on promoting literacy and raising awareness of works written by African American authors. Many hosts have found it useful to rearrange the meeting time of an organized group to coincide with the date and time of the African American Read-In. Some hosts have also solicited funds to purchase books and refreshments for attendees. You can also be creative in where you host your event. Hosts have reported that events have been hosted in schools, universities, churches, libraries, bookstores, coffee shops, homes, and more. Remember, there is no single recipe for organizing an African American Read-In, so do what you do best!

A few examples are provided below:

- ✓ Gather family and friends in your living room
- ✓ Invite a professional writer to share her or his work
- ✓ Host a book club meeting
- ✓ Develop a formal program featuring students, teachers, and/or school system leaders
- ✓ Host a poetry reading
- ✓ Coordinate a district-wide or campus-wide event

Resources

Each year we produce resources to help individuals coordinate and host African American Read-Ins. These resources include bookmarks and recommended booklists. For more information please visit www.ncte.org/aari.

Submitting Your Host Report Card by March 15, 2015

After you have hosted your African American Read-In, please submit your Host Report card by March 15, 2015. The Host Report Cards are used to compute the number of participants, and these individual reports are then converted into an Annual Report Card on the African American Read-In. As host, your name will be added to the database, giving tangible evidence of your role in making literacy a significant part of Black History Month.

We have provided two quick options for submitting your host report. You can use the online version of the Host Report Card located online at <https://secure.ncte.org/forms/aari> --or-- print the Host Report Card on the following page and return it by fax, postal mail, or email.

To be considered an official participant, you must submit a report card after the event. Together, we are creating a tradition, and we want you to be a documented part of that tradition.

Program Contacts

Dr. Jerrie Cobb Scott
Program Founder & National Director
University of Memphis (retired)

Dr. Mila Thomas Fuller
National Council of Teachers of English
Deputy Executive Director
(217) 278-3628
aari@ncte.org

2015 AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN HOST REPORT CARD

Please return the host report to:

National Council of Teachers of English
c/o The National African American Read-In
1111 West Kenyon Road
Urbana, IL 61801-1096
Fax: (217) 328-0977
Email: aari@ncte.org

--or--

Complete the following online form:

<https://secure.ncte.org/forms/aari>

Host Information

Full Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City, State, and Zip Code: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone Number: _____

Read-In Information

Mailing Address: _____
City, State, and Zip Code: _____
Date of Event: _____
Total Number of Participants: _____
Hosting Organization, if applicable: _____
Sponsored by*, if applicable: _____

*Please identify if this is different from the hosting organization.

Selection of Books and Authors Read: Please list the title(s) and author(s) featured. This information will be used to assist in compiling future booklists. If you have more than five, please attach an additional list.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

I GRANT PERMISSION TO BE LISTED AS AN AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN HOST ON PUBLISHED RESULTS OF THE READ-IN. AS A HOST, I WILL COMPLETE AND RETURN REPORT CARDS BY MARCH 15TH.

Printed Name: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____