

PRESS RELEASE

THE NINETEENTH NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN

***Join over a million readers in the
Nineteenth National African American Read-In
Sunday, February 3, 2008
Monday, February 4, 2008, for Schools***

Schools, churches, libraries, bookstores, community and professional organizations, and interested citizens are urged to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month by hosting and coordinating Read-Ins in their communities. Hosting a Read-In can be as simple as bringing together family and friends to share a book, or as elaborate as arranging public readings and media presentations that feature professional African American writers.

To be counted as participants, simply:

- Select books authored by African Americans;
- Conduct your read-in(s) on the days designated; and
- Report your results by submitting the 2008 African American Read-In Report Card.

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. The Read-In has been endorsed by the International Reading Association. Over a million readers of all ethnic groups, from 49 states, the West Indies, and African countries have participated. The goal is to make the celebration of African American literacy a traditional part of Black History Month activities.

To receive information on the African American Read-In, contact:

**Linda Walters
Administrative Liaison Specialist
NCTE
1111 West Kenyon Road
Urbana, Illinois 61801
(217) 278-3632
Fax: (217) 328-0977
E-Mail: lwalters@ncte.org**

NINETEENTH NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN

***SUNDAY, February 3, 2008
MONDAY, February 4, 2008, FOR SCHOOLS***

HOST INVITATION

You are invited to celebrate Black History Month by joining and hosting a Read-In as part of the nineteenth national African American Read-In. Originally sponsored by the NCTE Black Caucus and the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), it also has been endorsed by the International Reading Association. This year's goal is to document at least 1 million readers.

WILL YOU CONSENT TO SERVE AS A READ-IN HOST?

Read-In hosts are selected for their interest, experience, and knowledge in organizing groups, selecting appropriate reading materials, and promoting literacy. The main responsibility of hosts is to plan a Read-In, including selecting a site and inviting participants. Hosting a Read-In can be as simple as gathering with family and friends to share books, or as elaborate as arranging large audiences to hear professional writers read their work. 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. Others have solicited funds to purchase books and refreshments. Read-Ins are varied, so do what you do best.

We only ask that reading materials be selected from works **authored by African Americans**, professional or novice writers, and that each host **return, after the event, the Read-In Report Card by February 28th**. Only those who return the Report Card are considered to be formal participants. To invite other hosts, simply copy this invitation and the host report card and send them forward. THANKS!!!

CONTACT PERSONS

FOUNDER & NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Dr. Jerrie C. Scott
University of Memphis
Coll. of Educ.--123-B Ball Hall
Memphis, TN 38152
(901) 678-5490
Fax: (901) 678-3881
E-Mail: jcscott@cc.memphis.edu

NCTE Contact

Linda Walters
Administrative Liaison
NCTE
1111 West Kenyon Road
Urbana, Illinois 61801
(217) 278-3632
Fax: (217) 328-0977
E-Mail: lwalters@ncte.org

2008 AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN

HOST REPORT CARD

DIRECTIONS

The Host Report Card should be submitted after your Read-In.

The Host Report Cards are used to compute the number of readers each year. To submit your report, choose option 1 or 2 below.

How to Report:

1. Print the “Host Report Card” on the following page and return it by fax or mail. You may also e-mail the information to: lwalters@ncte.org

OR

2. To submit online, return to the African American Read-In Homepage and click on “**Host Report Card (Online Version)**”.

PLEASE REPORT

