**Primary Teacher Training: Classroom Libraries**

**Q: What are classroom libraries?**

**A:** Your classroom library is a bookshelf filled with children’s books in English and Kinyarwanda. We have tried to provide at least 50 books for each classroom. The bookshelf can be kept unlocked while the teacher is present but should be locked when the teacher leaves the room and at the end of each day before hygiene (so the books do not get wet or dirty when learners are mopping).

**Q: What are the rules for the classroom library?**

**A:** Here is the list of rules that students must follow when using books from the classroom library. We will present all rules to the learners in the morning, and then each of you will receive a copy of the rules for your classroom.

**Q: What is the punishment if learners steal or destroy a book?**

**A:** The teacher will inform the Head Teacher or DOS, and he will take a decision for him/her.

**Q: What happens if a teacher loses a book?**

**A:** Be attentive. Watch students as they are reading to make sure they don’t take the books. If you notice a book is missing, inform the DOS or Head Teacher about what has happened.

**Q: How can I use the classroom library?**

**A:** You can use the classroom library in many different ways!

* In the morning or after lunch when you are waiting for learners to arrive, you can read to learners or ask learners to read silently or with a partner.
* You can ask learners to read if they finish their notes or exercises early.
* You can ask learners to read while you are marking papers or exams.
* You can read to learners after break to make them calm.
* You can use the books in your lessons.
* Any other ideas?

**Q: How can I use books in my lessons?**

**A:** Children’s books can easily be incorporated into your CBC lessons! Books can be used to introduce learners to many different topics, or to practice different skills. They can be used in any English lesson, but they can also be used in math, SET, social studies, or religion lessons.

Some curricula have units that are all about reading/stories. These are:

* P1, Unit 10: Storytelling
* P2, Unit 5: Stories and Descriptions
* P5, Unit 3: Reading
* P6, Unit 6: Reading Books, Writing Compositions and Examinations

Other units can be introduced or practiced by reading a book to the whole class. For example, in P1 English, Unit 3: People at Home and School, you can read the book “The Family”. For P6 English, Unit 7: Animals, you can read the book “Dinosaurs”. There are books on HIV, feelings, sharing, animals, sports, numbers, weather, the Bible, and *much* more! Look through the books in your classroom library (or those in the classes below and above) so you know what kinds of books you have. That way, when you write your lesson plans, you can be thinking about which books would be appropriate to use.

Example: *Fora, Ndi Nde?* and *Akanyoni Keza*

**Q: How can I motivate learners to enjoy reading these books?**

**A:** We are starting a reading incentive program to encourage a love of reading at our school! For P1, P2, P3, and P4, teachers will read the books to their students. Each time they read a book, they will mark on their Class Reading Log. They will record the date they read the book and the title of the book. When they have finished 7 books, all learners in that class will receive a prize!

In P5 and P6, learners must read 5 books **independently** to receive a prize. After they finish a book, they will use a page from their notebook to write their name, their class, the date they read the book, the title of the book, the author of the book, and what they understood from reading the book (English and Kinyarwanda are both OK). Once they have read and recorded 10 books on their reading log, they should give the papers to the teacher. Then the teacher will give the papers to me, and I will bring them their prize.

**Murakoze cyane! Merci beaucoup! Thank you very much!-**