

**READ to RISE** is a non-profit organisation committed to promoting youth literacy in schools in South Africa's under-resourced communities.

As our name indicates, we believe that children need to **read** in order to **rise** in their personal development and contribution to society.

**Children who love reading excel at school and go on to become constructive members of society. It all starts with reading.**

We aim to address the troubling reality that young children in our communities are not reading as much as they require for their educational development. Children in the foundation phase should be reading around 40 books per year; in our under-resourced communities children are reading only 1 to 2 books per year.

The root causes of this low reading level are:

1. Most children come from homes without books and have never owned a reading book.
2. Most children do not have access to adequately-stocked libraries at their schools or in their communities.
3. Most children are not inspired and motivated to read.

We have designed the 3 components of our programme to directly address these root causes of poor reading levels.

## 1. BOOK OWNERSHIP

Book ownership is an important step towards children's love of reading. Children who own books and come from homes where books are available perform much better at school. We distribute brightly coloured, high quality books that are educational, entertaining and inspirational. Our programme introduces books into many homes for the first time giving parents the opportunity to read with their children, and giving children the chance to share the magic of reading with siblings and friends.



## 2. MINI-LIBRARIES

***If we can't take children to a library, we will take a library to the children.***

To address the absence of libraries we created the mini-library, which is a brightly coloured bookshelf containing 50 new, age-appropriate, covered reading books in a mix of languages that reflects the children's home languages. The mini-library is placed in the classroom and managed by the teacher, who is now able to ensure that learners are reading the required number of books per year and can monitor their literacy progress.



## 3. CLASS VISITS

A critical part of our programme is that *we do not just drop books and mini-libraries off at schools*, rather, along with volunteer readers, we personally visit every classroom to which we contribute. This is central to our efforts to inspire learners to read and to create excitement about learning.

We have designed a highly interactive session which engages learners in reading and comprehension. We use brightly coloured posters and props, we read to the learners and conduct a reading session with them. Lastly we use song to instil the excitement about reading.





## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Volunteer** - Volunteer to join us for our classroom visits to read with children, to distribute books and to create excitement about reading. You could also volunteer to cover books in plastic or volunteer to support our operations.

**Sponsor** – Select a school of your choice and sponsor books and/or a mini-library for one or more classes.

**Donate** – Make monthly or once-off financial contributions to fund the purchase of books or help fund our operations.

**Become a READ to RISE Ambassador** – Liaise with a school of your choice, raise funds for the books and organise volunteers to read the books to children.



“We would like to salute READ to RISE for making high quality books available to young children; this will encourage them to read.”

- Principal, Mandalay Primary School, Mitchells Plain

“We cannot express adequately how much we appreciate the team of wonderful energetic people who gave the children two of the best days of the year at school. We are deeply grateful to you all and thank you sincerely.”

- Administrator, Nokuphila School, Tembisa

“My child came home with one of these books. He was so excited, he asked me to read to him, which was something new. When I finished, he asked me questions and then explained the story to me in detail. I didn’t realise a book could bring so much joy to a child.”

- Parent, Highlands Primary School, Mitchells Plain



Learners at Nokuphila School, Tembisa

## READ to RISE

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Let’s Read to Rise

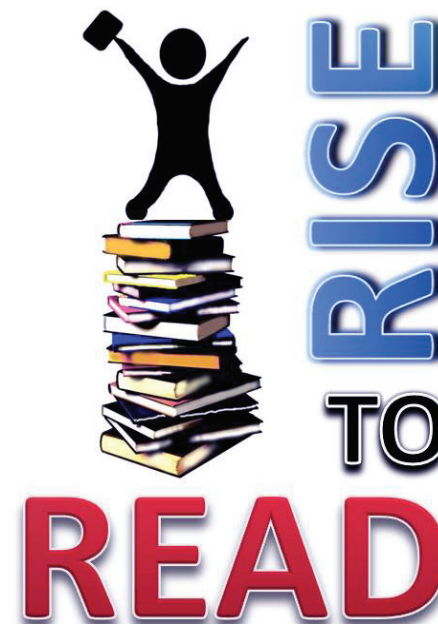
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## Promoting youth literacy



*Inspiring children to read  
and giving them access to  
new reading books*



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