

SORT YOUR BOOKS

The purpose of sorting is to send to Africa only those books that are truly useful for your African readers. The remaining books should be donated, swapped or sold elsewhere. This will save you postage money and ensure that every book you send is well used.

Send more paperback books, as they are cheaper to ship. Send hardbound books only if your funds allow.

1,000 paperback books cost about \$130 to ship, while 1,000 hardcover books can run up to \$500. There is also a \$300 flat international shipping cost.

Send only books in good condition. Most books that appeal to Americans will also appeal to Africans.

DO SEND BOOKS THAT FIT YOUR AFRICAN PARTNER'S TYPE OF LIBRARY:

If you are donating to a **PRESCHOOL** (ECCD Center):

- Baby Board Books
- Children's picture books
- BIG books

If you are donating to a **PRIMARY SCHOOL**:

- Baby board books
- Children's picture books
- Children's fiction and non-fiction
- Early readers
- BIG books
- Teacher's resource books for school libraries
- Children's dictionaries/picture dictionaries
- Encyclopedias less than 15 years old
- Children's encyclopedias/picture encyclopedias
- Children's thesauruses

Paperback textbooks in math, English, geography, health, and science at appropriate level (K to 6th grade).

Send no more than two copies of any textbook; these will be used for teacher resources.

- Books with universal themes (friendships, animals, love)
- Children's books teaching life skills about health, hygiene, adolescence and careers
- Accurate up-to-date atlases
- Books about Africa or African-Americans
- Educational children's science and literary magazines in good condition
- Brain teasers, flash cards, educational games and puzzles

If you are donating to a **SECONDARY** or **HIGH SCHOOL**:

- Juvenile literature
- Children's fiction and non-fiction
- Teacher's resource books for school libraries
- Dictionaries
- Encyclopedias less than 15 years old
- Accurate up-to-date atlases
- Thesauruses

Math books from 6th grade up, including algebra, geometry, and pre-calculus, English books (focusing on grammar or comprehension), geography books, health books, science books including general science, biology, chemistry, and physics at appropriate level. Send no more than two copies of any textbook, these will be used as a

teacher resource.

- Life skills books about health, hygiene, adolescence, careers, etc.
- Books with universal themes (friendships, animals, love)
- Books like Chicken Soup for the Soul (inspiring stories with life skills lessons)
- Books about Africa or African-Americans
- Educational kids science and literary magazines in good condition
- Brain teasers, flash cards, educational games and puzzles

If you are donating to a **COMMUNITY LIBRARY:**

- Any of the books listed for Primary and High Schools
- Agriculture
- Animal husbandry
- Gardening
- Health
- Business
- Current events
- Ecology
- National Geographic, less than 5 years old, especially with articles featuring Africa.
- Books about Africa or African-Americans

Book Examples by Reading Level

4th grade titles:

- Horrible Harry by Susan Kline
- Junie B. Jones series by Barbara Park
- Magic Treehouse series (4th grade and below) by Mary Pope Osborne
- Because of Winn-Dixie and Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo
- Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

6th grade titles:

- The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi
- The Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins
- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
- Harry Potter series by JK Rowling

7th/8th grade titles:

- Lord of the Rings series/The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien
- Books by Jerry Spinelli
- The Maze Runner Trilogy by James Dashner
- Maximum Ride series by James Patterson

DON'T SEND but donate elsewhere:

- Books that are filled with small, dense print that might be too intimidating or boring for the age level
- Books with lots of slang, which may be difficult for English learners to follow
- Books for very young children that have many references to appliances and electronic gadgets.
- Adult paperback romance novels
- Books about United States or Canadian history or government (but **DO SEND** books about African-Americans)
- Books about North American or religious holidays (Easter, Halloween, Christmas, 4th of July, Thanksgiving, April Fools Day, Valentine's Day, Chanukah, etc.)
- Books that evangelize or promote a particular religion
- Magazines except for children's educational magazines and National Geographics less than 5 years old

What can you do with books that you collect but don't send? Here are a few ideas.

- Donate them to your local library, jail, or shelter.
- Organize a book sale and use the money to help fund your shipping costs.
- Ship them to Better World Books (BWB) for them to sell online, and BWB will donate a portion of the profit to the African Library Project (not your specific book drive). Here's how it works:
- Check at Better World Books website to see the types of books they collect.
- If you have 200+ sellable books, email reusefirst@betterworldbooks.com. Include how many books you have, your phone number and that you want the books to support the African Library Project.
- BWB will set you up with free shipping through UPS or a freight pickup (depending on the volume) and donate 10% of net sales of your books to the African Library Project.
- If you have raised enough money to cover the shipping costs yourself to BWB, they will give you a tracking code and the address of their warehouse and return 30% of net sales to ALP.
- Let us know that you have sent books to Better World Books so we can look for their donation to ALP on your behalf.