



Books & Beyond

read. learn. teach. grow.

A Note to Our Readers

This book is a compilation of stories from TEAM Schools (Newark, New Jersey), Indiana University's Global Village Living-Learning Center (Bloomington, Indiana), and Kabwende Primary School (Kinigi, Rwanda).

Working in pairs, IU's Global Village students mentor TEAM Schools middle and high school students, and together the partners develop short stories that are compiled in an anthology along with stories from the Kabwende primary fifth (P.5) and sixth (P.6) grade students. The book, along with teacher training guides and professional development workshops, is a resource for the students and teachers in Rwanda who are learning English. In the United States, the anthology is sold with the profit returned to support the project. Along the way, students are acquiring skills in authoring, mentoring, collaborating, intercultural communication, grant writing, documenting, and fund-raising.

As you read the stories, it is important to remember that all the student authors have grown up under challenging circumstances, with different sets of worries and different childhood experiences. Students in Newark face large achievement gaps, and nearly a third of the city's population live below the U.S. poverty line, but with hard work, determination, and the help of those around them, students are able to overcome their adversities. In Rwanda, the students' challenges are reflected in their stories. Some of the Rwandan stories are taken from oral traditions while others are the unique creations of the Kabwende students. Some of the following stories bear witness to poverty and violence, but each story also teaches an important lesson. Friendship, daily life, responsibility, concern for family, community, and the environment are strong themes throughout.

We encourage all readers to read the stories, enjoy them, and learn about each other's cultures.

—*The teachers and students of the 2011 Books & Beyond project.*

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