

JDC NEWSLETTER

We Participated!

African American Read-In Host Report Card

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A Professional Association of Educators in English Studies, Literacy, and Language Arts

African American Read-In Host Report Card

The host report cards are used to compute the number of readers each year. Individual report cards are then converted into an annual report card on the African American Read-In. Also, your name is added to the database, giving tangible evidence of your role in making literacy a significant part of Black History Month.



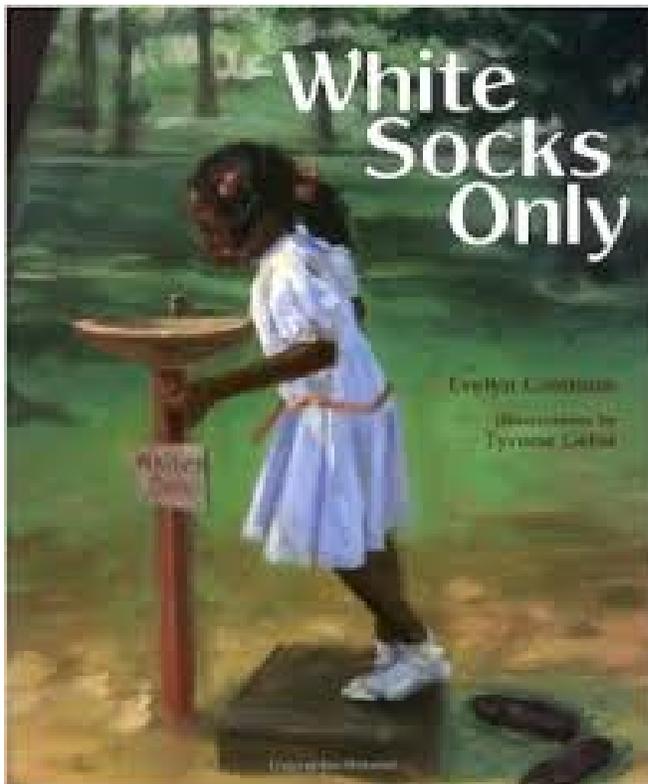
To be an official participant, you must submit a report card. Please submit the report card by March 15. Remember that we are creating a tradition and we want you to be a documented part of that tradition.

Please note: By submitting a report card, you grant permission to be listed as an African American Read-In Host on published results of the Read-In.

Thank you for participating in the African American Read-In.

American Read-In

Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring Program partnered with young men and women residents at the Juvenile Detention Center to host an African American Read-In. Participants read and discussed "White Socks Only" by Evelyn Coleman. They compared problems in communities and how people come together to transform their communities. Participants' writings are published in this issue of the JDC Newsletter.



In "White Socks Only," what were problems in the neighborhood?

"One of the major problems was violence."

"Racism, segregation, feeling left out."

"White folks in the neighborhood were racist."

"Discrimination." (continued on p. 4)



TRANSFORMING MY COMMUNITY

What is a problem in your community?

"Drugs."
"Violence."
"Stealing."
"Skipping School."
"House Robbery."
"Car Jacking."
"Theft."
"Hitting Licks."
"Drinking."
"Dogs."
"Guns...Weapons."
"Unprotected Sex."
"Rape."
"Bullying."
"Abortions."
"[Having babies] just for checks."
"Teachers."
"[Not Enough] Free Programs."
"My neighborhood was not a problem, it was drugs and friends."

What is a solution?

"Interventions."
"More guest speakers, better programs."
"More positive mentors like what you guys do."
"Better jobs that pay more."
"Gated schools."
"Security alarms."
"Stay home." "Go to school."
"Get a job." "Say no to drugs."
"Get yourself busy."
"Join [extra] curricular activities."
"Call Animal Services."
"Call police."
"Protective security."
"House, gates or cars."
"Move to gated community."
"No drinking without proper ID."
"Turning in someone with no permit [for] a gun."
"Closing all abortions places."
"Having more free programs for kids."
"Lock all rapists up for LIFE! Because no one should take advantage of peoples kids."
"The reason for closing abortion [clinics] is [because it] causes [the] killing of innocent children which is **murder!**"
"The reason for more free programs is so kids can have something to do other than being on the streets and going to jail."

I Can Be Involved in These Solutions By...

"Volunteering for programs."

"Tell[ing] my story."

"Speaking and giving advice."

"Everybody be[ing] rich and equal."

"Have better teachers to motivate kids and make class more interesting and fun."

"Have more supervision on your property."

"When someone offers someone something, don't agree to it and try changing their mind."

"Print a resume and find a job."

"Stop fights."

"I am going to be the one making the phone call."

"I am going to put my dog on a leash."

"Report stores that [are] giving drinks to minors."

"By protesting against it!!!!"

"Protest at courts, on the streets, at schools, voting places, and I'm going to get more people to protest or go against it by seeing if people are on the same page as you!"

SIDE NOTE:

"No one should have to [abort]. They wanted to have sex now deal with the consequences... Another reason for closing abortion [clinics] is because some people get forced to have abortions! Get [rapists] off the streets, for life! Because no one – I repeat – no one should take advantage of someone's child! Getting raped is not a good feeling. I have been there. I was 6 and now I'm 17 years old. I'm still struggling with getting over it. Only way you should have abortions is **IF** you have been raped and because you're pregnant."



Special Thanks to Wayne Rawlins, Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring Program, Miami-Dade Anti-Gang Strategy Initiative; Dr. Debra Pane, Eradicating the School-to-Prison Pipeline Foundation, Inc. (E-SToPP); Miguel Peña, Florida International University student; Alyssa Soto-Garcia, FIU Intern; Melissa D. Camacho, Barry University student; Arielle Elizee, Florida International University student; Ivana Rocha, Florida International University student; Bryan Barrientos, Florida International University student; Chloe Chabanon-Hicks, Barry University Student; Dr. Gladys Negron, Regional Director, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice; Daryl Wolf, Superintendent, Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center; Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center Staff; Morris Copeland, Director, Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department; Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department Prevention Initiative Staff.

WHITE SOCKS ONLY

Why was this a problem?

"Because it was unfair."

"The white folks wanted the fountain to themselves."

"It was a problem because the "Whites" did not want anything to do with the African-Americans."

"Because people could be killed [during] the violence."

"It was truly unfair to Blacks and Hispanics, it was cruel."

"Too[many] gangs."

"Because the Blacks were not getting treated equally."

My advice for transforming my community is....

"To influence youth to stop violence, stay in school, drop the pistols, listen to their parents when they tell you something because they know what's best."

"Get rid of most of the [bad] adults influencing juveniles to do what they're doing."

"Stop doing bad stuff!"

"Show my fellow peers that if I can go to school and do the right thing and we're equal, does that not make you also able to do the same?"

"Why drugs [and] my friends were a problem was because they were the ones pointing me in the direction I was heading."

"Kids [getting] killed every day [and] crime rates [going] up every year and the drug use is messing up our community so bad that the government is trying to sell it to us."

"Poverty causes juveniles to join gangs because gangs say you can get money but that's where the ignorance comes in. The time you spend with your dogs in the streets, you can change it back to school."

How did they or how would you solve the problem?

"By bringing attention to the issue."

"The community came together."

"The problem was solved by the whole community coming together as one."

"In our community now, no one cares for each other."

"People want to be better than the next person instead of being normal."

"Everyone in our community wants to be a thug."

"Tell everyone let's get along."

"The Blacks came together [after] the Chicken man [helped] the little girl."

"How I solved the problem or part of it was my mother hospitalized me in a residential program, "Atlantic Shores Hospital," inpatient programs for 3 months. I realized a lot [when] I was there – and learned."

"By taking a different route and not following bad people. Listen to what your parents say [and] just follow the rules."

"I did not listen to the members of the gang and stayed in school and did what I had to do but tried to convince my fellow peers who were ignorant, but they didn't listen to me."