Bring the African American Read-In to Your Community

1. Invite storytellers/readers to read during lunch time.
2. Library Media Centers may distribute special student passes to check-out books.
3. Plan to read sub-units that focus on African American literature to augment regular reading instruction.
4. Offer sustained silent reading sessions throughout the entire school.
5. Allow upper grade level students to read to lower grade-level classes.
6. Exhibit activities featuring African American authors.
7. Plan inter-class reading bowls and knowledge quiz bowls.
8. Role-play qualities of virtuous characters.
9. Plan a character masquerade day.
10. Plan interdisciplinary reading activities, e.g. reading literature related to different disciplines.

National African American Read-In

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
Local African American Read-In
History of African American Read-In

At its November 1989 meeting, the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) accepted the Issues Committee's recommendation that the Black Caucus sponsor a nation-wide Read-In. The Black Caucus designated every first Sunday of February as the date for communities to host the African American Read-In. At the request of educators, every first Monday was designated for educational institutions. Jerrie Cobb Scott, an active member of NCTE and the Black Caucus, brought the idea to the Committee. It was envisioned that following a decade of rigorous campaigning for participants, the African American Read-Ins would become a traditional part of Black History Month celebrations.

As is the practice with "chain" letters, persons receiving Read-In packets share the information with others, thereby creating a "chain" of readers whose numbers would grow to well over a million by the year 2000. We have achieved this goal, but are now pushing to exceed it. In 1990, the National Council of Teachers of English joined in the sponsorship of the African American Read-In Chain. The campaign has also been endorsed and supported by the International Reading Association.

For more information visit:
https://umdrive.memphis.edu/jcscott/www/action.html

Indiana University Bloomington Local African American Read-In Program

In 2002, Dr. Stephanie Carter organized Indiana University's first African American Read-In program. The Indiana University Bloomington African American Read-In is in conjunction with the National African American Read-In Chain sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English.

Who? What? Why?

The IIUB African American Read-In consists of Indiana based high school students, teachers, and the Indiana University Bloomington community coming together and reading original works or excerpts of works or poems by African-American authors. The African American Read-In provides the IUB community and the Bloomington community an opportunity to broaden their knowledge of the literary contributions of African American authors as well as expose them to developing writers of color.

Community Involvement

The African American Read-In affords prospective students, parents, principals, and teachers opportunities to build connections with Indiana University faculty, staff, and students. These connections have the potential to facilitate and build future relationships with our extended Bloomington community as well as assist prospective students in being successful college applicants.

College Panel

Another integral part of the Read-In program is a panel discussion hosted by Ghangis D. Carter, Director of Recruitment and Retention at Indiana University. During the panel, high school students engage in a dialogue with an IUB student panel comprised of undergraduate students of color.

One main goals of the panel is to provide access to information and make early connections with prospective IU students. This session is designed to give prospective high school students an opportunity to ask questions of undergraduates as well as provide an opportunity to better understand various academic and organizational offerings.