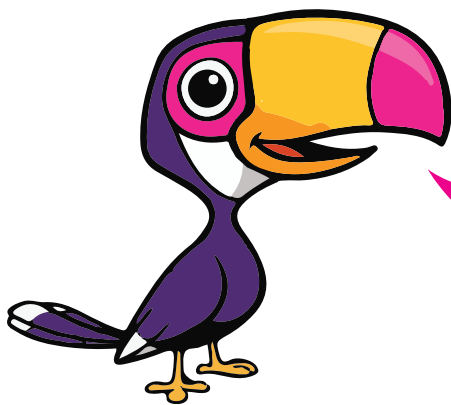


# READ ALOUD INFO KIT

2021



To change attitudes about reading, we found a world record to break- the **Guinness World Record for Most People Reading Aloud from the Same Text at the Same Time in Different Venues**. Celebrate the 2021 International Day of the African Child with us by reading aloud and breaking this world record!



## INTRODUCTION

This is the largest gathering of Kenyan children reading aloud from the same text and at the same time in multiple locations. It is a 30-minute expressive and interesting reading exercise that runs from 8:30am-9.00am on the chosen day, in which children in different schools across the country read the same text at the same time. They are joined in various ways by Reading Ambassadors drawn from various sectors of society. This year's edition will be on the **International Day of the African Child – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021**. This day is significant as it raises awareness of the continuing need for improvement of the education provided to African children. It also celebrates the children of Africa and recognizes them as the change agents of the society.

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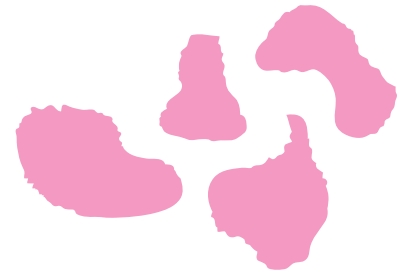
Since 2013, we have organized the Storymoja Read Aloud World Record Warm Ups on the Day of the African Child. Each time we have broken our national record.



**229,043 children**



**1,097 venues**



**44 counties**

*In June 2015, we unofficially broke the world record by leading 229,043 children reading across 1,097 venues (schools and community centers) in 44 counties.*

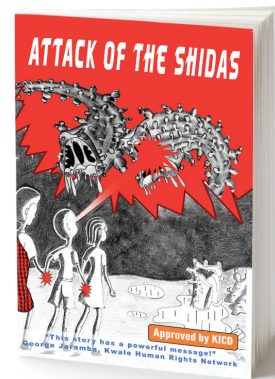
This was remarkable at the time, as Kenya is not known for its reading culture. The current documented world record is held by the USA; 223,363 participants reading in 909 venues across the vast country. Storymoja has applied to the Guinness Book of World Records to formally endorse and recognize what we believe will become the next world record. If Kenyan children 'own' a world record in reading, it will go a long way in building positive perceptions about the value of reading storybooks and counter the long-held view that Kenyans do not read for pleasure. Reading aloud to students provides an enjoyable, shared experience of written language, which can form the foundation for further language and reading development.

## CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES

1. To counter the negative perception of reading for pleasure epitomized by a terrible common saying, 'If you want to hide something from a Kenyan/ African, put it in a book.' As a result of this attitude, few children have access to books at home and only about 2% of primary schools have libraries.
2. While Kenya has one of the best education systems in Sub-Saharan Africa, research indicates that 7 out of 10 children in Grade 3 cannot read Grade 2 level text. Our goal is to show reading is a fun activity that exposes children to new words, which in the long run give them the ability to communicate (speaking and writing) and comprehend text.
3. To position storybooks/stories as powerful tools that can be used to teach and introduce children to complex concepts and conversations. The featured book for the world record attempt is a science fiction featuring children as the unifying factor in community conflicts. This is particularly apt in the run-up to the 2022 Kenyan presidential elections.
4. To position reading as a solution to ensuring education gains are not completely reversed, especially since we are still right in the middle of a pandemic.

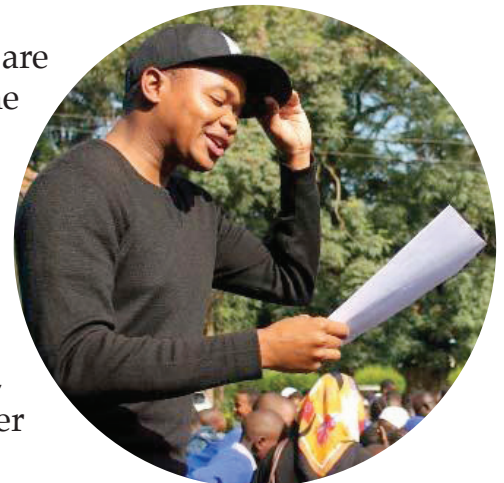
## THE EXTRACT

The excerpt to be read aloud is at the back of the *Attack of the Shidas* book, a science fiction story that was commissioned by the Kenya Human Rights Commission following the 2007/2008 Post Election Violence in Kenya. The aim of the story is to sensitize children on issues around ethnic tolerance, children rights, unity in diversity and disability is not inability.



## TARGET AUDIENCE

1. Children aged between 6 – 14 years: These are children in primary school who have the ability to read and will be the main participants of the Read Aloud.
2. Primary schools across Kenya: Schools will serve as the main reading venues for the Read Aloud. Teachers in the schools will play a major role in ensuring the activity takes place on time as scheduled and communicate directly to the parents of the children in their respective schools.
3. Parents of Children aged between 6 – 14 years. Parents, especially those in urban areas and whose children attend private schools, will support their children by purchasing the recommended texts for the event.
4. Development partners/sponsors/donors – These are organizations we will reach out to for support, to get the recommended text supplied to public schools that may not be able to afford purchasing the books. These organizations support schools and sponsor specific pupils in the schools.
5. Individual Reading Ambassadors worldwide who wish to sponsor a book(s) for a child or a school.
6. Readers worldwide, especially teachers and children, willing to read at their schools or join online from wherever they are in support of Kenya's World Record attempt.



## HOW TO SUPPORT US:

1. Recruit a school to participate.
2. Purchase *Attack of the Shidas* books for participating schools. Or rally both individuals and corporates to purchase copies of the book. A copy retails for Ksh 380.00
3. Join any of the participating schools as a Reading Ambassador and read aloud with them.
4. Engage the children in a discussion about messages in the text. Children of upper primary can be asked to write own endings to the story while children in lower primary can draw illustrations during their free time.
5. Spread the word through your networks and social media platforms.

“  
Some books  
leave us free and  
some books make us  
free. ~ Ralph Waldo  
Emerson

## HOW I CAN PARTICIPATE AS A READING AMBASSADOR

### Pre Storymoja Read Aloud

- The Storymoja Read Aloud team to assign me a school to participate in – based on the convenience of my location.
- Help in ensuring the assigned school has copies of the book(s) to be used for the read aloud.
- Visit the school at least a day before the Storymoja Read Aloud event to create rapport with the school administration.
- Update my social media platforms with info on the Storymoja Read Aloud.

### Actual Storymoja Read Aloud

- Be at the school venue at 8:00 am.
- Carry a book which contains the excerpt to be read aloud.
- Ensure the read aloud begins at the agreed time.
- Make it a memorable reading campaign.



### Post Storymoja Read Aloud

- Ensure an evaluation form indicating the number of children who have participated is filled and rubber stamped by the head teacher or teacher in charge.
- Submit photos and a write up of their experiences to the Storymoja Read Aloud team within three hours of the Read Aloud.



## The Storymoja Read Aloud Guide and Tips:

Studies show that literacy is the foundation for emotional and physical well-being, intellectual growth, and economic security. Furthermore, reading aloud improves speaking and listening skills, vocabulary acquisition, and the understanding of common story themes and structures that will factor into children's future success.

Use the tips below to create a powerful, memorable read aloud experience:

- A minimum of two facilitators' ideal in one venue; one to be the reading leader while the other to take photos/videos.
- Start by Storymoja greetings: Reading is Cool! Kusoma ni poa! Followed by reciting the reading pledge.
- Remind the participants about the rules of participating in the record – reading aloud simultaneously in multiple locations. The record is for the number of participants actually reading out loud and not just the number of participants attending the event. There will be an independent steward for every 50 participants who will confirm this truly happens. Any person seen by the stewards not to be reading out loud, will not count towards the record total.
- All participants should read the same piece out loud simultaneously. The Reading Ambassador(s) to be the reading leader who will set the pace of the reading.
- The Reading Ambassador(s) to be animated! Change your voice during the read aloud to match the expressions of the characters and emotions of the story; this will truly bring the text to life and excite the children.
- Read the book beforehand to familiarize yourself with the story.
- At the end of the story, guide the participants on a conversation that focuses on connecting the text to their lives and experiences. During their free time, children in upper classes can choose to write their own endings of the story, whereas those ones in lower classes can draw illustrations of what they understood in the stories.

### For more information:

*(on Schools recruitment and reading ambassadors sign ups)*

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**Thank you for joining the Reading Revolution!**