



Concept Note - Stories Alive Project

Organizational Background

A passionate performer, Wangari Grace, more popularly known as **Wangari The Storyteller**, infuses her stories with song, dance, chants and other performance delicacies to create an intimate interaction with her audiences. She has vast experience sharing stories to a variety of platforms in Kenya. She has toured India, Iran, Germany, Sweden, Tanzania, Austria, Switzerland, the UAE and Somaliland telling stories and conducting workshops.

She champions reading for pleasure among children and young people, and has authored more than 20 children's books.

She is currently featured weekly on the Read Aloud segment of Big Minds Kids' program on KBC TV. She is a nominee for the 2025 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

Context

Students learn best when they are having fun. Unfortunately, most of our formal education spaces are unable to inject this because of curriculum expectations and having to tick specific delivery boxes.

Telling stories not only improves the students' word and concept development, it also develops their speaking and listening skills. These skills are critical for them to develop further literacy skills.

By reading and telling stories, we create in them interest and excitement about and around learning. With education being a lifelong process, this will be invaluable to children as they grow into adults.

Rationale for the Proposed Project

While many educators and education resource networks agree with this premise, many of them do not have the time and resources to carry out these activities themselves, nor hire resource people for support.

Project Goals and Objectives

- To curate interactive storytelling sessions in 4 community libraries/centers drawn from Nairobi and neighbouring counties. The

www.wangarithestoryteller.co.ke

P O Box 10417 – 00100 Nairobi

wangari.storytelling@gmail.com

+254 724884327

sessions will be open to children aged 6-12 from within the community, with the adults in their lives highly encouraged to participate as well.

- To donate 50 storybooks written by local authors to each of the 4 community libraries/centers for their children's section, with the aim of bolstering a love for reading to young children aged 3 – 12 years. The emphasis on books by Kenyan authors is to allow the children to interact with reading materials from a context, environment and characters they can relate with.

Expected Results

- Reach 250 children cumulatively through the activities.
- Donate a minimum of 200 storybooks cumulatively to the participating centers.
- Foster a love for reading to the students who will be part of the project.
- Encourage active participation, imagination and creativity through the performances.
- Allow the children to explore diverse experiences and ideas through the performances and the stories contained in the books.

Conclusion

Storytelling is more than a fun way of engaging, exchanging information and extending ideas. It is a link between the students and the community around them, but also between the classroom and the world beyond. A collaboration between WOAN and ourselves would make this joy available to those who cannot afford the resources to make it happen by themselves.