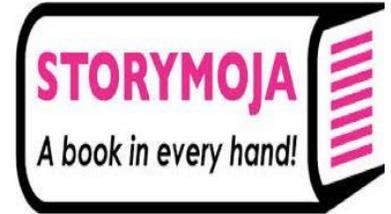




**StartaLibrary**



# THE STORYMOJA READ ALOUD REPORT

**(30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015)**

## **Introduction**

Start A Library is a Reading Revolution campaign initiated by Storymoja intended to:

- Excite children about reading for pleasure through our Read Aloud events and Reading clubs
- Increase access to books by forming or stocking libraries in primary schools. There are more than 20,000 primary schools in Kenya without libraries!

## **Vision**

To get a book in every hand

## **Mission**

To empower children with books

## **Achievement to date**

- In three years, Start A Library has started 55 libraries!
- Start A Library has also run 5 Storymoja Read Aloud events that broke the National Record in reading aloud!

## The Storymoja Read Aloud

*“Reading aloud with children is known to be the single most important activity for building the knowledge and skills they will eventually require for learning to read”. Marilyn Jager Adams*

The Storymoja Read Aloud is the largest gathering of Kenyan children reading from the same text at the same time.

Start A Library organizes two major Guinness World Record warm-ups twice a year:

- The Last Friday of every January
- The Day of the African Child – 16<sup>th</sup> June

## Goal

To excite children in reading activities with the target of breaking the World Record in reading aloud. The current Guinness World Record is 223,363 participants in 909 venues across the United States of America.

The National Record is now 160,190 participants in 422 schools across 12 counties

## The extract *(to be changed every three years)*

The 1,000 word extract is taken from the KICD approved book “Attack of the Shidas” by Muthoni Muchemi. This book was commissioned by the Kenya Human Rights Commission.

Statistics by the research commissioned by the Kenya Human Rights Commission indicate that 12% of Kenyan children in primary schools have actively been part of a conversation about kicking another community out of their neighborhood. A third of the Kenyan children also feel that their tribe is superior to others.

## Synopsis

The book is about invisible aliens who suck water out of the only borehole in town. Tension mounts as the three communities living in that city accuse and argue with each other over the dwindling supply of water. Can three children from the different communities unite in time to stop the alien thieves before their town breaks into war? This stimulating and engaging book entertains children while subtly teaching important lessons in eliminating harmful social and cultural practices affecting children.

## Themes in the book

Three themes that come out strongly in this book are:

- United we stand, divided we fall
- Disability is not inability (The heroine in the book is disabled)
- Children are the change agents in the society

## #readaloudKe in numbers

**1**

**Extract**

**422**

**Schools**

**15**

**Minutes**

**160,190**

**Children**

**12**

**Counties**

## #readaloudKe in words

“Reading from Attack of the Shidas together with hundreds of pupils was such a moving sight. It has been a long time since I heard a chorus of reading pupils standing in front of me. Together with my team, we were able, in our small way, to make children fall in love with stories and books.” **Salem Lorot, Advocate, high court**

“In as much as I came for a teacher-parents’ meeting, I can’t afford to let this godsend opportunity to participate in breaking the world record slip through my fingers.” **Parent-St. Teresa’s Girls Primary School**

“Am a happy alumna of Murema Primary School. I too took part and it was my first time. I enjoyed to the last bit as we read with the kids.” **Dennis Karuti - photographer**

“The story was interesting and it had a moral lesson.” **Dorcas, HT, True Vision Education Center**

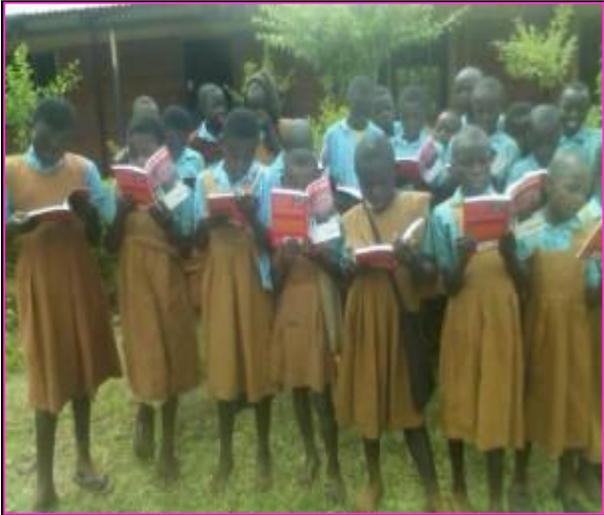
“The most interesting story we have ever read.” **Children of Joy Beginners Educational Center**

“The teachers who attended the session said it was a good project that can improve the reading culture of the pupils.” **Mrs Catherine Oderere, HT, Amagoro Primary School, Busia County**

“Storymoja did a great job. Please come and read with our younger children. I teach std one and you can see how interested and excited they feel about the story. Your dramatic reading and sound effects helped them understand the messages in the book.” **Mrs Wambui Mbugua, Teacher-Hospital Hill Primary School**



#readaloudKe in images



# Partners



# Looking Forward

The next Storymoja Read Aloud will be at 9:00 am on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (A day before the Day of the African Child)

**Buy** copies of the “**Attack of the Shidas**” books and enable a number of Kenyan children to join in this exciting reading activity!

For more information on how to participate, email [startalibrary@storymojafrica.co.ke](mailto:startalibrary@storymojafrica.co.ke)

**F:** StartALibrary

**T:**@startalibrary

**W:** [www.startalibrary.org](http://www.startalibrary.org)

