



Book Report from The BookStart Fund

December 2018

“Getting babies and books together”

Vol. 14

Guest Column by Carol Deakins, Healthy Families Supervisor at SCAN

Did you know...the single, most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to, at home, prior to beginning school? And...

the most successful way to improve the reading achievement of low-income children is to increase their access to print?

The above statistics are particularly important for the families of SCAN because many did not grow up in an environment where reading was valued or where books were not used to make those important parent-child connections that are vital to positive childhood outcomes. SCAN workers believe reading is integral to early learning and can have a significant impact on families, so through our Read To Me program we make the gift of books a part of our time with every family with young children that we serve.

We use donated books for the school age children, but for the little ones we are blessed to have a continuing supply of new board books from the BookStart Fund. The books, while used to promote literacy, are also a great modeling tool for parents to help their child increase language skills as well as their social-emotional abilities. Without BookStart and the SCAN Read to Me program, many children involved in services would not experience the opportunity to have books in the home.

The families of SCAN thoroughly enjoy the books they receive and look forward to them each month. Some

workers even say their families are quick to remind them when it is time for a new one! It is easy to see that a well-loved book in a home is an excellent indicator that parents and children are reaping benefits that have been achievable only through BookStart and the Read to Me program.

Thank you to all who donate to the BookStart Fund!



*The love of books starts early.
Emma loves to “read” to Alivia.*

Boys & Girls Club Honors BookStart Creator

by Dana Wichern

This year's Smart Girls' Luncheon honored Ginny Clark, the BookStart creator, with the Woman of the Year award on November 1. Sponsored by the Boys & Girls Club, the event salutes an outstanding woman who is an advocate and supporter of youth programs in the community. It was an exciting day at the Grand Wayne Center where over 600 women and 80 girls from the Clubs gathered. As a member of that audience, I was proud to see my friend honored and hear her address. Ginny focused on three successful adults who had strong backgrounds in reading as children. The following are excerpts:

- In his book *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*, Trevor Noah writes about his mother's insistence on reading books. "My mother wanted me to be free to go anywhere, do anything, be anyone. She gave me the tools to do it as well. She read to me constantly. Neighbors and relatives used to pester my mom. 'Why do all this? Why show him the world when he's never going to leave the ghetto?' 'Because,' she would say, 'even if he never leaves the ghetto, he will know that the ghetto is not the world. If that is all I accomplish, I've done enough.'"

- In her first book, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou described how she escaped the abuse at home by going to the library. In a recent interview, she compared libraries to rainbows, saying that "God put the rainbow in the clouds themselves — in the worst of times, in the meanest of times, in the dreariest of times — so that at all times the viewer can see a possibility of hope. That's what a library is. A library is a rainbow in the clouds. Each time I went to the library, I felt safe. No bad thing can happen to you in the library." Ms Angelou added that "books help us see that we're not alone, that there's somebody in Mississippi and somebody in Tokyo who all have wept, who've

all longed and lost, who've all been happy. The library helps you to see that you're not really any different from everyone else."

- Carla Hayden was the first woman and the first African-American to be the Director of the Library of Congress. Dr. Hayden told an interviewer that the first book she loved as a child was *Bright April*, about an African-American girl whom Dr. Hayden thought she herself resembled. Books "can be windows," she said, "to introduce readers to the world, but those readers also need to see a reflection of themselves. Books should be a window and a mirror." She loved that book because she imagined she was seeing her reflection—she could imagine herself in that other person's life.

Reading was the key that helped Trevor Noah, Maya Angelou, and Carla Hayden imagine themselves in other lives. And it's the same key for all of us!

Remembrances

In supporting the BookStart Fund, several donors have made contributions either in honor or in memory of special persons.

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Dorothy Dykema
Her Grandchildren
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Dana Wichern

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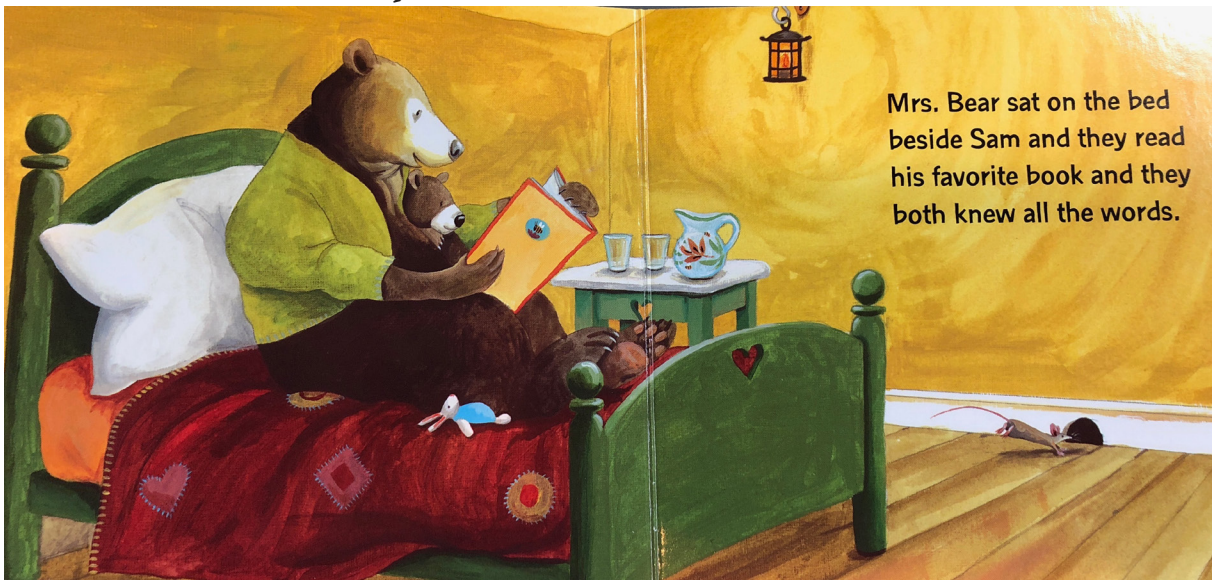
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“They both knew all the words.”



From Kiss Good Night, by Amy Hest and Anita Jeram. BookStart recently ordered 300 copies.

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