



Book Report from The BookStart Fund

Fall 2021

“Getting babies and books together”

BookStartFund.org

BookStart Smart



DaMarcus Beasley and daughter, Lia, enjoying reading time together.

By DaMarcus Beasley

When I first started reading to my daughter, Lia, I didn't quite realize the impact of it all. I just wanted to read her bedtime stories. One, because maybe she would fall asleep sooner (all

parents know that feeling); two, because I enjoyed seeing her face when I would do different voices; and three, well, that is what parents do, right?

As my daughter got older and started putting sentences

For my daughter and me, reading is one of the things we enjoy doing together.

together, she would always look forward to storytime – whether at school or at home before bed. Fast forward seven years, and now my daughter asks me if she can read to me.

She reads in English and in Spanish, and I cannot help but think that reading to her in her early years not only helped her be able to read and

understand words but also to enjoy reading!

Therefore, for me, The BookStart Fund is such an

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Testimonials

“Recently, I gave my new client ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’. She was SO excited to have the book as she remembered reading it during her own childhood and can not wait to do the same with her own baby.”

- Healthier Moms and Babies staff member

“Having the books has been a great benefit for Early Head Start. Being able to give children books has helped engage the infants and toddlers we serve. It is like having their own story time.”

- Tammy Pfifer, BrightPoint Early Head Start

“My staff has been giving awesome feedback on the increase of our families reading to their children.”

-Trudy Jones, Healthy Families Supervisor

BookStart Smart (continued)

amazing and essential organization. The organization encourages parents to begin reading to their children at a young age, not only developing their child's language but also helping them with the reading skills needed as they grow up.

For families who are not able to provide books or reading materials for their children, BookStart does just that. They partner with other agencies in supplying books for the parents to be able to read to their kids.

It also helps create a bonding relationship with your children. For my daughter and me, reading is one of the things we enjoy doing together. I can see how much she is improving daily, as well as I still get to do all my weird impersonations that I know she loves and laughs at.

When I first came across BookStart, I was immediately drawn to it because I connected to it on a personal level. I thought to myself, "This is exactly what I did with Lia, and I did not even realize it." I wanted to reach out and say how much I admired the fund and how could I help spread the word about BookStart.

When I met Ginny Clark (founder of BookStart), I

was blown away with her passion and her ultimate joy when speaking about the fund. Ginny and her husband, Will, showed me how much BookStart meant to them. This was not a hobby but something they take great pride in doing.

When explaining how she picks each book specifically and how hands-on she is with making sure she gets the right books, I knew right then I wanted to support BookStart.

Nothing is random; she picks each book as if she were going to read them to her own grandchildren. She was incredibly detailed in the type of book she supplies, down to the skin color of the characters or how the story could have a certain effect in a positive way when the parent(s) read it to their children.

The BookStart Fund provides a way for families to jump-start the fun and love of reading. It also makes a real difference in children by stimulating their imagination and expanding their understanding of the world.

I am honored to support the BookStart organization and help spread the word of the importance of reading to our children.

DaMarcus Beasley is a former member of the US Men's National Soccer Team, a four-time World Cup athlete and co-owner of the Fort Wayne FC Men's Soccer Club.

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Bookstart Partner Agencies

Each Partner Agency has a BookStart Manager to ensure their clients are served. You can contact the following managers below.

Bright Point Early Head Start, Amy Grzybowski — mybrightpoint.org

Children First Center, Trudy Jones — childrenfirstcenter.org

Healthier Moms and Babies, Madison Lyon — healthiermomsandbabies.org

Just Neighbors Interfaith Homeless Network, Lynda Rogers & Shirley Rork — ihnfamily.org

Rescue Mission: Charis House, Julie Conroy — frwm.org

SCAN: Healthy Families and other programs, Carol Deakins — scanfw.org

Vincent Village, Chelsea Nabozny — vincentvillage.org

Young Lives North, Julie VonGunten — younglivesfwn.younglife.org

Young Lives South, Ja'Nisha Beal — younglivesfwn.younglife.org

YWCA Shelter, Donna Masterson — ywcanein.com

From The Director's Desk

Engaging in a conspiracy to light a fire!

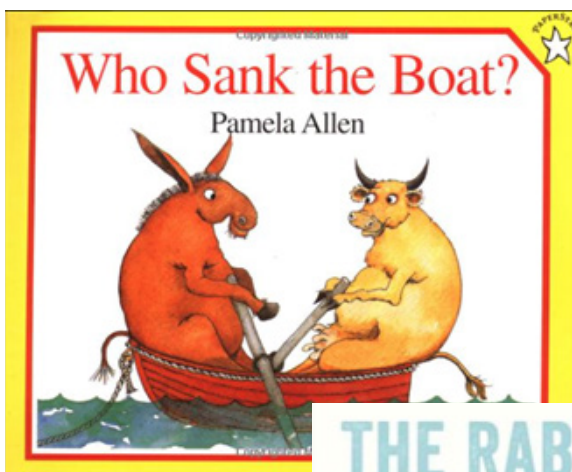


Ginny Clark
BookStart Fund Director

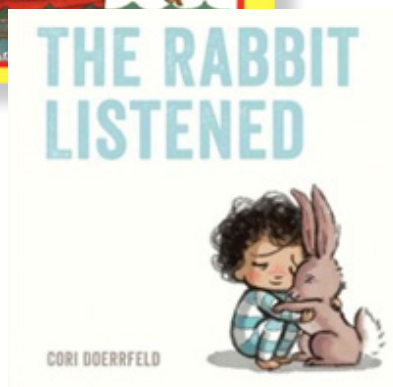
In Reading Magic, children's author Mem Fox describes her experience of reading *Who Sank the Boat?* to a three-year old boy she had just met. With both lying side by side on the floor and Mem excitedly using silly voices and saying, "Oh, look!", the two of them ended up rolling on the floor laughing. What a marvelous shared experience!

Some of the books we order, like *Who Sank the Boat*, are laugh out loud funny, or at least lead to shared giggling. Others are more serious, designed to comfort a child and also to inspire empathy and kindness.

In *The Rabbit Listened* by Cori Doerrfeld, when Taylor's block castle is destroyed by a flock of crows, "Taylor doesn't know where to turn. All the animals are sure they have the answer. The chicken wants to



talk it out, but Taylor doesn't feel like chatting. The bear thinks Taylor should get angry, but that's not quite right either. One by one, the animals try to tell Taylor how to act, and one by one they fail to offer comfort. Then the rabbit arrives. All the rabbit does is listen . . . which is just what Taylor needs." (Dial Books For Young Readers)



Mem Fox explains that sharing books with children is a way of engaging in a conspiracy with them. She writes,

"The fire of literacy is created by the emotional sparks between a child, a book, and the person reading. It isn't achieved by the book alone, nor by the child alone, nor by the adult who's reading aloud—it's the relationship winding between all three, bringing them together in easy harmony."

Join us in this conspiracy to light the fire of literacy... by continuing to support the BookStart Fund!

Remembrances

In Memory Of

Dolores Tomusk
Special friend and long-time donor to BookStart

From

Ginny Clark
Helen Frost
Jeanne Lewis
Mary and George Morrison
Carol and Randy Roberts
Deborah Schlinger
Dana Wichern

Honoring a friend or a loved one with your donation is the perfect holiday gift for the person who has everything!



The BookStart Fund
4101 W. Hamilton Rd. S
Fort Wayne, IN 46814

How to Donate

Write a check to the
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne
(Write BookStart on the memo line)

Mail it to CFGFW
555 East Wayne Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

OR

Go to cfgfw.org. Click on Donate. Under Donate To A Fund, scroll down to 3: Donor Advised and select BookStart Fund.



Questions? Contact Ginny Clark at 260-625-3837

An illustration from Everywhere Babies, by Susan Meyers, illustrations by Marla Frazee