

# Books & Beyond

read. learn. teach. grow.

*A Note to Our Readers*

Dear Readers,

This entire book is a compilation of stories created by students from Kabwende Primary School (Kinigi, Rwanda) and The Project School and Harmony School (Bloomington, Indiana, United States of America), in collaboration with their Indiana University Books & Beyond mentors. The students had over six months to work on this anthology through participating in a number of writing workshops, including brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing, illustrating, and formatting the final product to be published. They made this product out of different raw materials from their everyday observations with their families, at school, or in many other settings. Many of the stories are both in Kinyarwanda and English and this year's theme will attract a very large audience both in Rwanda and in the U.S.

The theme of this year is “friendship,” which reflects the everyday life of Rwandan and American students. Friendship is a very broad topic, but students are very keen on expressing it through their insightful experiences and imagination. Many stories in this book show how the everyday lives of Americans and Rwandans have so many features in common, which helps the authors engage in a successful cultural dialogue in spite of the great distance between the two countries. The stories really have a very important link with the previous publications of *The World is Our Home*. Each volume serves as not only a preservation of history, but also as a reminder about the interconnectedness of our world.

The yearly anthology *The World is Our Home* is one of Books & Beyond's annual achievements and provides a very important space for students to exercise their writing talents and contribute to their friends and colleagues' literary growth by sharing stories and experiences. It is paramount for them to see their names on a published book and read their own prose, which will sharpen their motivation to read, broaden their world views, and hopefully inspire them to continue their education.

We are really very proud of this monumental work done by both Rwandan and American students who gave their time, effort, and energy to provide you, the reader, with another excellent compilation of children stories. This book appeals to audiences of all backgrounds and age groups, including students, teachers, parents, researchers, education practitioners, and everyone who seeks to glance into the minds and imaginations of our young partners. May every story in the book make you taste the flavor of both the Rwandan and American cultures!

— MUNYANEZA *Simon Pierre*

