

Celebrations in 2023

Rapidly changing global context have significantly hampered the literacy progress and widened inequalities across world regions, countries, and populations. In low- and middle-income countries, the share of 10-year-old children who could not read and understand a simple text with comprehension has increased from 57 per cent in 2019 to an estimated 70 per cent in 2022.

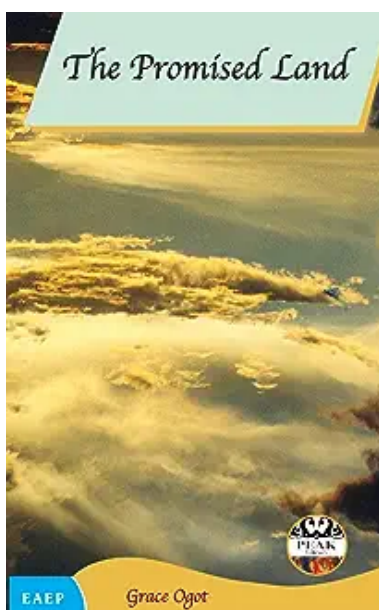
In this context, this year's International Literacy Day will be celebrated worldwide under the theme, 'Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies'.

To support this, African Adventures have created this resource to offer an alternative approach to International Literacy Day.

We have selected some pieces of writing or emotive artwork that can be used to encourage different forms of writing within your classrooms. The pieces of literature and art are directly from Kenyan authors and artists to give a different perspective to the literature pieces you may be using within your current literacy offer. These are suggestions and are not exhaustive to all that may be available for your students to look at.

Kenyan Author Grace Ogot

A young farmer and his wife who have migrated to Tanzania from Kenya become embroiled in issues of personal jealousy and materialism, and a melodramatic tale of tribal hatreds ensues. The novel explores Ogot's concept of the ideal African wife: obedient and submissive to her husband; family and community orientated; and committed to non-materialist goals. The style is distinctively ironic giving the story power and relevance.



Grace Ogot has been employed in diverse occupations as a novelist, short story writer, scriptwriter, politician, and representative to the UN.

Kenyan Poet Alamin Mazrui

Alamin Mazrui was born in 1948 in Lamu, an island off the Kenyan coast, into the famous Mazrui family. Instead of the religious careers of his father and grandfather, Mazrui chose to follow the example of his uncle, professor Ali Mazrui, and pursued an academic career.

Side by Side

The cold from Mount Kenya has come
The wind blows, cutting through the forests of Nyandarua
But I am a woman from the Krinyaga Mountains
I don't feel the cold
I don't feel anything
except from the sound of the earth
our country
softly weeping

At home...
flour waits to be ground
vegetables wait to be peeled
wood waits to be chopped
and the children
the many children
also wait for us

But like my husband I continue
to fight for my country
to regain my humanity

Sleep my child sleep
sleep well while you wait for me

When the moon rises
I will return, I'll protect and defend you
Above the mountain
the full moon gazes down on us
in sympathy

The road is too long
Time is too short
But like my husband I continue
shoulder to shoulder
to liberate humanity

Kenyan Artist Willis Otieno

Willis Nickson Oduor Otieno, Born in 1977 in Bondo, Siaya County, residing in Kisumu Kenya. A fine art diploma graduate of the Mwangaza School of Art and design based in Kisumu. A full time Visual Artist since graduating in the year 1999.



When asked what inspired the painting, Willis explained

"The artwork 'Waiting for laptops' was inspired by the perceived many unfulfilled promises by the political class during campaigns.

After having won the elections, the Kenyan president and his deputy never fulfilled the promise of providing primary school children with study laptops as they promised.

This was but one of the many unfulfilled promises."