

Read-a-thon for Literacy

Reader's Log

Sonya is ten years old and lives in a country called Haiti. Every morning she sees other children walking to school. She dreams of going to school, too. But she knows her parents cannot afford it. Each year they say the same thing to her: "Sonya, we have no money for school this year, but maybe next year."

It makes Sonya's parents very sad that they cannot afford school for her. They never had the chance to go to school when they were young either. They really wanted to send their own children to school. But because they never learned to read and write, it has been hard for them to find work that pays well. Sonya's father cuts sugar cane and her mother sells fruit in the market.



Many Haitian families cannot afford to send their children to school, even to simple schools like this one.

They work very hard, but they barely make enough money to buy food for one good meal a day for the family.

They may never be able to save enough money to buy school books or pay for school for any of their children.

There are few public schools in Haiti, and private schools are often too expensive for many families to afford. This is why only about half of the children in Haiti attend school. Like Sonya's parents, most Haitian



parents never had a chance to attend school. Most never learned to read or write. Life is often very hard for them and their families.

You can help Haitian families like Sonya's. Through the *Read-a-thon for Literacy* you can raise money to help children like Sonya get a chance to attend school and learn to read. You can also help adults like Sonya's parents learn to read in an adult literacy center.

For the average Haitian child or adult, a year of schooling and textbooks costs less than \$100.

In the *Read-a-thon for Literacy* you ask people you know to sponsor you while you read.

They agree to give a certain amount of money for each book you read. This money goes to give poor Haitian children and adults a chance to attend school or literacy classes. By reading you give others the chance to learn to read. You give them the tools they most need to build a better life for themselves and their families.

On the following pages you will find all that you need to take part in the *Read-a-thon for Literacy*. **Thanks for caring!**

Read on!



Haiti is a small island nation only 600 miles from Florida. The flight to Haiti from the U.S. takes less than two hours.