



**READING OWLS INTERNATIONAL**  
Creating Readers... for Life

## Our Mission

Reading Owls International is committed to increasing the literacy levels of Jamaican children in school. We will do so by providing books and learning resources to organizations to fund existing libraries or to create new ones.

## Our Vision

We imagine a world in which every child has the educational resources to help him or her succeed. Every child can learn, and should be afforded the opportunity to realize their full potential.

## Our Values

**We are guided by the following core values:**

- Passion - we are crazy about the work we do.
- Integrity - we strive to be ethical in our work and relationships.
- Fiscal efficiency - we use our resources wisely and responsibly.
- Community - we partner with grassroots organizations to accomplish more.

## Who We Are

Reading Owls International (ROI) is a publicly supported, nonprofit organization that partners with schools and community organizations in Jamaica to provide access to books and other learning resources for disadvantaged, school-aged children.

We are able to reach communities with the greatest need by capitalizing on the relationship of our founders, Easton and Elaine Dickson, with educators in underserved communities in Jamaica. Our partnerships are formed after a thorough application process to ensure that our resources are stewarded by organizations that share our passion and vision for improving literacy.

ROI is managed by an experienced leadership team comprised of business executives, education and policy leaders, non-profit professionals, writers, entrepreneurs, and legal professionals. They provide strategic leadership and oversight in the areas of financial management and governance.



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## What We Do

Our organization seeks donations of new or almost new books, learning resources such as tablets and workbooks, and monetary aid to help Jamaican schools and community organizations to create libraries or expand upon existing ones. Great care is taken to select children's literature held in high regard, including award winners, as well as books written and illustrated by noted Caribbean authors and artists.

We also support the recipients of our books and supplies by offering guidelines for creating borrowing libraries, such as book borrowing policies and a basic card catalogue system. Working alongside a school's principal, teaching staff, community leaders, and parent community, we are confident that every donated book will reach the right student and will be properly maintained for those to come.

## Why We Do It

We believe that access to books is one of the basic ingredients in promoting literacy in children. For many students in Jamaica, books are simply in scarce supply. Budgetary constraints limit the number of books available in schools, many communities have no borrowing libraries, and parents cannot afford to purchase books for their homes. Without books, a child is unable to reach his or her full educational, social and life potential.

Low literacy rates not only impact an individual, but collectively, they can impede the economic development of a country in the context of a rapidly changing, technology driven world.