
A READING PARTNERSHIP

Baltimore City Detention Center School #370

Baltimore, Maryland

In March 2002, a reading partnership began at the Baltimore City Detention Center School that sparked literacy-related discussions between students and family members. Judge Wanda Heard had recommended the book, *And Still We Rise*, as part of the probation conditions she gave juveniles. She donated several copies of the book to the school and challenged the students to read it. In addition to incorporating the book into the school curriculum, the Action Team for Partnerships started a reading partnership activity in response to a parent's recount of her conversations with her child about the book.

Parents and students were encouraged to read the book concurrently and discuss the book during their telephone conversations or regular detention center visits. During the Parent, Teacher, Community Support Group Meeting, parents learned about the book by listening to excerpts presented by the teachers, and gathered strategies to discuss the book with their child. Parents also received their personal copy of the book at the meeting.

This first reading partnership activity has seemed to motivate students to read and has re-connected some students with their families, school, and community. The Baltimore City Detention Center is excited about next year's prospects to expand the reading partnership program into an ongoing book club for students and families.

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