

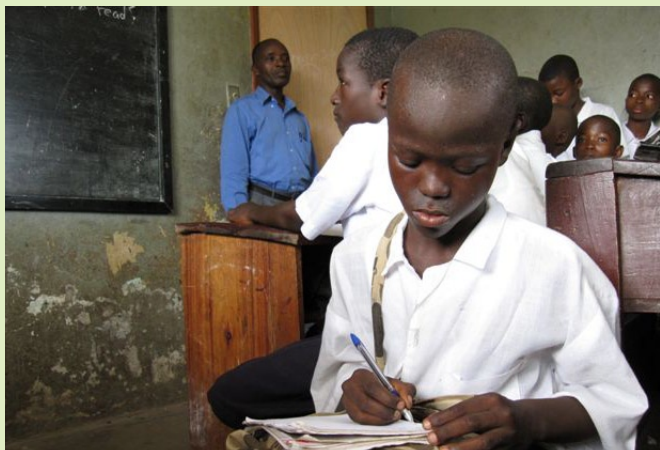
## Snapshots from Liberia

**S** PONSORED BY CODE (Canadian Organization for Development through Education), “Reading Liberia” is a program through which books written by Liberian authors for Liberian children will be produced, and teachers trained how to use them in their classrooms. IBBY Canada nominated author (and IBBY member) Kathy Stinson to participate in this wonderful project. Kathy shares some of her photos and experiences (below) with fellow IBBY members.

Education is taken very seriously in Liberia. It is key, President Ellen Sirleaf believes, to the rebuilding of the country after many years of civil strife. Here, the Minister of Education, James Roberts, offers teachers and writers inspiring words, at the end of a week of Reading Liberia workshops, about making Liberia a nation of readers.



Some classrooms are less crowded and students can move their desks and chairs into groups to share one of several copies of a book. Teachers who have undergone training through the Reading Liberia program pose open-ended questions to encourage students to think.



Many schools in the capital city, Monrovia, are so overcrowded that not all students have benches to sit on and to write at. Teachers, undaunted by their own limited education and lack of resources, build reading lessons around a single copy of a single book.



The writers and illustrators that Kathy Stinson worked with in February appreciated the fact that she, like them, grew up in a country that did not yet have its own children’s literature. It is likely that the first Liberian books for Liberian children will come from within this group.



Getting books from the We-Care Foundation Library into the schools where they can be used to teach reading is just one of the many challenges faced – and being solved – by individuals committed to the Reading Liberia program.