



LIBERIA READS TO LEARN Reading Kits Description

Upon the introduction of *Liberia Reads!* (LR), demand quickly grew for assistance to reading teachers in the higher grades. LR Founder Dr. Melosh and her husband Dr. Bob Melosh developed *Liberia Reads to Learn* (LRL) Reading Kits, a set of multileveled, differentiated reading labs written specifically for use in Liberian intermediate classrooms (4th – 8th grades)¹ with students reading and comprehending on a wide range of levels. More than 70 Liberian and US educators—including staff of the Liberian Ministry of Education (MOE), members of Liberian Association of Writers, principals, and teachers—contributed to LRL.

Each kit contains 75 topics written and calibrated for readability across six reading levels ranging from middle primary level to late intermediate level for a total of 450 stand-alone passages (180-450 words each). The topics come from the life sciences, the earth and physical sciences, Liberian social studies, world social studies and literature. Each topic in the LRL kits is aligned with the Ministry of Education’s national curricular standards.

Each student in an LRL classroom independently reads a new passage and answers questions 2 – 3 times weekly at his or her own reading level. Each passage has 10 questions –5 domain-specific vocabulary questions and 5 multiple choice comprehension questions. Students move up through the levels based on their individual mastery at each level.

The reading kits are designed to accommodate the reading needs of students in classrooms with as many as 75 students. The program is intended as a supplemental reading program and not as a substitute for the primary curricula in the classrooms mandated by the MOE.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF LRL TRAINING

Training for the use of the *Liberia Reads to Learn* Reading Kits is an 18 hour training spread over three days that includes both didactic and hands-on elements. Intended participants include intermediate classroom teachers, intermediate teacher trainers, and principals. The two major elements of the training are the following:

- 1) Training and practice in the LRL Management System (e.g., student placement procedures, use of answer keys, tracking of student progress, proper handling of materials, etc.).
- 2) Training in SQ3R (Survey!, Question!, Read!, Review!, Respond!) – a comprehension framework for increasing understanding and retention of text.

¹ The US Peace Corps has been using these kits at the secondary level since 2015.