



LitChat December 4, 2009

Topic of the Week: A TIME TO GIVE

Guest host: John Barger, Executive Director of The Reading Tree (literacy charity)

Guest Host: @ReadingTree (John Barger)

LitChat Welcome to #litchat on this first Friday in December. The holidays are upon us and we're thinking about gifts. How about books? -12:59 PM Dec 4th, 2009

robinobryant RT @LitChat: Welcome to #litchat on this first Friday in December. The holidays are upon us and we're thinking about gifts. How about books? -1:00 PM Dec 4th, 2009

LitChat Today in #litchat we have John Barger, ExecDir of @ReadingTree, a charity that supplies books to schools in poor areas. Welcome, John. -1:00 PM Dec 4th, 2009

readingtree Thanks - it's a pleasure to be with fellow booklovers, and we're grateful for your interest. #litchat -1:01 PM Dec 4th, 2009

KatelynCole RT @LitChat: We're on in 5 min for another hour of #litchat. We're discussing our BKS ARE GREAT GIFTS(#bagg) auction w/ @ReadingTree charity. -1:02 PM Dec 4th, 2009

DavidRozansky .@readingtree Thank you for all you do! #litchat -1:02 PM Dec 4th, 2009

LexxClarke @readingtree Welcome to #litchat -1:02 PM Dec 4th, 2009

readingtree There are lots of good literacy efforts out there - our focus is ensuring every kid has a chance 4 greatness thru access to books. #litchat -1:03 PM Dec 4th, 2009

LitChat .@ReadingTree Can you begin by telling us a bit about what The Reading Tree does to get books into schools? #litchat -1:04 PM Dec 4th, 2009

readingtree @DavidRozansky I have a great gig. When you deliver books to kids who have none, it makes their day and yours. #litchat -1:05 PM Dec 4th, 2009

LexxClarke @readingtree What inspired you to begin this work? #litchat -1:05 PM Dec 4th, 2009

maggiedana My experience, as a parent, has been: give kids what they WANT to read, and they'll read. Otherwise ... #litchat -1:05 PM Dec 4th, 2009

readingtree @LitChat We collect gently used books in bins at grocery stores, then deliver the kids books to classrooms at Title I schools. #litchat -1:06 PM Dec 4th, 2009

maggiedana To elaborate: first, get kids to exercise their reading muscles w/stuff they like and a love of reading will follow. #litchat -1:07 PM Dec 4th, 2009

readingtree @LexxClarke I've lived in Turkey and Kenya, and wanted to be involved in getting books there. Turns out we have a great need here #litchat -1:07 PM Dec 4th, 2009

maggiedana @readingtree You're doing great work. How can I get involved? #litchat -1:07 PM Dec 4th, 2009

danish_novelist @readingtree American PEN does the same. We want kids to love literature. That only happens when THEY decide what to read #litchat -1:07 PM Dec 4th, 2009

readingtree @maggiedana We put 200-300 books in a classroom, so every student finds something that interests them. No reports! #litchat -1:08 PM Dec 4th, 2009

LitChat .@readingtree In what communities do you have book collection bins? #litchat -1:08 PM Dec 4th, 2009

LexxClarke @readingtree Excellent, it's amazing that sometimes you have to travel so far only to realise that the needs are just as great @home #litchat -1:09 PM Dec 4th, 2009

readingtree @maggiedana 1st, donate books you don't need, to us or another program. 2nd, consider cash donations. Or help us identify schools #litchat -1:09 PM Dec 4th, 2009

readingtree @LitChat Boston, Chicago, Atlanta, Phoenix, Tucson, Salt Lake, Seattle, Tacoma, Vancouver, & the DC metro area #litchat -1:09 PM Dec 4th, 2009

maggiedana @readingtree Will gladly donate. How do I find you (or other program) at local level? Is there a web site? #litchat -1:10 PM Dec 4th, 2009
amyknichols @readingtree Thank you for doing what you do. I've put books in those bins, not really knowing where they went until recently. #Litchat -1:10 PM Dec 4th, 2009
DavidRozansky @readingtree Do you serve K-12, or just K-6? #litchat -1:10 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @LexxClarke That's so true. This year we'll donate 1.5 million books, more than half in North America #litchat -1:10 PM Dec 4th, 2009
LitChat @readingtree If you need to break up your tweets, conclude like this: 1... then pick up next tweet like this: ...2 (etc) to link. #litchat -1:11 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @maggiedana We're the only major player using mostly used books (readingtree.org). First Book and others collect \$ for new books #litchat -1:11 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @DavidRozansky We focus on K-8. Turns out it's hard to get folks to part with books for the older teens #litchat -1:12 PM Dec 4th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass This is what I love about @ReadingTree; they are one of the few that accept used books, something most people have to give. #litchat -1:13 PM Dec 4th, 2009
danish_novelist @readingtree What about Portland, Oregon? There are lots of books in this town #litchat -1:13 PM Dec 4th, 2009
maggiedana @readingtree I'd have thought opposite! I find it harder to part with picture books than with books for teens. #litchat -1:13 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @amyknichols Thanks for your help. We're budget-constrained, so books stay in the communities where they're donated #litchat -1:13 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @danish_novelist We're currently working with Safeway to sponsor our bins in Portland. We partner with Safeway in other areas #litchat -1:14 PM Dec 4th, 2009
LitChat Readers, writers, publishing pros: Please follow #litchat today to meet this remarkable literacy charity. We're on now. (4-5 pm/et) -1:14 PM Dec 4th, 2009
DavidRozansky Apologies, followng #litchat and #followreader, had wrong hashtag. -1:15 PM Dec 4th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass RT @LitChat: Readers, writers, publishing pros: Please follow #litchat today to meet this remarkable literacy charity. On now. (4-5 pm/et) -1:15 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @maggiedana Well, grandparents eventually move to the condo, so we get all their Dr. Seuss #litchat -1:15 PM Dec 4th, 2009
DavidRozansky @readingtree Our company's books are more appropriate to High School. Can you work with that? #litchat -1:15 PM Dec 4th, 2009
danish_novelist @readingtree Well, I have 4 Safeway cards, so I can break a few legs for you if that would help? :-) #litchat -1:16 PM Dec 4th, 2009
maggiedana Congress, are you listening? Improving literacy will help eradicate poverty. So please get behind @readingtree and programs like it #litchat -1:16 PM Dec 4th, 2009
amyknichols @readingtree That's great to know. And that you focus on K-8. Will keep that in mind for next donation. #Litchat -1:16 PM Dec 4th, 2009
Saffy RT @LitChat: Readers, writers, publishing pros: Please follow #litchat today to meet this remarkable literacy charity. We're on now #litchat -1:16 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @DavidRozansky We can. In addition to schools, we support after-school programs at all levels, and free clinics in inner cities #litchat -1:16 PM Dec 4th, 2009
maggiedana @readingtree Sadly, not my Dr. Seuss. I also keep my Kevin Henkes. Am passionate about picture books. #litchat -1:16 PM Dec 4th, 2009

DavidRozansky .@readingtree Do you ahve #Denver area collection points? #litchat -1:16 PM Dec 4th, 2009
LitChat If there is no collection bin in a community, how can people donate books to @ReadingTree? #litchat -1:17 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @DavidRozansky Not yet, but we are in talks with Safeway there. Safeway and Kroger are our major partners, giving space for bins #litchat -1:18 PM Dec 4th, 2009
inkwellHQ RT @maggiedana: Congress, r ulistening? Improving literacy will help eradicate poverty. Get behind @readingtree & programs like it #litchat -1:18 PM Dec 4th, 2009
TwinkleChar RT @Saffy: RT @LitChat: Readers, writers, publishing pros: Please follow #litchat today to meet this remarkable literacy charity. We're ... -1:18 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @maggiedana Very understandable! On my desk is my very first book, from 1961 - "Plink, Plink Goes the Water in My Sink" #litchat -1:18 PM Dec 4th, 2009
maggiedana @inkwellHQ Thanks for retweet. You did a good job with shortening it! #litchat -1:19 PM Dec 4th, 2009
4evermore I'm wondering what kind of grant support Mr. Barger is getting. Does he send any books to eastern WA state? #litchat -1:19 PM Dec 4th, 2009
amyknichols @readingtree What kinds of clinics? Reading clinics? Do you need volunteers? #Litchat -1:19 PM Dec 4th, 2009
JosieBrownCA Pass forward, from Twitter #litchat donates books (new or gently used) 2 k-12 schools in Bos, Chi, Atl, Phx, Tuc, SLC, SeaTac, VCBC, & DC -1:19 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @LitChat USPS offers a media rate for shipping to us. Alternatively, we can work w/you to do a one-time at a school nearby #litchat -1:19 PM Dec 4th, 2009
maggiedana Am all ears. RT @LitChat: If there is no collection bin in a community, how can people donate books to @ReadingTree? #litchat -1:19 PM Dec 4th, 2009
DavidRozansky @readingtree If there is someone you need me to talk to locally, let me know. #litchat -1:20 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @4evermore Not yet - all over the Seattle/Tacoma area, but no Eastern WA yet. #litchat -1:20 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @amyknichols Free medical clinics, mostly refugee/immigrant populations. When a child visits the doc, they get a book #litchat -1:21 PM Dec 4th, 2009
JoLynneValerie @readingtree Rather surprised; no drop off in my area (Roch, NY) - the closest locations are Massachusetts, Maryland, Indiana. #litchat -1:21 PM Dec 4th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass Even at media rate, books are heavy and \$\$\$ to ship. Is there anyway that people can help get bins into communities? #litchat -1:21 PM Dec 4th, 2009
Stacy1175 Pass forward, from Twitter #litchat donates books (new or gently used) 2 k-12 schools in Bos, Chi, Atl, Phx, Tuc, SLC, SeaTac, VCBC, & DC -1:22 PM Dec 4th, 2009
maggiedana Fabulous. RT @readingtree: Free medical clinics, mostly refugee/immigrant populations. When a child visits the doc, they get a book #litchat -1:22 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @CarolyBurnsBass Cost is the limitation - bins are about \$750 each. We could use help getting corp foundations on board #litchat -1:22 PM Dec 4th, 2009
amyknichols @readingtree what a great idea with the medical clinics! Again, thank you for doing this work. It's inspiring. #Litchat -1:22 PM Dec 4th, 2009
LexxClarke Much better than sweets! RT @readingtree: @amyknichols Free medical clinics. When a child visits the doc, they get a book #litchat -1:23 PM Dec 4th, 2009

readingtree @JoLynneValerie We're working toward NY - have a project brewing on Long Island, but will take a while to get to Roch #litchat -1:23 PM Dec 4th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass Better than a sucker or sticker! @readingtree gives books to kids at free medical clinics, w/mostly refugee/immigrant populations. #litchat -1:24 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @amyknichols You'd be surprised how many usable books wind up in landfill. For the most part, we're removing them from waste stream #litchat -1:24 PM Dec 4th, 2009
amyknichols @readingtree What can I do to help in the Phoenix area? #Litchat -1:24 PM Dec 4th, 2009
Saffy #litchat Have you approached authors like @doctorow who when people want to pay for their free stuff get them to donate books? @readingtree -1:24 PM Dec 4th, 2009
JoLynneValerie @readingtree Let me know if I can help in any way. I'm kind of crazy like that - always looking for a "do good" project to take on. #litchat -1:24 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @readingtree 2. however, today we got 12,000 new books from a company that salvages lost FedEx packages #litchat -1:25 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @Saffy We haven't - but thanks for a great suggestion! #litchat -1:26 PM Dec 4th, 2009
LitChat Tell us a bit more about your recycling efforts and the confluence between unusable books and @ReadingTree. #litchat -1:26 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @JoLynneValerie All it takes is a few "do good" projects to transform a community #litchat -1:26 PM Dec 4th, 2009
TwinkleChar Have you done outreach to used book stores? They must sometimes purge shelves. #litchat -1:26 PM Dec 4th, 2009
maggiedana Lost packages in a positive light! RT @readingtree: Today we got 12,000 new books from a company that salvages lost FedEx packages #litchat -1:27 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @LitChat 1. A lot of material donated to us isn't usable. We partner with recycling companies - we keep the usable stuff, #litchat -1:27 PM Dec 4th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead Will be in #litchat for a little while. -1:28 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @LitChat 2. & the recyclers sell the unusable. In this partnership, the recyclers provide the logistics and no money changes hands #litchat -1:28 PM Dec 4th, 2009
inkwellHQ RT @maggiedana: Fabulous. RT @readingtree: Free med clinics, mostly refugee/immigrant. When a child visits the doc, they get a book #litchat -1:28 PM Dec 4th, 2009
LexxClarke @rebeccawoodhead good evening :o) #litchat -1:28 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @TwinkleChar Yes. In some communities we get donations from used book stores, & we've received cash donations from B&N #litchat -1:29 PM Dec 4th, 2009
ChristinaCastro #FF #FollowFriday Follow Friday @readingtree - this org sends used books to med clinics, refugee/immigrant populations & schools #litchat -1:29 PM Dec 4th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead @LexxClarke *waves* #LitChat -1:29 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @rebeccawoodhead *waving back* #litchat -1:30 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @maggiedana Right - I'm the only guy who cheers when FedEx is less than 100% accurate... #litchat -1:31 PM Dec 4th, 2009
cowgirlwriter #FF #FollowFriday @readingtree - this org sends used books to med clinics, refugee/immigrant populations & schools #litchat -1:32 PM Dec 4th, 2009
amyknichols @readingtree I've never thought of books ending up in landfills. Makes me sick. :(#litchat -1:32 PM Dec 4th, 2009
LitChat How do you select the schools that receive your shipments of free books for classrooms? @ReadingTree #litchat -1:32 PM Dec 4th, 2009

readingtree Outside the U.S., our donations have gone to India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Kenya, Myanmar, and the Philippines #litchat -1:32 PM Dec 4th, 2009
alisonwells RT @LitChat: Readers, writers, publishing pros: Please follow #litchat today to meet this remarkable literacy charity.On now. (4-5 pm/et) -1:33 PM Dec 4th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass Me, too. RT @amyknichols: @readingtree Ive never thought of books ending up in landfills. Makes me sick. :(#litchat -1:33 PM Dec 4th, 2009
maggiedana Sad, but better books than plastic, tho. RT @amyknichols: I've never thought of books ending up in landfills. Makes me sick. :(#litchat -1:34 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @LitChat 1. We target schools in the bottom quartile reading scores, where majority receive free meals (Title I). We track their #litchat -1:34 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @LitChat 2. performance through the No Child Left Behind data they're required to post online. No additional data required #litchat -1:35 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @amyknichols So true. For unusable books, our recyclers weave them into the mats they go in the trunks of new cars.. #litchat -1:36 PM Dec 4th, 2009
amyknichols @readingtree Maybe a strange question: Do the books get damaged in the bins? I always worry dropping them in there. (I <3 books!) #litchat -1:38 PM Dec 4th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead @readingtree That is clever :) #LitChat -1:38 PM Dec 4th, 2009
LitChat What criteria do you use when selecting communities outside North America for free book shipments? #litchat -1:39 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @amyknichols Great question! The books fall into a laundry cart, which rolls out when the driver comes to get them. No harm done. #litchat -1:39 PM Dec 4th, 2009
amyknichols So cool! RT @readingtree: For unusable books, our recyclers weave them into the mats they go in the trunks of new cars.. #litchat -1:39 PM Dec 4th, 2009
herstorian RT @amyknichols: @readingtree Ive never thought of books ending up in landfills. Makes me sick. :([Agreed.] #litchat -1:40 PM Dec 4th, 2009
amyknichols @readingtree *shew* I'll feel much better now when I'm dropping them in. :) #litchat -1:40 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @LitChat We work through Omprakash Foundation, which matches education resources/needs around the world #litchat -1:40 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree We also partner with a great organization, Communities in Schools. They are a terrific dropout prevention system in inner cities #litchat -1:41 PM Dec 4th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead RT @readingtree: @LitChat We work through Omprakash Foundation, which matches education resources/needs around the world #LitChat -1:41 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree We also provide books to BookPALS, the Screen Actors Guild program that sends actor/readers into schools to energize reading #litchat -1:42 PM Dec 4th, 2009
cowgirlwriter RT @readingtree: @LitChat We work through Omprakash Foundation, which matches education resources/needs around the world #litchat -1:42 PM Dec 4th, 2009
TwinkleChar RT @readingtree: We also partner with a gr8 org, Communities in Schools. They r terrific dropout prevention system in inner cities #litchat -1:44 PM Dec 4th, 2009
cowgirlwriter @readingtree Is there any way to know what impact ur program has had thus far? #litchat -1:45 PM Dec 4th, 2009
agnieszkasshoes I've missed most of #litchat with @readingtree owing to roast pheasant & cauliflower cheese, but loving what I'm hearing now -1:45 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @cowgirlwriter 1. We just began tracking reading score data over the past 2 yrs. Schools w/our books improved reading scores #litchat -1:46 PM Dec 4th, 2009

readingtree @cowgirlwriter 2. at a rate 30% greater than schools in the same district without our classroom libraries #litchat -1:47 PM Dec 4th, 2009
TheNewAuthor @readingtree Is there a way we can help spread the word about your organization? #litchat -1:47 PM Dec 4th, 2009
thebookmaven If you're not in the middle of #followreader, #litchat, or your first cocktail of weekend, don't forget to share #fridayreads! -1:48 PM Dec 4th, 2009
cowgirlwriter @readingtree Wow! Those are impressive numbers! #litchat -1:48 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @TheNewAuthor Direct friends/family to our web site, or to the nearest donation bin. Also, ask your grocery store to host a bin #litchat -1:48 PM Dec 4th, 2009
skrishna RT @thebookmaven: If you're not in middle of #followreader, #litchat, or your first cocktail of weekend, don't forget to share #fridayreads! -1:48 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @cowgirlwriter Based on 150 schools in Chicagoland. We partner with BookWorm Angels there. #litchat -1:49 PM Dec 4th, 2009
TwinkleChar RT @readingtree: Direct friends/family to our web site, or to the nearest donation bin. Also, ask your grocery store to host a bin #litchat -1:49 PM Dec 4th, 2009
amyknichols @cowgirlwriter @readingtree I agree. Very impressive numbers. #litchat -1:51 PM Dec 4th, 2009
LitChat Do you have material (online or print) specified to grocery stores or other donation sites for volunteers to take to local stores? #litchat -1:51 PM Dec 4th, 2009
NancyHolzner RT @thebookmaven If you're not in the middle of #followreader, #litchat or your 1st cocktail of weekend, don't forget to share #fridayreads! -1:51 PM Dec 4th, 2009
Saffy not been following #litchat propelly but have you targeted coffee shops I know here some have bookcases you can leave stuff @readingtree -1:52 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @cowgirlwriter As others have mentioned, reading is more fun when it's not an assignment - we're all about recreational reading #litchat -1:52 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @Saffy Coffee shops have been helpful in hosting donation bins on their properties - we have bins at a number of Starbucks #litchat -1:53 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @LitChat I can e-mail information that can be shared with potential bin hosts - john@readingtree.org #litchat -1:54 PM Dec 4th, 2009
LitChat In last five minutes of #litchat, let's point people to the BOOKS ARE GREAT GIFTS book auction to benefit @ReadingTree. #litchat -1:55 PM Dec 4th, 2009
TwinkleChar Does the site that places the bin pay for the bin? #litchat -1:55 PM Dec 4th, 2009
NancyHolzner RT @LitChat In last 5 minutes of #litchat, let's point people to the BOOKS ARE GREAT GIFTS book auction to benefit @ReadingTree. #litchat -1:56 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree @TwinkleChar Nope. We raise the funds for that - usually corporate foundation grants #litchat -1:56 PM Dec 4th, 2009
LitChat Please check out books for auction to benefit @ReadingTree through #BAGG auction: http://bit.ly/5a8DB4 : #followreader #amwriting #litchat -1:57 PM Dec 4th, 2009
readingtree Thanks so much to everybody for your encouragement - Reading Tree appreciates your support! #litchat -2:00 PM Dec 4th, 2009
TwinkleChar APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE to @readingtree and @LitChat, both doing good works. #litchat -2:01 PM Dec 4th, 2009
MarDixon RT @LitChat: Please check out books for auction to benefit @ReadingTree through #BAGG auction: http://bit.ly/5a8DB4 : #followreader #litchat -2:01 PM Dec 4th, 2009

amyknichols @readingtree Thank you! Enjoyed this and learned so much. Please keep up the awesome work. And thank you to @LitChat, too. #litchat -2:01 PM Dec 4th, 2009

LexxClarke @readingtree Thank you for taking the time to chat with us,I wish you continued success with your wonderful work #litchat -2:02 PM Dec 4th, 2009

cowgirlwriter @readingtree Your work is AMAZING!. Thx @litchat for this opp. to learn abt Reading Tree. #litchat -2:02 PM Dec 4th, 2009

amyknichols *joins in applause* RT @TwinkleChar: APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE to @readingtree and @LitChat, both doing good works. #litchat -2:02 PM Dec 4th, 2009

maggiedana @readingtree Thank you SO much for all the work that you do. Your efforts deserve lots of funding b/c reading is fundamental. #litchat -2:05 PM Dec 4th, 2009

LexxClarke Thank you as ever to @LitChat for hosting another awesome chat :o) #litchat -2:05 PM Dec 4th, 2009

LitChat Thank you, John at @ReadingTree for being with us today. We will look forward to hearing more from you and helping support reading. #litchat -2:07 PM Dec 4th, 2009

DavidRozansky Well, gotta go. Thanks to everyone in #litchat #scifichat and #followreader -2:09 PM Dec 4th, 2009

DavidRozansky Incredibly vociferous #followfriday for @readingtree. Donate books, help kids learn to read! #litchat -2:10 PM Dec 4th, 2009

LitChat Drop by the BOOKS ARE GREAT GIFTS auction page to see what books you want to bid on. <http://bit.ly/5a8DB4> #litchat -2:12 PM Dec 4th, 2009