ABOUT

Literature for All of Us brings the joys of reading and writing to young adults and families across Chicagoland.

Utilizing a trauma-informed approach to activate safe spaces, our teaching artists build communities of readers, writers, and artists opening worlds by opening books.
In 2016, Abraxas Group undertook a comprehensive analysis of Literature for All of Us’ student survey data. 157 participants across eight book groups during the 2015-2016 school year were queried. The survey, comprised of eight quantitative questions, generated over 1,200 data points. Literature for All of Us is proud to report Abraxas Groups’ findings demonstrate we are forming deep bonds with our participants while driving learning across academic, social, and emotional axes.
PROGRAM SITES

Chicago Women in Trades
Curt’s Cafe North
Curt’s Cafe South
Dr.Pedro Albizu Campos High School
Evanston Township High School
Family Focus
Innovations High School of Integrated Arts
J. Sterling Morton Alternative High School
Juvenile Temporary Detention Center
Mason Park After School Program
Second Chance Alternative High School
SER-RISE
Sullivan House High School
The Crib
Theolene Simpson Academy for Young Women
Upton Sinclair Alternative High School
YMCA Metamedia
BOOKS WE READ

Upstate by Kalisha Buckhanon
A Piece of Cake by Cupcake Brown
Drown by Junot Diaz
Miles from Nowhere by Nami Mun
Muchacho by LouAnne Johnson
Giovanni’s Room by James Baldwin
Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes
Nevada by Imogen Binnie
Pole Dancing to Gospel Hymns by Andrew Gibson
Grace After Midnight by Felicia ‘Snoop’ Pearson

A is for Activist by Innosanto Nagara
Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman
Come On Rain by Karen Hesse
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
If you Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff
Mama Do You Love Me? by Barbara Joosse
My Friend Rabbit by Eric Rohmann
No, David! by David Shannon
Please Baby Please by Spike Lee
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
What a Wonderful World by George David Weiss
When I feel Angry by Cornelia Maude Spelman

SEE FULL LIST AT LITERATUREFORALLOFUS.ORG
ACTIVITIES

- poetry anthologies published: 16
- discussions: 778
- poems written: 2796
“One of my favorite moments of the year was when we were discussing a passage from *Tyrell* by Coe Booth.

The participants were so passionate about their opinions and so loud that one of the security guards came to the door to see if there was a fight happening in the room. There wasn’t. The kids were just really excited about the topic!”

- Sarena Korni, Teaching Artist
FAMILY LITERACY

209 CHILDREN'S LITERATURE SESSIONS

Empowering Parents, Inspiring Children (EPIC) providing parents with high-quality books for their children, helping families build home libraries.
72% identify as readers and writers.
Instead of prisons, give me hope.
Instead of pain, give us peace.
Instead of hurting, hold us.
Instead of lying, give me truth.
Instead of telling us, show us.

My community is lost but it is also strong.
We are aware but we are unforgiven.
I am hopeful.
I am not lost.