Call For Manuscripts:
Room To Read’s
Haitian Children’s Book Collection

Room to Read is excited to share this call for manuscripts for our first Haitian children’s book collection! We are a nonprofit children’s book publisher that has distributed books all around the globe. This upcoming collection will have a total of 6 books for Haitian children between the ages of 4 and 9, and will be distributed throughout the U.S. and Caribbean.

As Room to Read completed a book publishing landscape analysis, we discovered the severe lack of children’s books that represent Haitian children. Areas in the U.S. with large populations of the Haitian diaspora have little to no books that represent and celebrate the Haitian culture. Our goal with this collection is to fill in that gap as well as to:

1. Foster a love of reading in young children
2. Encourage Haitian children to learn more about their culture and home language
3. Create bonding between Haitian children and parents as they engage with these stories together

Room to Read conducted focus groups with adolescents and adults at various Haitian churches to learn about the stories this community would like to see represented in a Haitian children’s book collection. The following themes emerged:

- Haitian food
- Haitian childhood games and past times like wosle
- Haitian social norms & etiquette (e.g., greeting family and strangers)
- Haitian music genres and stars
- Major historical events and figures (e.g., independence, Dessalines)
- Haitian religious institutions
- Haitian heroes and villains
- Comparison between past and present
- Mental health/How to talk to your parents about sensitive issues
We would love to see manuscripts addressing one or more of these. However, we will happily review any manuscript written by an author of Haitian descent about a topic of relevance to Haitian communities. Our review will be based on how engaging and child-friendly the story is, and how reflective it is of their thoughts and interests.

Each book will be published bilingually in Haitian-Creole and English, with possibly also an edition bilingually in Haitian-Creole and French.

To submit a manuscript for this collection, please adhere to the following instructions:

- Manuscripts should be aimed at children within the 4-9 age group; they can be picture books, early reader books, or early chapter books.
- Stories may revolve around the aforementioned themes.
- Submissions (as well as any questions) should be sent to chelsea.st-cyr@roomtoread.org with the subject line Haitian Children’s Book Collection_Last Name
- Manuscripts should be attached as a PDF named Manuscript_FirstInitialLastName
- Manuscripts may be submitted in English, Haitian-Creole or French.
- Please indicate whether you would be able to attend the 4-day workshop described below.

We will be accepting submissions from authors of Haitian descent ONLY. The deadline to submit manuscripts is September 14th, 2022, at 11:59PM EST.

We understand that this deadline is quick, but the manuscript does not have to be complete. It is intended to help us understand your concept and writing style.

As with any professional publisher or agent, Room to Read respects your inherent copyright to your submission.

The selected authors will be attending our author’s workshop where they will begin revising, polishing, and finalizing their manuscripts. The workshop will take place in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, from October 3rd to October 6th. The cost of transportation, lodging, and food will be covered by Room to Read.
About Room to Read

Room to Read’s trade program has published more than 5,000 original and adapted children’s book titles and has distributed more than 34 million books in 21 countries, providing primary school students in over 49,000 schools with the resources and guidance they need to build a strong foundation in literacy and a love of reading.

Founded in 2000 on the belief that World Change Starts with Educated Children®, Room to Read is creating a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality. We are achieving this goal by providing resources for children in underrepresented communities to develop literacy skills and a habit of reading, and by supporting girls as they build skills to succeed in school and negotiate key life decisions. We collaborate with governments and other partner organizations to deliver positive outcomes for children at scale. Room to Read aims to benefit 40 million children by 2025. Learn more at [www.roomtoread.org](http://www.roomtoread.org).