



D U C E R E  
P U B L I S H I N G

# African Children's Stories

Written by children in Mauritius  
in celebration of 50 years of  
Australian–Mauritius Diplomatic Relations

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Sixtieth Collection

## Proudly presented by

**Hon. Mrs Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun**

*Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Education,  
Tertiary Education, Science and Technology*



I am greatly pleased that my Ministry continues to be involved in the Ducere Foundation African Children's Stories Program. Collection 60 is yet another special edition published in the context of the 50th Anniversary of Mauritius-Australia Diplomatic Relations.

It was thrilling to see the enthusiasm generated for the SLAM poetry competition as evidenced by the wonderful response from students across Mauritius. I am deeply appreciative that the youth of Mauritius have earned international respect for their talent in such a competition where poetry is the medium of transmission. I believe this is but one sliver of their expansive imaginative faculties and I am convinced that this new collection will serve to further attest to, confirm and endorse their talent.

It is today universally recognised that there is no one definition of slam poetry. It is a modern idiom where language becomes song and words can run free with the body moving in sync with the rhythm and soul of ideas. It has certainly brought gravitas to what is now viewed as a modern form of poetry.

This has been aptly captured in Collection 60. As with the previous collections, published at the time of the 50th Anniversary of our Independence, this collection has served to provide a unique platform for students to explore their imagination, share life's experiences and also capture memories from their elders – but this time, through rhythm, rhyme, alliteration and other such literary devices.

I am more than delighted with the passion, creativity and the sophisticated depth of meaning that these students have evoked in their slams.

I note that the twenty poems that have found their way into this collection were selected through a rigorous adjudication process based on the chosen theme of "Education". It is only sound that education should have been given the thematic top billing. It is, in fact, education that today underpins both the expected future quality of life of every student and the economic productivity of our nation.

Congratulations therefore to Ducere Foundation and the team at the Ministry who played a critical part in the implementation of the SLAM Poetry Competition, the fruits of which have been gathered in this collection.

I am confident that thousands of educators and learners will take great interest in, and be inspired by, this book.

## Message from Ducere

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Ducere is a social enterprise committed to the ongoing expansion of the African Children's Stories program across all African countries.

Partnership is central to our success, as without collaboration and commitment Ducere Foundation would need its own army of staff to deliver its vision. Ducere Global Business School is the principal funder of the Foundation and we are grateful to our Founder Mathew Jacobson for his vision and ongoing passion for our mission.

The African Children's Stories program encourages children to write from their imagination, share their day to day reality and also tell the stories that their elders were told in their youth.

Collection 60 is a wonderful milestone as we begin to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of Australia–Mauritius Diplomatic Relations. It is two years since the SLAM Poetry

Competition was launched in Mauritius, a special project inspired by the Hon. Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun in her capacity as Minister for Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology and now Vice Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius.

SLAM poetry cannot be defined with a single meaning. The twenty poems within this publication reflect deep thought, passionate commitment, identified concerns, joy in learning and hope for the future.

Ducere is proud to present these poems, knowing that they will be shared across the globe with the intent to celebrate African student authors, and to encourage others to read, write and share. As a child, the motto at my school was *Nulla dies sine linea* – not a single day without a line. This is a motto I trust all students will hold dear.

We commend these poems to you.

## Ducere Foundation Directors



**Di Fleming**  
Executive Director



**Mat Jacobson**  
Founder and CEO

## A message from the Mauritian Team

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The Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology has been in partnership with the Ducere Foundation, delivering the African Children's Stories for nearly five years. This program is committed to the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 – quality education. Over the years, many Mauritian students and educators have engaged in associated classroom activities, including creative writing and illustration, as well as the teacher training master classes.

The Ducere Foundation is under the direction of Mrs Di Fleming, who is also the Honorary Consul for Mauritius in Victoria, Australia, a leader passionately engaged in this program. It has been my pleasure to work with this Foundation since the very start, encouraging all schools across Mauritius to expand their understanding and joy in story writing and story-telling. Over eighty students from the Republic have had their creative works – stories, poems and illustrations – published and shared across many African nations.

This present collection reflects the student responses to the Slam Poetry Competition, which was launched by the Honourable (Mrs) Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology. Selection of the best slam poems was based on the following criteria:

- » expression: the ability to capture the ideas, concepts and imagery through rhythm, rhyme, alliteration and other forms of language use
- » creativity and imagination: the ability to explore personal or global issues in a way that expands meaning and nuance
- » audience engagement: the ability to capture the audience's attention and leave an indelible message or characteristic
- » slam poetry for publication: the appeal for public performance across multiple media.

This year, 2020, is an auspicious time for Australia and Mauritius. It is 50 years since the beginning of Australia and Mauritius diplomatic relations, a relationship of which we are delighted to form part of and where the African Children's Stories are central to the engagement of our educational institutions.

I would like to both introduce and acknowledge the team at the Ministry:

- » V. Hauroo (Mrs), Head Library Cadre
- » Shalini Mahadowa-Reechaye (Mrs), Administrator
- » Rajiv Kumar Aukhojee (Mr), Administrator
- » Guy J. N. Genevieve (Mr), Administrator.

Our team has been consistently engaged in the African Stories Program over the years: communicating with schools, adjudicating the literacy competitions, managing and collating each vital piece of information to ensure high quality stories and poems that reflect the nature and culture of Mauritius and which will positively influence children across the globe.

We are extremely proud of the way our students and teachers have responded to the Slam Poetry challenge, addressing the criteria and exploring the literary medium.

We are delighted that this year, as we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Australia and Mauritius diplomatic relations, we are able to launch Collection 60 of the African Children's Stories, a program that more than binds our countries together.



**Aneeta Ghoorah (Mrs)**  
Director & ASG NATCOM UNESCO  
Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

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# Enlightenment

Written by  
Nihma Milhaab Elahee, 15 years  
Sodnac State Secondary School  
**First Competition Prize-winner**



They told me to write on education  
I'm searching for words of inspiration  
I thought education would take me to the moon  
Not the four walls of a classroom.

Confined in this room of darkness  
I believed outside was happiness  
I wanted to swing and play  
Just have fun in every way.

But I was to stay in this room of tables and chairs  
When teachers came in, up went my hairs  
Striving and tiring myself to work  
But hey! It's not done yet, you're got homework.  
Attitude changed. Aptitude drained.

All I had in mind every day  
Was to go home to start my play  
But slowly I began to realise  
That education came from all sides.

At home it was all about manners  
Parents kept flashing those like banners  
My parents educating me  
In etiquette, languages, so I could see.





And realisation dawned when I went to buy corn  
Coins jingled onto the counter, my brain working like a calculator  
Math coming in handy and I felt real dandy  
In pointing out the mistake the shopkeeper made at the station.

Waiting in the rain  
A cool guy came up to me  
With the look that was strained  
Can't read, he whispered, need help with the train.

I felt his shame  
Asked myself: Who was to blame?  
He felt depleted  
Having not been educated.

I felt a jolt, a spark  
No longer in the dark  
Educated I wanted to be  
The same classroom beckoned to me.

Abhorrence vanished, motivation replenished, confidence flourished  
Now my mind yearned  
For the knowledge I wanted to learn  
To school I was ready to return.

I began to pay attention  
To what was being said during class discussion  
My mind broadened  
Not all so sudden.

Over time  
Although it was a hard climb  
My knowledge increased  
My childishness ceased.  
My way of talking become refined  
I knew where I was going, my objectives defined  
I see how education changed me for the best  
Surely education is the way to success.



# Before art silences constellations 1360 light-years away

Written by  
Yukino Mayumi Chang-Leng, 16 years  
Loreto College Quatre Bornes  
**Second Competition Prize-winner**

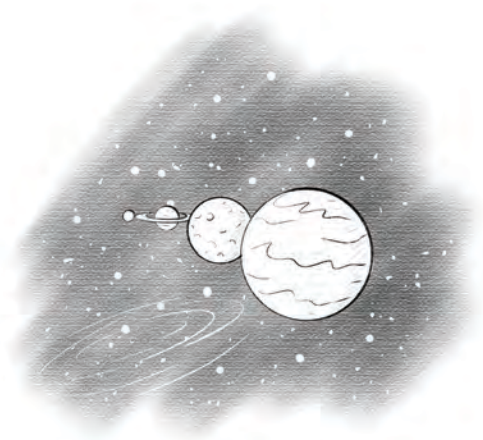


The first time I let myself grow  
The ground hushes constellations writhing 1360 light-years away.  
An implosion occurs and away soar all the body parts that weighed me down.

But before that happens ... my mind, a cyclone  
Hollanda born again from wild whirlwinds of words  
Before the red of my eyes, 6's and 9's  
Dancing at the distant sound of crashing waves – “Worthless”.  
I mistake 6's for 9's but aren't they the same anyway?  
Hours pass and I am still incapable  
Of drawing a line between different shades of grey.  
A ray of hope appears, then disappears.  
A colour-blindness for the figure-weak.  
Math continues to form clouds as I try to wipe storms off my cheek.  
Weep, weep until all the air in your room turns into smoke  
As a ceaseless shower of numbers makes you choke.  
You cannot breathe.  
You crawl and dig for air underneath.  
Gasp! Gasp! Gasp! ...  
I take in more than I can swallow  
Because I remember my mother once told me  
“Always seek for more”.



Mum, how could I have known that you meant  
"Reach for the mountains"?  
As I seek to fly when I may fall  
How could I have known it was never my fault  
Not being able to extinguish the scorching fires in my heart?  
As I stare down at crumpled papers  
I now realise that it never was my fault.  
It was that of a "second home" moulded into illusionary excellence  
Screaming "Pre-eminence and Science, what's the difference?"  
Prison masquerading as four walls, three floors, closed doors and  
whiteboards.  
A thief ripping children away from their hopes and dreams  
A sorcerer turning imagination into memorisation.  
It was the fault of an institution conditioning humans oblivious to new  
heights.  
Students with straight A's but crooked aims  
Tying their hands and clipping their wings  
Shutting their eyes to the red and orange skies  
Stitching their mouth so they never dare to speak.



I stand on table tops and speak up for the voiceless  
Purge my soul into words unsaid and coat it with fearlessness.  
I speak for those whose hands no longer dare to splatter their thoughts  
into colours  
Whose hands are now impelled to only draw straight lines and perfect  
curves.  
For those who bury their passions, believing they will grow one day.  
Until then, I hide bitterness at the back of my tongue  
And wait for the taste to disappear.  
6's and 9's no longer scare me.  
See I am learning to listen to their silent symphonies  
Without ever ignoring the lengths of my abilities.  
Away soar all the body parts that weighed me down  
A restrained mind, bloodshot eyes and shaky fingertips.  
The first time I let myself grow  
The ground hushes constellations writhing 1360 light-years away.  
When that happens, everything around goes still  
I reach for the art I was born to fulfil.

## "E for education"

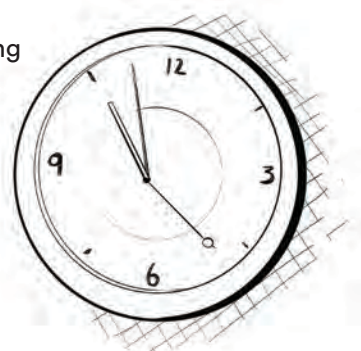
Written by  
Maithili Sevanandee, 13 years  
Gaetan Raynal State College  
**Third Competition Prize-winner**



It was five minutes before midnight  
I realised I've been thinking for hours  
Wondering how to stride ahead in life  
Then my fluttering mind settled  
on a word  
That dear word that is always in  
my head.

Education, education, education ...  
A word, a precious subject  
That you should never ever reject  
Be it today, tomorrow or any day  
Education will surely pass your way.

Education, education, education ...  
Something I need and so does the  
whole nation  
I can still not fully grasp the meaning  
Despite dwelling in my thoughts all evening  
All I know education is important, so  
important.



An aim, a priority, a passport for life ...  
As said by my mama:  
All of us should know our ABCs  
All of us should know our tables and islands overseas  
Without forgetting our balancing equations and formulae.

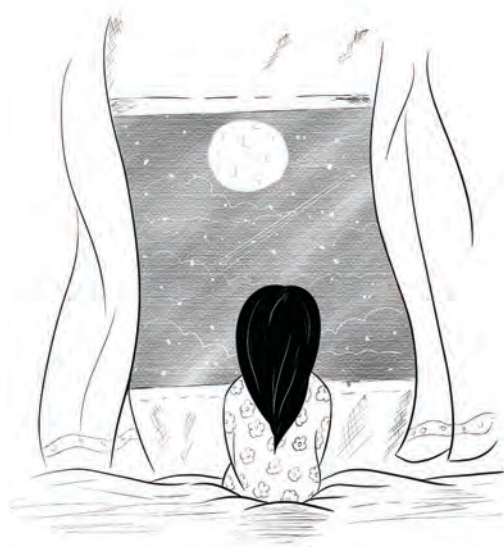
But I keep wondering  
How will it help me during my day?  
T for thank you, S for sorry  
But when to say thank you and sorry  
That was not explained, I'm sorry!

Education, education, education ...  
I did get some of it from my granny when she sat on her swinging chair  
She was the best teacher in that school in the fresh air  
As I sat listening to her she taught me the lessons of  
life from her 88 years  
Happiness, willpower, hard work, compromise ...  
lucky were my ears!





I am a young girl who wants to visit the moon  
But doesn't even know where to start to learn  
I have expressed myself black on white with holy words  
But still pondering about what is true  
Education, education, education.



# Education is an enlightening experience

Written by  
Nawfar Muhamad Sawar, 16 years  
Floreale State Secondary School



[ education, education, education  
Get some education, my parents shout  
Why should I? I pout  
No education, no locked doors open, they say  
No education, no pay, they say  
No education, no future, they say  
What is this education I wonder  
An enlightening experience reply my parents  
That gives power.  
Power to realise your dreams  
To make us proud  
To become independent  
And fly with your own wings  
To be valued and to be prized  
Power to build a gratifying future  
To share with your sons.

Education, education, education  
Get some education,  
my teachers harp  
Why should I? I cap  
No education, no creativity, they say  
No education, no innovation, they say  
No education, no freedom, they say  
What is this education? I wonder  
It is an enlightening experience



Explain my teachers  
That gives power  
Power to exercise choice  
Choose between right and wrong  
To read, write, count, explore  
Without any limit  
To say “no” to injustice  
To fight repression  
Power to speak out  
Against corruption.

Education, education, education  
Get some education, society demands  
Why should I? I retort  
No education, no productivity, they say  
No education, no status, they say  
No education, no morality, they say  
What is this education? I wonder  
It is an enlightening experience  
Shouts society  
That gives power  
Power to meet challenges  
That improve attitude  
To become humane  
Though not necessarily a saint  
To cultivate the mind  
To nurture society  
Power to share experiences  
With future generations.

Education, education, education  
Get some education, the learned ones advise  
Why should I? I ask.  
No education, no progress, they say  
No education, no collaboration, they say  
No education, no persuasion, they say  
What is this education? I wonder



It is an enlightening experience  
State the learned ones  
That gives power  
Power to learn about science, matter, energy  
And the Mighty One  
To improve the mindset  
And not believe blindly  
To discover new horizons  
Without constraints  
Power to address difficulties  
With confidence.

Education, education, education  
Get some education the illiterates reiterate  
Why should I? I ask  
No education, no gain, they say  
No education, no household, they say  
No education, no happiness, they say  
What is this education? I wonder  
It is an enlightening experience  
Cry the illiterates  
That gives power  
Power to be trusted  
And have faith in oneself  
To have an identity  
And be known  
To be appreciated  
And show appreciation  
Power to become powerful  
And protect the helpless.

Education, education, education  
Get some education, they ALL say  
And I know why now!  
It is an enlightening experience  
I know the way.

# Beauty of education

Written by  
Lakshay Boodadoo, 15 years  
Royal College Curepipe



One two three four  
A B C D  
I open the door

For you to be  
To be alive  
To be wise

A first step to gain knowledge  
Many more steps to reach the edge  
I am the light guiding through darkness  
Start small and grow to greatness

I am the sword that cuts ignorance  
To wield me, one must have patience  
I am the wheel of society  
For kids, a burden but a necessity

Without me your future is at stake  
Take me, your future I will make  
To this I promise  
A chance not to miss

One two three four  
A B C D  
I open the door  
For you to be  
To be alive  
To be wise  
I feed hungry minds  
Unleash the sight of the blind  
Leading the way for you to find  
Something better, something divine  
Reach for the sky  
Open your wings to fly  
The sky is not the limit  
Sole way to reach the summit  
Your dream I can fulfil  
Knowledge I can instil  
Build up on your skill  
But a lot to learn still



One two three four

A B C D

I open the door

For you to be

To be alive

To be wise

My power is infinite

No other can be as bright

I shine through the darkest night

Because I am all might

Come forward and take my hand

A companion I will be till the end

Together we move forward

I swear I'll keep my word





Never to leave your side  
Even during the tide  
We'll go through ups and downs  
To reach the desired crowns

One two three four  
A B C D

I open the door  
For you to be  
To be alive  
To be wise

Deeper than the ocean  
You plunge with devotion  
I am full of emotion  
My friend, I am education



# The fantasy of the Midas touch

Written by  
Mélany Labêche, 15 years  
Eden College (Girls)



Questions come to my mind  
Trying to continuously bind  
The theoretical and practical facets  
Of our educational system  
So, I thought, why not Slam to share my philosophy.

Parents preach  
Teachers teach  
Am I an empty jar?  
So far ...  
It's so tragic  
I'm getting sick of excessive sitting  
In a confined classroom all day.  
I'm dismayed ...  
What's the rat race doing to our generation?  
Bombarding us with examinations!  
As said by Nelson Mandela:  
"Education is the most powerful weapon  
Which you can use to change the world."  
But why?  
Why is the education system still the same?  
It's such a shame!



Everyone is unique  
Life-long learning is what I seek.  
Our educational system is judging a fish  
“By its ability to climb trees”.  
Hats off to Albert Einstein for saying that.  
All we are doing is to accumulate degrees.  
Is it wise to teach the same thing in the same way?

No way!  
Detention! Competition! Tuition!  
Instead of collaboration ...  
A depiction of Charles Darwin’s theory in  
“The survival of the fittest”  
But in my head, it’s all a mess!  
Will standardised tests decide my fate?  
It’s still not too late to change and build  
A happy and “truly educated” generation.  
Imagination and creativity  
Will definitely lead us to maturity.  
Teach me how to love and I will serve  
Show me how to fight my fears  
And I will shed no more tears.



Why am I focusing on the fantasy of the Midas touch?  
For those who don't know  
Our education system is considered to be like the Midas touch.  
But it's a fantasy!  
As no one becomes educated fully  
By relying on books only.  
We are losing our creativity  
Which is the ultimate reality!  
Things evolve; they get better.  
But even after a century, the education system is still the same.  
All it wishes to do is to tame.

Let's be real, educated groups of post-modernist youth.  
This is the only truth  
It is good to know.  
Steve Job's net worth was 7 billion  
Richard Branson's net worth is 4.2 billion  
Oprah Winfrey's net worth is 2.7 billion  
Billions smiling at them all  
Who did not get a degree.  
Okay, forget about money!

Let's think about charity  
Like Muhammed Ali did  
And how can we forget Jesus?  
Did schools teach them this?  
No! Making money is taught  
But not donating money.

Before it becomes annoying  
One last question remains.  
Is school preparing us for the future?  
People, let's stick together  
With the courage that we must gather.  
Our goals are being set too high  
Making it difficult for some to climb.  
Education in a limited environment can never be Midas.  
Let students be Midas  
To turn bad into good  
And NOT to rely only on books.  
To know the true meaning of education  
Is where we are trying to seek attention.

# Education

Written by  
Jivalutchmee Tandrayen, 14 years  
Gaetan Raynal State College



In my first class ever at school  
I was taught alphabets and numbers  
I was a fool

To think that education comprised of only these  
It was only years later that I understood the real meaning  
Of this process that constantly grows in us, forever and ever.

Is education only about history, mathematics, science or languages?  
Education will give you good grade  
Good grades will lead you to a stable career, income and successful life  
Such is the importance of education  
Those words so often heard are not wrong  
But are they always right?

Education is life itself  
For it starts from birth till our last breath  
It continues to expand as we await our death  
Through the least significant event to the biggest  
It is indeed a never-ending process.

A mosquito bite  
The scent of roses  
Flying in an aeroplane  
The bruise on one's leg  
Falling in love  
Whatever broadens our horizon  
Deepens our insight  
Refines our reaction  
Stimulates thought and feeling  
Educates us.

And, yes, this reminds us of life skills learnt at school  
Mesmerised by the words we hear  
Surprised by what we learn  
We realise many things.  
Enjoying our discoveries, engulfed by a peaceful feeling  
Just like a hot spring.  
We understand more about ourselves and the world  
Thinking about our past actions and words.  
Connecting the dots and realising why  
Although we could not before  
No matter how much we tried.  
Was that not education too  
That allowed us to discover our talents?  
To love ourselves and others  
To accept our body as it is.  
To see the difference between desires and actions  
Learn how to take control over both  
And become a better, wiser, more mature person.  
Learn how to rightly judge  
Be with and interact with people  
Generating human values  
Integrity  
Self-realisation  
Satisfaction  
And cohesion.





Learning develops our understanding  
Critical thinking  
Personality and an open mind-set.  
It gives us creative skills  
And peace without sleeping pills.  
At the end of the day  
What is right and wrong?  
How do I solve my problems?  
How can I be happy?  
Such are the crucial skills of decision making.

Evolution is seen every day  
Physically, spiritually  
Emotionally, morally.  
Things are in constant movement  
Everyone changes  
The world changes.  
We are taught how to accept  
And adjust to these life changes  
Always going forward in life.  
And is this not education? Yes, it is!

New discoveries are forever being made  
As we walk along the eternal journey of education.  
We could say that it gives us an eternal, immortal mind  
Such is the kind of immortality that education grants us.

# Evolution

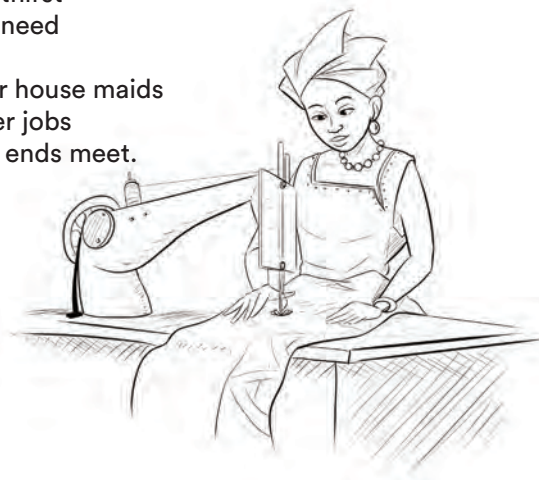
Written by  
Mélalhel Courtney Quincy Edouary, 15 years  
Sodnac State Secondary School




[ Education is the accumulation of facts  
And the development of logic, skills and acts.  
To become a fully-fledged citizen  
It's mandatory up to the age of six plus ten.


Long ago education was not free  
Therefore not affordable for poor families  
Who at that time had many children  
Faced a lot of difficulties  
And tried by all their means  
To get them disciplined and developed.

Eldest children had to work  
To quench their hunger and thirst  
And to help their families in need  
Sad and painful indeed.  
Girls doing jobs as sewing or house maids  
Boys being masons and other jobs  
Still parents could not make ends meet.





Children's scholarship in Mauritius is  
Pre-primary, primary, secondary  
From creativity in pre-primary  
To a large range of skills, faculties and subjects in secondary  
It is a way to success.  
Assessments through the year are performed  
To know the students' progress.  
Sometimes these are tough  
But they have no other way round  
Than to put all efforts into getting a favourable result.  
Today, children have access to free education  
And online and distance tuition.  
They have free books and e-books at school  
Or get access through tablets and other tools.  
Deemed necessary for their learning  
And successful upbringing.



Initiating the nine-year schooling, the Government of Mauritius  
Is finding ways to help those who struggle.  
Investing in communication technology for pupils in primary  
Spending more on education  
To make Mauritius a cyber island.

Students in classrooms are observed  
Those records help teaching staff plan for the future.  
Opportunities are given to every single student facing  
Difficulties and inability to learn.  
The Government of Mauritius is putting more emphasis on education  
In some countries, guns and wars are their daily situation.

No education leads to all types of scourges  
For example, alcohol, prostitution, drugs  
Which are taking over the world  
Leading to self-destruction and prison.

Non-governmental organisations are fighting for construction  
Of ideas and resources to help and prevent those downfalls.

Education was, is and will always remain at the heart of evolution and  
the only key to success.

# My feelings on education

Written by  
Darshinee Seebaluck, 15 years  
Sodnac State Secondary School



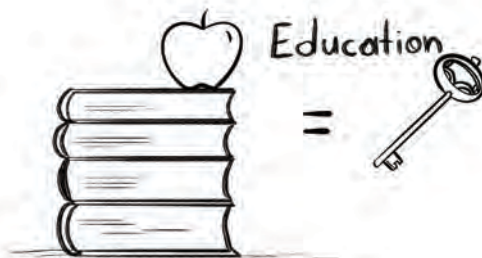
When I was at school, English was my thing  
When working on English, no bells ring.  
You want to be in a gang  
And shoot up everything with a bang.  
You say they'll have your back  
But education is what you lack.  
Education is the key of life  
Not getting stabbed with a knife.  
Education will lead you to great heights  
And take you away from daily fights.  
Education will help you to excel  
Not lead you to a country jail.  
You won't find yourself doing ten  
Far away in a country pen.  
Or being charged with first degree murder  
In a terrifying court of orders.  
Getting life without bail  
While your family wail.  
Education gives you knowledge  
Intelligence, a sharp and cutting edge.

It isn't simply a symbolic gesture  
Learning is full of adventure.  
Knowledge on paper or in mind will not prove  
Degrees and qualifications may lead and improve.  
Your actions and work may find objections and disapproval  
Cry from all over for disqualification and removal.  
It's a lesson you should heed  
If at first you don't succeed  
Make education your need.  
Then your courage should appear  
For if you persevere  
You will conquer, never fear.  
Illiterates have common sense and ability to lead  
All the time they will need guidance and feed.  
Literates can think well ahead and act  
Balance approach and enough time to react.  
Once or twice, though you could fail  
If you would at last prevail.

If we strike, it's not a disgrace  
Though we don't win the race.  
If you find your task is hard  
Time will bring you your reward.

Knowledge and power lead to smartness and elegance  
It may look as if the air is filled with fragrance.  
Wherever you go, leave the lasting impression  
Save you from downfall and forceful emersion.

It is not easy to go all alone  
Like feeling dislodged from the effects of a cyclone.  
What matters is its application  
Wrong use of it may lead to suffocation.  
Instead of embarrassing idleness  
Get educated and be the best.





# Redefining education

Written by

Krishnajivnee Veiyshnavee Balkissoon, 16 years

Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School Nouvelle France



[ Education, a powerful word, around which revolves my world  
Yet so intricate is its definition and little have I discerned.  
Intelligence, perfect grades, certificates are the attributes of an  
educated mind  
Quickly join this crowd before you are left behind.  
Such words I have heard echo in my mind every time  
For many years I have even made them my guiding light.  
I have spent numerous days in revision and memorisation believing this  
was education  
In the process, sometimes failure chased me while sometimes I chased  
perfection.  
Seconds turned into minutes and minutes quickly changed into days  
and years  
Yet proud and confident I stood as I envisioned my bright future in the  
coming years  
Until I slowed down to look around and the bitter realisation dawned  
on me!



My world was surrounded by aggressive, self-absorbed and  
materialistic persons  
Bullying, drug addiction, corruption, discrimination were the raging  
demons.  
This has never been the aim of education  
How can knowledge and wisdom be the cause of destruction?  
Nonstop and daily cutthroat competition is causing much affliction  
I ponder, I assess, I reflect and I understand –  
Mighty education, how fast you are slipping through fingers like sand!  
Time and circumstances necessitate a redefinition of education  
Education – you are not just a concept or an idea  
Your reach is limitless and without you the world is spiritless.  
You don't reside in books or schools or certificates  
Fame, competition, separation have never been your aims.  
You are meant to feed the soul and our minds and hearts uphold  
You are a light that guides through the darkness the young and the old.  
The one that guards against all vices  
And opens doors to virtues and suppressed voices.  
Once you touch a soul, no matter how big or small  
The power you enforce cannot be quelled  
Such a redefinition of yours my soul withheld.

# Follow your guide

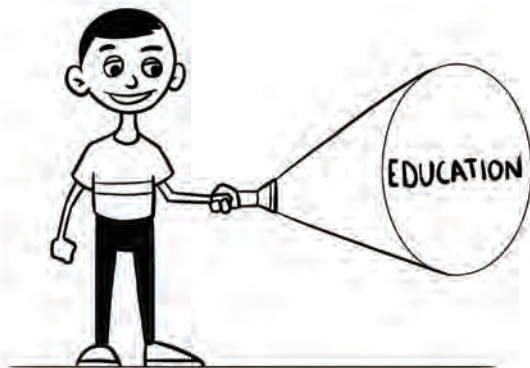
Written by  
Loïc Gregory Gerard Edouard, 14 years  
James Burty David State Secondary School



**M**y name is education  
I am your salvation  
From human destruction  
Since dawn of civilisation.  
  
May I have your attention?  
Half of your life is mine  
I determine the strength of your mind  
As a partner, I'm your guide  
To help you survive and thrive  
I pave your way to a better life.  
  
I am with you since your childhood  
You were so naïve, and now look at you!  
A bright future, all the things you can do  
I see you and I'm so proud  
You stick out of the crowd  
You can live a happy life  
Now I'll start over again  
And take care of another child.

Intelligence doesn't come from me  
But I feed and fuel it  
It's my role to enhance your mind  
So it's up to you to decide  
Will you follow your guide  
Or be blind and take the wrong line?  
I'm not here to scare you  
Just here to help you.

At school you thought you were so cool  
Hanging around with the wrong crowd  
In class getting bored or upset  
Asking yourself, "What am I doing here?"  
The clock ticking  
And you waiting  
For the bell to ring.



All those precious times wasted away  
While you could advance further today  
In your free time go read and open up your mind  
If you follow all of your classes  
You should be positive and poised  
You're sure to pass your exams  
Your effort should pay off  
No pain, no gain  
We only get what we deserve  
It happens all the time.

Education is the key to success  
To a bright future you will get access  
So you have to be balanced  
Between hobbies and studies  
Be careful, don't be influenced  
Chin up, stay focused  
Don't waste your time  
Follow your guide!



# Education

Written by  
Harishwaren Veerapen, 14 years  
Royal College Curepipe



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

This is one quote from Nelson Mandela.

Education is a primary tool

Education shows us the way.

From the dark cave of ignorance to a world of knowledge

Education enlightens our way to success

Like a path of burning torches inside a dark cave.

What are we without it?

Without education we are like ships lost in the wild ocean

Ships with no lighthouse to channel them

Ships at the mercy of devastating waves and whims.

What is a ship without a captain?

It is like us with no education.

Education is the key to success

Doors open wide, imaginations run wild.

Education makes me the king.

I decide if I want to become

A doctor, a lawyer, a painter or writer.

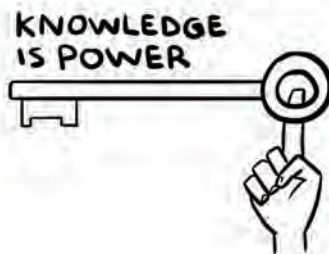
To be an astronaut and explore space

Or to be a scientist and discover new things.

After all, education is what remains

After one has long left school.

This is a world that cannot survive without education  
Indeed, education is the key to a bright and rewarding future.  
But education is not only about books  
Education is both formal and informal.  
Education is not only given at schools  
Society educates us, our parents educate us.  
To have a better knowledge and life  
One must possess the power of knowledge.  
Education, real education is not limited.  
It is not only academic, it equips us to deal with life.  
Skills, manners, courtesy, respect, integrity, humility  
All are taught to us.  
To respect others  
To help the poor and needy  
The aim of education is the knowledge  
Not only of facts but of values.



Being privileged with free education  
I realise how lucky I am.  
My eyes become teary  
When I think of my brothers and sisters who struggle.  
Who fight to acquire knowledge  
Where many are labelled or banned because of their colour.  
I think of classes under trees  
Attended by children in remote villages  
While I am here comfortably seated at a desk in a classroom.

The main reason why almost every children nowadays is either a  
Slave of sophophobia or scolionophobia  
Is because of the old system of learning  
The system where every single child who is locked away and set into a  
nonstop daily cutthroat competition with every other child for silly  
prizes and grades  
and it should be something that is stopped now.



# Lost

Written by  
Chitrishabye Govind, 14 years  
Queen Elizabeth College



Unaware of the world's cruel ways and hiding safely by your mother's side

I, being no exception, started my education very young

Letters got associated with things in daily life

And I was happy, face lit up with knowledge

Colours allowed me to draw what was on my mind

And my creativity rose high like stars in the skies

Scolded was I occasionally but still my feelings were not dampened

Because I was told that education was the key to success

And I believed in what I was taught

Not knowing that everything was not as simple as I thought

And that more would be revealed as time went by.

Schools and friends changed along the way

Easy it was not but determined I still remained

Each new journey of life started with past teachings fresh in my mind

They said education is all for the good and I believed them

My mind was filled with new knowledge

And I was content, thinking it would bring me happiness

But soon it felt like I was being tied by education

Realisation of it all ended my childhood

My talent was wasted, without any scope for new creation

In class, I was told that education was the only thing in life

And thus I was demotivated to engage in new quests

My wings were clipped before they were unleashed

I was forced to follow just like the rest.

My books began to weigh me down  
And ink filled my head  
I was swimming in a vast ocean of knowledge  
Thinking it was all for the best  
But drowning deep instead  
And it wasn't until much later in life  
That I learnt the value of education  
But what to do?  
My imagination and creativity were long gone ...



# Education in human civilisation

Written by  
Danish Sheldon Puttyah, 13 years  
Royal College Curepipe



[ Education, the base of our civilisation  
Education, the pillar of our civilisation  
Education, you bring us knowledge and understanding of our world,  
our history!

Education, you bring us knowledge and understanding of ourselves!

What would we be without you, education?

What would the world be without you, education?

Stupid and primitive beings! That's what we would be without you  
Chaotic and wild! That's how Earth would be without you.

Education gives status to people – rich or poor

Education gives a label to people

Intelligent or stupid, literate or illiterate

Knowledgeable or ignorant.

Education is available freely in our beloved country Mauritius

Education is available to all children

From the most materially deprived to the most wealthy

From the most competent to the most incompetent.

Some think that the poor boy is destined to a miserable life

Who invented this mind-set? May their life be miserable!

We see the moneyed one rush straight to ruin

Because of his deplorable inability to reflect.

A man can effectively climb after having fallen  
The wealthy one has the possibility to exploit a potential  
But may not have something to exploit  
The poor one may have potential but not the possibility to exploit it.  
Will we think of our fellow beings?  
For the ones who really care for the others  
Who are so small and so invisible?  
So much hard effort and so little progress!  
If only education was one hundred per cent available to anybody  
At any time and anywhere  
The potential of mankind would be fully exploited  
All dreams, desires, projects would be realised.  
For years, for decades, for centuries, for millenia  
We have achieved so much  
Become so literate, so skillful, so intelligent, so ambitious and so  
powerful  
But there is still a long, long way to go!  
Education never ends.



# My life and views on education

Written by  
Yashvi Goburdhun, 14 years  
Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School Moka



If you are reluctant to learn  
Not a single soul will be able to help you.  
Yet, if you are intrinsically motivated  
Not a single soul can mislead you.

The economists define education  
As a want. However, I believe  
Being educated in this time  
Is a need for all.

I feel fortunate to study in a country  
Like Mauritius, where students are  
Granted free education and the  
Comfort of a table and a chair.

Exams pressure, full page of homework  
Continuous assessments, limited time  
For self revision, private tuitions form  
Part of a tedious life for an average pupil.

The principle of examination says  
That if you are nice to studies, your  
Exams will be nice to you. It is just  
A vice-versa application. Isn't it?

I knew this algebra was not to be  
Used in my future, but the marks  
I'll obtain when learning this shall  
Definitely make my future beautiful.

When I was in primary school  
My teacher often sent me  
Out of the class, whereas  
Inside, she was providing explanation to my peers.

What was the reason?  
Just because I have lice  
She even told my friends  
Not to talk to me.

Every alternate day I was crying  
For this "mistake" of having lice  
I was sometimes asked to stand  
Outside the headmaster's office.

Late-comers would come, see me  
And move to their respective classes  
Believe me, nothing was more painful  
Than the way they looked at me.





After this discriminations  
I started to lose my self-love and self-confidence  
I had no idea how to fight for myself  
I did not know how to protest against bad allegations.

But my life blossomed when I went to college  
College will teach you a lot  
About yourself, you just have to pay  
Attention.

What I have learnt is that learning will never stop  
Being beautiful.  
The beauty of learning is that  
No one can take it from you.

An educated person always  
Carries his values wherever he goes  
He feels respected by society because  
He already has good values in him.

Education unlocks the golden door  
Of freedom: freedom of speech, thoughts, views,  
Freedom of ideas, intentions, efforts  
Freedom of livelihood and concentration.

Study hard, it may seem hectic  
It may take time, it may take nights  
But the feeling of success is  
The best thing in the entire world.

Great students invest their time in  
Hard work, smart working, focusing on  
Better career, materialising their goals  
With interest.

My father always told me  
That when I was wasting my  
Time while procrastinating  
Someone else somewhere was getting smarter.

Study because of the sacrifices of your beloved parents  
The greatest and most beautiful gift you  
Can give them is your  
Outstanding results.

Always aim to make your  
Parents proud, your teachers proud  
Your institution proud, your country proud  
And yourself proud with your  
Achievements.



# The benefits of education

Written by  
Rajarshi Ayrga, 13 years  
Royal College Curepipe



Have you ever wondered  
What blunder have we done us students?  
Thinking that education is a trident is that is going to stab us  
through our academic journey.  
Why does this long journey bother us so much?  
In the future it will be education, which will help us to build up our  
profession, thus enabling our survival.  
We must clear our doubts about education because it has numerous  
reimbursements.  
Education makes our future more successful and less stressful.  
With the help of education, you will fly high to the zenith of the sky.  
You may be tall and strong physically but what is the point if you are  
uneducated.  
You will be wrong and you will fall.  
Such is education that it can kill poverty.  
Surprising as it may sound it is the reality.  
Can money bring the sweetness of honey in our lives so that we can  
live in dignity?  
As an everlasting quest for knowledge, it has reached marvels in  
medication.  
Education brings us closer to good health, education brings us closer  
to vast wealth.  
Long ago boys were considered as gold whereas girls were considered  
as dirt.  
Society believed that the right of education solely belonged to the  
boys.

Fortunately, nowadays, the equality of genders has been promoted  
And both genders can be reflected as gold.  
Everybody is treasure and has the right to education.

Education is the dazzling white bird that flies resplendently through  
countries to foster peace. This bird has a heart for the inhabitants of  
the countries affected by the waging of war among other countries.  
Without this white bird, many innocent lives would have disappeared.

This is the true value of education!

Even if we, students, are the least percentage of the population, we  
are the future of our nation!



# Never question education

Written by  
Peroumani Ullayen, 15 years  
J. M. Frank Richard State Secondary School



[ education. It begins in the womb  
And it ends in the tomb.  
Education has multiple functions  
It teaches, it informs, it fashions  
Our minds and humanises us.  
Neither are we too young nor too precocious  
Nor too old or too wise  
Education is, after all, to sensitise.  
Can we imagine our lives without it?  
Without education, we'd fall into a pit.  
  
Education, you stand for light  
You pave the way towards success.  
Education, you make our lives bright  
You are there to eradicate darkness.  
Education, a means to leave the poverty trap  
Without you, there would be an unbridgeable gap  
Between rich and poor.  
Those who possess the wealth of education  
The world belongs to them for sure!  
Education certainly leads to satisfaction.  
  
Education helps us to study history  
It allows us to know many personalities.  
Education made us know Gandhi  
Mandela, Martin Luther King and  
Many others we got to know  
The list is too long to show.

Education helps us to discover role models  
These individuals that inspire us.  
Education always rules and excels  
We just need to be studious.  
Education can be academic, formal and informal  
The greatest school is that of life.  
The statement is and remains official  
Education: learn and study for life.  
Without education, no arms, no weapons  
Let education unite us in a sacred bond.  
The more we learn  
The more we note how little we actually know.  
The approach might be sweet, it might be stern  
No matter what, everyday, we can learn something new.  
  
When you have education, you have power  
Power to lead, power to conquer.  
When you have education, you create  
Achieve, build, mould, shape, inculcate.  
When you have education, “You” becomes “We”  
Education teaches us to be one, you see.  
Education has no end  
But is a means to an end.  
Education teaches us to question ...  
To question everything except education!

# A life with education

Written by  
Bibi Saniyah Khadijah Teelhawod, 12 years  
Sodnac State Secondary School



[ Education is everyone's right  
It offers the chance to see the light  
Spending money to party makes me feel saturated  
But education can never be rated.

Education plays a rudimentary role  
It cannot be eradicated like a mole  
It is the thought of learning new information  
If you are not educated, you cannot come to a conclusion.

Education is the key to success  
It makes our life less stressed  
Education lessens the challenges that you will face  
It helps you to be in the rat race.

Education is a treasure  
That we cannot measure  
It can be described as a land of pleasure  
We can read a lots of books at leisure.

Education is a path to upward lead  
For success, we also need to read  
It teaches us to address  
So we climb the ladder of success.





Education helps opportunities in organisations  
People can work because of education  
It gives huge opportunities for better living  
Without education, your ship is just sinking.

Education is essential just like air and food  
It prepares youngsters to adulthood  
It improves the living standards of people in a community  
It also eradicates the problem of illiteracy.

Life without education is harsh and tiresome  
With it, life is full of freedom  
Education is the foundation of society  
It brings social prosperity and political stability.

It enriches our culture  
It is the passport for the future.  
For me, education is a part and parcel of my life  
Without it, I will not be able to survive.

Thanks to education, I will continue to shine  
Make my parents proud and be on cloud nine.  
With it, I am able to achieve my dreams  
Education is one of the best themes.

# Education, the ultimate destination ...

Written by  
Isheeta Alishaa Khedoo, 12 years  
Seewa Bappoo State Secondary School



Education, the ultimate destination ...

Education, our treasury of knowledge throughout glorious generations

In danger is the state of our nation for education is losing its appreciation!

Throughout generations, our ancestors have fought with bold communication

From country to country and situation.

Periods of colonisation, no sanctuary for innocence, no sanctuary for tranquillity

Only amalgamation of teary sensation, treacherous abductions, corruption and affectations.

Education, the ultimate destination ...

But wait! What was education? What is education? What will be education?

Is education our ultimate destination?

Former rules fail in absolute application, for the new generation is a power station.

Constantly questioning, constantly challenging

Constantly seeking the truth from multiple equations.

The fight for education to save the next generation, yet

So many challenging complications in the fuzzy network – like nation.

Technology, science, internet, television and industrialisation!

Yet, so many problems with no solutions

Education to be part of grand graduations, yet, nations still  
subjugated!

Education, the ultimate destination ...

Education, where did we leave our education

From the times when neighbours were together in every situation?

Where countries lived in unbelievable unification

When nature was in purification unification.

When nature was in purification? The current situation

Full of information, yet so much desolation, so much corruption!

With a little dedication and sheer sophistication

It's time for new education and bombastic action.

For every situation, there's a solution

Open invitations, higher motivations

To get over the infatuation of our fake communication.

With no assimilation and clear thinking connections

Diseased and downgraded are our nations and our generations.

Education, the ultimate destination ...

What is the solution in face of the accusation?

Somehow, involuntary education leads to predestined destinations.

Pay attention, test your temptations, ask questions to receive new  
vocations.

Let go of limitations and imitations in the hope of illumination

Free from class, religion and political affiliations.

The new foundation is rooted in innovation, excelling past  
expectations

And getting over moral fixations. We need more education to  
Stop the manipulation.

Education, the ultimate destination ...

Goodbye, commercialisation and colonisation

For education is the ultimate destination.

Attention, keep your position with repetition of renewed expectations.

Education, the new revolution ...

Education ... the new condition!



# My views on education

Written by  
Andrew Ip Min Wan, 12 years  
Royal College Curepipe



A fierce competition, like lions hunting for food  
Wanting to bring more for their pride – this is what education is.  
Nowadays, not only learning, but competition makes up what  
education really is  
Failure at education automatically means failure in life.  
Forced into our tired and stressed minds are precious bits of  
information and knowledge  
While confined in a small, stuffy classroom devoid of happiness or  
positive feelings.  
Lying down on my safe haven of a bed, I pondered profusely on largely  
unexplored topics  
What is the point of education nowadays? What has it become?  
As a student, I am stuck in a mechanism  
In a machine that is education, our minds plagued and beset by daily  
struggles  
I can only wonder whether education is worth it.  
Information from different subjects forced into our minds is what  
makes up education  
The problem is, no matter what, we are inconsiderably obliged to do  
subjects we despise.

Let me give you example, art is a perfect sample of a loathed subject  
Students are compelled to draw, but only some can and most can't  
Art is solely creativity and not a large variety of students show  
proficiency.

Thought-requiring subjects are magnets attracting students like ants  
to sweets and beets

While art is a bug repellent.

My predilection and love for the sciences strengthens my hate for art  
Lamentations of forceful obligation often stem from students doing  
their art work.

Poor grades at school need explanations

One plausible clarification is that the problem comes from education  
itself

Although another simplification is pure laziness.

Same questions for everyone is what makes standardised tests

Which should be coined memory tests

Rare logic questions on the paper like oases in desserts should be  
included

Hence encouraging critical thinking.





The repercussion of poor achievements  
Is the failure of obtaining a life-changing diploma.  
The only improvement for education is the implementation of aptitude  
tests  
The results show in what field a student has an affinity.  
Poor performers in art end up as world-pioneering scientists  
Poor performers in the sciences end up as world-renowned artists.  
The improper structure of the system should be properly arranged  
The oft-dreaded finals at the end of the year cause immense stress  
upon students.  
“Butterflies in the stomach” plague all students without exception.  
The mere utterance of the word “finals” instills so much stress in me  
That I have to lie on my bed to try and remove the thought from my  
careworn mind.  
On the day of my finals my hands shivered with stress and inevitably  
The spoon in my hand at breakfast dropped and I was left shattered.  
The faultiness of education still prevails and is yet to be fixed  
And each student hopes for the best.



## 50th Anniversary of Australia and Mauritius Diplomatic Relations

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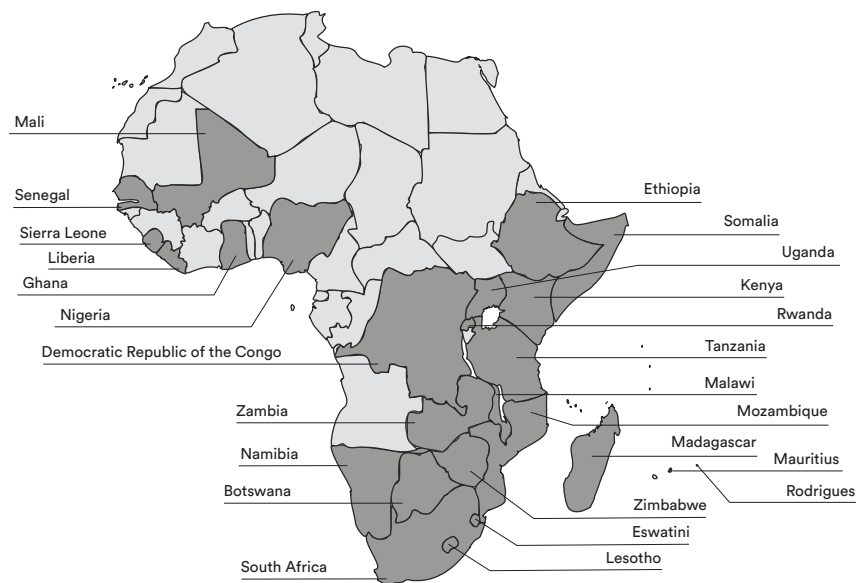
This year, 2020, marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Mauritius. The relationship between the two countries is founded on shared values and common interests as partners in the Indian Ocean. Australia and Mauritius have a long history of people-to-people links, with diverse, tolerant and multicultural communities a feature of our vibrant democracies.

Today, an important pillar of cooperation is education and research where partnerships between Australian and Mauritian institutions are supporting human capacity development and innovative collaborations, including the support of Mauritius's development as a regional knowledge hub. The celebration of 50 years of diplomatic relations provides a platform to showcase the diverse range of partnerships in education, recognising the achievements of the many Mauritians who have received Australian education qualifications, and the importance of engaging with the youth – the leaders of tomorrow.

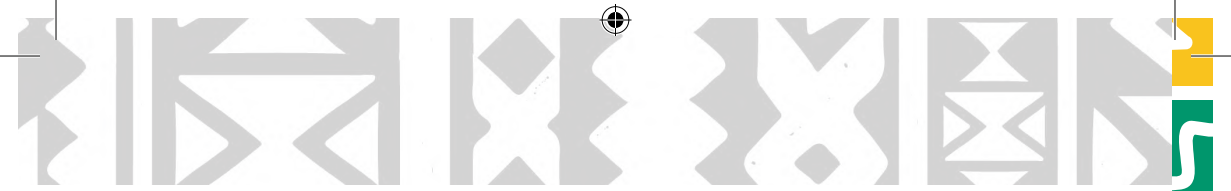
Australia is a committed and long-standing development partner. The Australian Government's Australia Awards Scholarship Program supports human capacity development in critical sectors in Mauritius, while the High Commission's Direct Aid Program, which provided support for the Ducere Foundation's first African Children Stories for Mauritius collection, continues to work with local authorities and NGOs to bring meaningful change to local communities.

This special Ducere Foundation Sixtieth Collection of African Children's Stories: Mauritian Slam Poetry showcases the creative collaborations between Australian and Mauritian partners through the powerful voice of young Mauritian poets who aspire to be the leaders of tomorrow.

# Ducere Foundation Reach



DUCERE  
FOUNDATION





DUCERE  
PUBLISHING

Ducere Publishing is a program of the Ducere Foundation, operating under the direction of Di Fleming, Executive Director in Melbourne.

Through Ducere Publishing, African children are encouraged to write, to become published authors and to build lasting relationships with the elders of their community.

Each African Children's Stories collection captures ideas, preserves tradition and ignites the love of learning and education.

[ducerefoundation.org](http://ducerefoundation.org)  
[info@ducerefoundation.org](mailto:info@ducerefoundation.org)

Thank you

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Mika Hirwa – a freelance comic book artist and illustrator. A message from Mika to those reading this book: "No matter where you have grown up or what you have passed through, none of it can keep you away from being the author of your destiny".  
[www.instagram.com/mikaxh](https://www.instagram.com/mikaxh)

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