

bookinaday

Book-in-a-Day (BID) is a non-profit, educational services company that fosters literacy skills through a groundbreaking writing and publishing workshop which focuses on student-run publication—in one day. Educators spend hours looking for exciting ways to bring literature to life. The solution is *Book-in-a-Day*, a new fun-filled, hands-on literacy project that teaches students the fundamentals of creative writing, through poetry and book publication.

“Publication gives students a sense of authorship...that matters because it inducts students into the writerly life. This has proven to lead to greater confidence in learning and academic success. Because publication can provide such focus and tap such energy, this must be one of the first priorities in the literate classroom.”—Lucy Calkins, founding director, Teachers College Writing Project

What BID Offers

In *Book-in-a-Day*, students learn how to write a well-crafted poem, or piece of prose, and how to publish their own work for public consumption. This writing and publishing program is built on the belief that students become avid readers and writers when they assume complete responsibility for becoming authors. When students see the fruit of their labor and the response from readers, a permanent reading/writing connection is made that will transform the way they view and appreciate language and literature.

How BID Works

Most schools opt for a full BID program; however, they may also select one or more program components:

- **Kick-off (One hour):** BID Coaches announce the program in a large group assembly. Music, poetry, and performance are used to encourage student participation.
- **Writing Workshop (One School Day):** BID Coaches work with thirty students for one day—craft, drafting, revision, sharing, and generating theme and title. This workshop is also available as professional development training, enabling teachers to reach more students. Teacher Workbooks with mini-lessons are provided.
- **Publishing Workshop (One School Day):** BID Coaches guide students through the steps to publishing a book of their work from the Writing Workshop: editing, cover design, layout,

marketing, and printing. Some schools opt out of the Writing Workshop, if they already have student work ready for publication.

- **Book Launch (One Hour):** 2-6 weeks after the Publishing Workshop (depending on the quantity of books printed), copies are delivered and a launch/celebration is held to showcase the book.

When BID Started

The origin of Book-in-a-Day dates back to 2006, when Dana Davidson (Cass Technical High School, Detroit, MI) and Kwame Alexander worked under a seemingly impossible deadline—one day—to publish a collection of her AP English student’s work. During the course of a single school day, Alexander and Davidson coached 150 students through the entire publication process. By the end of the day, the students had a printer-ready digital file; and a week later, UPS delivered copies of *Unspoken*, a 132-page trade paperback anthology of their poems and prose.

Who Leads BID

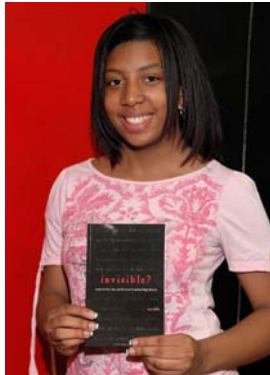
Kwame Alexander, Founder/President has worked as a literacy trainer, creative writing teacher, poet-in-the-schools, and writer-in-residence. As an author, he has written eleven books, including *Do The Write Thing: 7 Steps to Publishing Success*. As a publishing professional, he has published more than 100 authors. Though *Book-in-a-Day* is a relatively new program, it is an extension of more than fifteen years of his literacy, literary, and publishing work. “Our goal is to tap into students’ emotional intelligences, connect with them in a powerful way. By publishing student work, we can open those doors,” says Alexander. Titilayo Ngwenya, a Yale-educated creative strategist, copyeditor, and accomplished songwriter/musician joined BID in 2007 as Executive Director.

Where BID is Headed

During the pilot phase, three secondary schools successfully completed the *Book-in-a-Day* program: Crossland High School, Oxon Hill, MD, Cass Technical High School, Detroit, MI, and The Nora School, Silver Spring, MD. BID is currently operating in schools in Washington, DC, South Carolina, and Antigua, West Indies. In the coming years, BID will offer customized programs to corporations, individuals, as well as elementary and middle schools.

Crossland Students Publish Book-in-a-Day

Nineteen students from Crossland High School in Temple Hills were chosen to write and publish a book in a day. The final book, entitled *Invisible*, which features poetry and artwork from students, was unveiled June 12 at a book launch, attended by over 1000 students, friends, family, educators, and other members of the local community.



Students Brittany Edmonds, De’Nico Washington, Ellise Saunders, Endia Thomas, Jacqueline Johnson, Jasmine Daughtry, Jasmine Taylor, Johnathan Savoy, Johnika Brown, Lisa Middleton, Melquia Pitts, Malcolm Towler, Naemah Powell, Sunita Jones, William Williams, Zabria Pringle and Duane Johnson contributed poetry for the book. Brandon Carter and Norceia Daughtridge contributed artwork for the front cover of the book.

Although the production process spanned two days, the bulk of the publishing work took place in one day. In two days students were taught and coached through the entire publishing process. After the book launch, students will embark upon a mini-book tour for signings and discussions at local bookstores.

“What Kwame did with the Book-in-a-Day students was nothing short of phenomenal. It will have a tremendous impact on their lives,” said Lauri Lyles, English Department Chair Crossland High School, Temple Hills, MD