



**READING OWLS INTERNATIONAL**  
Creating Readers... for Life

## Book Donation Policy

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Reading Owls International (ROI) appreciates your generous donation of books to our organization. With your help, we can imagine a world in which every child has the educational resources to help him or her succeed.

This primer is intended to provide guidance re the types of books that best serves our children. Examples are provided throughout the policy to underscore the type and condition of books we seek. We also include visuals on unacceptable books for our program. This is not an exhaustive list, so please do contact us if there are residual questions.

Thank you so much for partnering with us to *create readers for life!*

### **Guidelines: for Choosing Books:**

- All books donated to ROI should be age-appropriate for school-aged children between ages 3-17.
- We accept **new or like new children's book**, in soft or hardcover only. Hardcover picture books tend to be more durable, and are especially treasured by many of the children we serve.
- Choose books that are well illustrated, colorful, have strong and interesting plots.
- Books that are 10 years old or newer in popular fiction and nonfiction (exception classics).
- Books that will develop concepts, convey accurate information, introduce a variety of strong characters, as well as familiar objects, ideas, and predictable plots. Many kids enjoy being able to tell part of the story. Having repetitive texts, colorful illustrations, and familiar ideas can help in this process.
- Choose books that celebrate strong and independent thinking among minority characters. Often a child's first view of him or herself is through reading. Having strong role models will leave a lasting impression.
- Look for books with historically accurate stories, and culturally relevant themes.
- **Please refer to the [suggested book lists](#) section at our website for additional help in choosing books.**



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**Reading Owls International does not accept:**

- Books with marks, wear and tear or writing of any kind.
- Political, religious, ethnocentric, or culturally insensitive books.
- Books written in a language other than English.
- Textbooks, magazines or journals of any kind.
- Home decorating, cookbooks, or wedding books.
- Adult theme books - murder mysteries, spy thrillers, romance or anything with clearly offensive language in the title or book.

**We want the kids to feel special. If you can tell the book has been owned before, please do not send it.**

**Good sources for books:**

- Reading Owls' [virtual bookstore](#)
- Amazon Books, Scholastic books, Barnes & Noble
- Friends of the Library sales
- Children's Bookstores
- Caribbean bookstores – McMillan Caribbean, Carlong Publishers, Sangster's Bookstore, Anansesem
- School book fairs
- Discount Book Stores

**Packing & Mailing Instructions:**

You can usually find sturdy book boxes at bookstores and other retailers if you ask and arrive at the right time. Barnes & Noble book boxes are a good size. Pack the book boxes tightly so that the box is well supported on all sides. The boxes will be packed one on top of the other in six-high stacks inside a shipping container. If the boxes are not packed tightly with rigid sides, they will collapse, ruining the book bindings.



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Small parcels may be mailed to:

Reading Owls International  
P.O. Box 2881  
Attleboro, MA 02703

**Please call or email us for mailing instructions on large packages.**

### **Cash Donations**

Please consider making a financial donation to cover the costs of shipping the books you donate. Please send financial donations to Reading Owls International, P.O. Box 2881, Attleboro, MA 02703. Or make a [donation online](#) via PayPal from our website.

Thank you so much for helping us *create readers for life* in Jamaica.