



Phendulani Literacy Quiz

Report for 2023

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Introduction

For the past 16 years, the Phendulani Literacy Quiz has been part of the reading ecosystem in South Africa. This report is a snapshot of this year's quizzes, held around the country, with over **150 schools** participating in regional events.

This year, the *National Reading Barometer* highlighted the importance of access to books:

“Why does it matter if people read, or if reading is able to flourish in South African society?”

“Reading gives us power – to learn new things, tell our stories, and **shape our futures**.

“It helps build a **stronger, more equal economy** and a **connected society**. It improves educational outcomes, economic opportunities, critical thinking abilities, empathy, civic engagement, and child-adult relationships.

“To improve reading in South Africa, a whole of society approach is needed.

“The production and use of reading materials is part of a wider reading ecosystem which includes adult reading practices, child reading skills acquisition, home literacy environments, libraries and community resources, social norms around reading, government policies and budget allocations, and digital access.”



Franschhoek Phendulani: 19 May 2023

As the Franschhoek Literary Festival (FLF) had book lovers abuzz around the Cape village, the joy of reading was also spilling over at the local Groendal Secondary School as excited young readers vied to win the Phendulani Literacy Quiz.

The Friday morning event, cheered on by hundreds of Grade 7 learners, was closely contested with the two teams from the Dalubuhle Primary ending neck-and-neck. It took a tense tie-breaker to see Dalubuhle Team 2 win the day, with Dalubuhle Team 1 in second spot and Groendal Team 1 in third. Wes-Eind Primary School also entered two teams to compete in the quiz and Wemmersdal Primary one team, and shared in the literary excitement.



This is the second year that the FLF has brought Phendulani to Franschhoek, and it was another resounding success. The festival is a celebration of reading and literature, and it is wonderful that younger members of this community can also be inspired by the event.

Kicking off the Phendulani Quiz this year was a keynote address by local winery owner Paul Siguqa, whose recent acquisition of Klein Goederust has put him in the news. Siguqa, whose mother was a farm worker hailing from the Eastern Cape, gave the large audience of young learners a message of hope based on his own experience.

Klein Goederust wine farm owner Paul Siguqa inspires learners with the power of reading.

“Reading is your road to discover a wider world, and a brighter future,” he said.

“Books can take you to places you have never dreamed of, and you do not even have to step on an aeroplane.”

He recounted his own love of books from an early age, a passion which his mother Nomaroma fostered enthusiastically



Quizmaster Marj Brown puts questions to the teams while the audience listens.

even though she herself could not read. His reading opened up new worlds for him, he explained, and put his education on a firm grounding – so that he could later attend university and enter a career of his choice.

Learners voted for their favourite book and the graphic novel Kwezi won. Trevor Noah's book, Born a Crime was also popular if more challenging to read.

The quiz ended with cheers of jubilation and school teams became heroes due to their reading and comprehension. As they were leaving, one of the local helpers commented, “They had fun, listen to their joy, it was a great success”. Reading books to stimulate literacy needs to be fun and relevant. The children loved the category “Superheroes” which linked USA superheroes, in books, with local superheroes Kwezi and Khoi, created by Loyiso Mkize. 70 % of the books read for the quiz were written by local authors. Other categories included School and Family life, Challenges and Identity.

Margate Phendulani: 18 October 2023



Our Phendulani Quiz this year was a huge success. We had nine local rural schools from the lower South Coast participating. The quiz was won by Ithuba Wild Coast College. This was their fourth year of entering the quiz, and they worked hard to be top.

We had an excellent speaker, Leleka Mhlanzi, who is a poet, actress and motivational youth worker. She inspired the learners that they too can write and can strive for greatness. All the schools say how much being part of the quiz means to them; they appreciate having the gift of books and

they value the support from Sithanda ukufunda - We love to read.



All the schools enjoyed the morning immensely; it was great fun but also a valuable learning experience for them all.



Leleka Mhlanzi

Favourite book: top scores

- Kwezi (10)
- Treehouse Tales (9)
- Goth Girl (9)

An interesting selection of what children 'enjoyed the most':

- Leleka Mhlanzi and her presentation/activity;
- the sandwiches for tea;
- pop-up questions (we give chocolates);
- winning and getting certificates; and
- new faces.

(Report by Meg Dickson)

Bosmont Phendulani: 16 September 2023



Inspiration was running a Phendulani literacy quiz in Bosmont, Riverlea, Newclare. The participants were so enthusiastic, and the scores were higher than last year – a testament to the work of teachers and *Readers are Leaders*, run by Cyril Turton and his team. There was a wonderful talk by Kevin Van Wyk, son of the legendary Chris van Wyk. Kevin spoke about his early life in Bosmont and Newclare and Riverlea, and we were treated to the reading of Chris's poetry by members of the *Readers are Leaders* book club.

Well done to the winners, Newclare 1, with 35 points out of 40; second was TC Esterhuizen with 34 points.

Johannesburg Phendulani: 28 September 2023

It was wonderful to have some new schools participate this year. Some schools could not make it at last minute – so we had a second quiz this year. schools. The scores display the reading skills and passion of learners who have been given books and supported to read for meaning. Thanks for the teachers and educational leaders who have worked at building a reading culture in these schools.

I am also grateful to the schools who twinned with the participants schools and supported their reading and provided transport to the quiz. Well done to Yeoville Community school



who came first with their phenomenal score of 38/40. A few years ago this was a school at risk for literacy and numeracy. Participants were treated to a talk by author Prudence Makau, from her book, *My So Called Friend*. #teachersmatter. #Literacymatters.

In second quiz, Impala Crescent 1 came first. Well done to Nicky Sulter from St Johns for holding this second quiz for the schools who missed the first date.

Prudence Makau delights and entertains the Phendulani participants with her

Cape Town Phendulani: 16 October 2023



Congratulations to Claremont Primary for their victory in the Cape Town Phendulani literacy quiz. Second was Heathfield Primary. Thanks to Muizenberg Primary for hosting this exciting, fun event – for reading with meaning. Karen Hampson put her hand up to coordinate this year and did a great job of distributing the books, and also organising a venue, markers and snacks.

Knysna Phendulani: 25 October 2023

Oakhill had the privilege of hosting the 4th Knysna Phendulani Quiz on the 25th of October. In attendance were students from Fraaisig, Sunridge, Thembalitsa, and Trinity schools, totalling 50 participants. On arrival, these learners were treated to lunch and a range of engaging activities, including chess, four square, marimba playing, and an art class, providing them with a wonderful opportunity to socialize and get acquainted with our Oakhill students before the quiz commenced.



Trinity emerged as the champions, followed by Thembalitsha second, and Fraaisig securing a well-deserved third place.

In preparation for the quiz, each school received 11 books, which they read over the few months before the quiz. The questions posed during the quiz were based on the content of these shared titles. Book prizes were awarded, much to the delight of these deserving children.

We extend our hearty congratulations to the victorious teams and applaud all participants for their reading skills. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to host this wonderful event again next year. Our sincere thanks go out to Sue Buchalter, who collaborated with Lyn Stocker from Hero, for their invaluable coordination efforts that contributed to the success of this event.

(Report by Julie Stevenson)



Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) Phendulani: 27 July 2023

Participating Schools : Arcadia, Heatherbank, John Masiza, Papenkuil, Sanctor, Thornhill.

Partnerships: Clarendon, Collegiate, Grey, Municipal Library Service, St George's, Woodridge.

Our 13th Phendulani in Gqeberha was held on Wednesday 27th July, at the Grey Junior Pavillion, with 8 teams from 6 schools taking part. The Municipal Library service has a new partner school, John Masiza.

As usual, Mr Grant Butler, the headmaster of Grey Junior School, proved to be a highly professional and entertaining Quizmaster – he brings a special magic to this event that will be long remembered.

Every child received a book to take home, as well as a snack box, fruit juice and bottle of water. Chocolates were given as round prizes, as well as between the rounds, and the first, second and third prizes consisted of dictionaries, activity books and stationery items. The winning team all received a fabulous extra prize sponsored by Isuzu.



GREAT JOB: Grey Junior headmaster Grant Butler congratulates the Sanctor Primary School pupils who won the Phendulani Literacy quiz yesterday. They are (from left): Chiandre Harry (12), Sky-Linn Seymour (13), Allison Burts (13), Aisha Erasmus (13), Aasiyah Abrahams (11) and Amgoli Ngqungwana (12).

The Eastern Cape region's quiz is co-ordinated by Grey Junior School librarian Michéle Kerley.

"What I enjoy most is that I believe the pupils will always remember this moment and the pleasure that reading brings," Kerley said. "These good memories hopefully will further encourage the love of reading."

The quiz was won by Sancto Primary scoring 32.5. Defending champions Heatherbank Primary scored 31.5 and placed second. Third place went to Papenkuil at 27/40.

The book the children most enjoyed reading was the Graphic Novel *Coraline* followed by *Born a Crime*. The least favourite books were the two Kwezi collections with a number of children reporting that they found Kwezi difficult to read. Neil Gaiman led the list of authors that the children would like to read more of. He was followed by Roald Dahl and Katherine Patterson.

It is interesting that the most popular books this year were the more demanding reads. Shorter novels were not preferred with the abridged versions of *Jock of the Bushveld* and *Oliver Twist* along with the two Kwezi collections being among the least popular of the books on offer.

Special thank you to:

Thanks to the Herald newspaper for the wonderful article written by Catherine Richards. This article was published in print form and online. The online article attracted a great deal of positive attention for the winning school!

A word of thanks and appreciation must go to Marj Brown for the tireless efforts she puts into sourcing books for the region and all that goes on behind the scenes in getting them to us.

(Report by Michele Kerley, Grey Junior School)

Quotes from participating teachers, librarians and learners:

Sancto Primary school teacher Kaylin du Plessis said she was incredibly proud of her pupils. "They worked so hard these past few months, and this win is a reflection of that," she said. "They deserved this win."

Grade 7 Sancto pupil Aisha Erasmus, 13, said: "I am so thrilled we won. We really enjoy reading and it is important because it opens up your mind to new ideas and creativity. I want to be a scientist when I grow up, so reading is a big part of the journey to get t h e r e."

The school librarians from St George's, Grey, Collegiate, Clarendon and Woodridge – as well as the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipal Library Services – support the participating schools by providing transport to the quiz, lunch packs for the children and prizes for the winners. They also ensure that every participant goes home with a book.

Headmaster Grant Butler, who is passionate about literacy, said there was value to being involved in the Phendulani programme. "This just shows that there is brightness everywhere," he said. "Despite the socio-economic problems and difficult schooling environments, there is brightness – but

you have to work hard to find it. We can never underestimate the importance of municipal libraries and we must encourage our pupils to use them.”

Durban Phendulani: 10 November 2023



The LEARN Project hosted the 2023 Phendulani Literacy Quiz on Friday 10 November 2023. Seven schools were carefully selected to participate in the 2023 Durban Phendulani Literacy Quiz out of the 24 LEARN Beneficiary Schools that The LEARN Project has established libraries and book corners in. Principals and Librarians of the seven selected schools joined a specific Quiz WhatsApp group where messages and details regarding the quiz were shared and inspirational tips were shared on the group to assist in the preparation of learners for the quiz.

Participating Durban Schools listed below:

- Sophunga Primary School
- Ekuthuleni Primary School
- Kasturba Gandhi Primary School
- Joel Primary School
- Zuzokhule Primary School
- Eskhuliliwe Primary School
- Mthubi Primary School

The quiz ran smoothly, starting with teams participating in a warm-up and vocal activity. They then went to their designated team areas, and

selected their team leader to answer the questions and hand in the answers at the end of each round. Each team had a clip board and pencil with answer sheet for each round. Each question had a time limit in which to be answered and a buzzer was pressed when the time was up. This made the quiz fun and exciting.

The quiz was made up of four rounds and the official Phendulani Literacy Quiz questions were used. In between rounds, we held some fun questions and speed drills, which earned the winners either a chocolate or book prize, which they were delighted with. It also made the quiz day fun and exciting and helped ease nerves. We also had a dance session with the 'Follow the leader' song, with the message "Readers make leaders."

At the end of the quiz, we held a prize giving where the winning teams were announced and prizes and certificates were handed out. Team photos were also taken for each school.



Each school that participated won a gift bag filled with a selection of new books for their library and the Top 3 schools won extra books for their libraries. Each learner from the top three schools won a book to take home and a stationary set and every child who participated in the quiz received two activity books and a certificate.

Learners and teachers left the day motivated to continue reading and expanding their knowledge through the power of books.

(Report by Ros Toerien)

Gauteng Provincial Department of Basic Education: 27 October 2023



PROVINCIAL PHENDULANI LITERACY QUIZ PLAY -OFF

- **The Provincial Phendulani Literacy Quiz competition was held on 27 October 2023**
- **A total of 104 learners took part in the event**
- **78 learners in teams of six (6), from 13 Schools representing districts with Library facilitators participated in the quiz competition**
- **26 reserve learners rendered some items and responded to questions based on the books, while markers and adjudicators were busy with the scores**

- The outcome of the quiz competition was as follows:
- Three schools got the first position.
 - First place > Rynsoord Primary School (Ekurhuleni North district)
 - Received books for the School Library
 - First place > Khandubuhle Primary School (Johannesburg North district)
 - Received books for the School Library
 - First place > Vuyo Primary School (Sedibeng East district)
 - Received books for the School Library



(Report by Joyce Sedumedi)



Sponsors

A huge thanks to the publishers and book distributors who donated books for reading or for prizes this year:

- Pan Macmillan
- Penguin Random House
- NB Publishers
- New Africa Books
- Exclusive Books
- Thanks too for donations from the St John's Prep library, Roedean PTA and Roedean Junior School library
- Bargain Books Knysna

Marj Brown

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