

# Innovation in Water Education

## Learning Materials in Developing Countries

Dr. Misty Sailors

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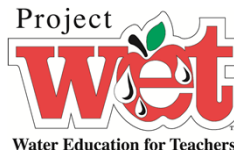
&

Dr. James Hoffman

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# About Us

- Teacher Educators
- Literacy Educators
- International Development



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# About You



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# Our Development Work

- South Africa
  - Ithuba Writing Project
    - Supplementary Reading materials in all (11) official languages (Grades 4-6)
    - Content Connected
      - National Curriculum in Language Arts, Maths, Sciences
    - Development Approach
      - Teachers and Lived Experiences
    - Outcomes
      - 2.2 million books in schools



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# RealeWriter

- Book development software
- Authorship process
  
- Shifting platforms...

[www.uniteforliteracy.com](http://www.uniteforliteracy.com)



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# Our Development Work

- Malawi
  - Malawi Reads
    - Complementary Reading materials in English and Chichewa (Grades 1-3)
    - Literacy focused (reading support primarily)
    - Development Approach
      - Teachers and Lived Experiences
    - Outcomes
      - 5 million books across 945 schools and 315 Teacher Development Centers



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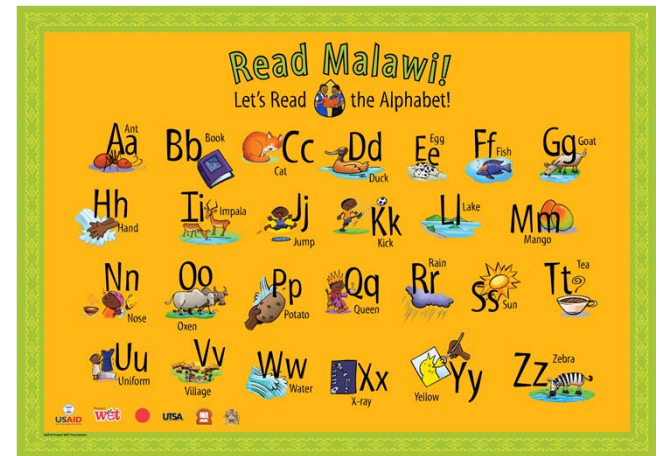
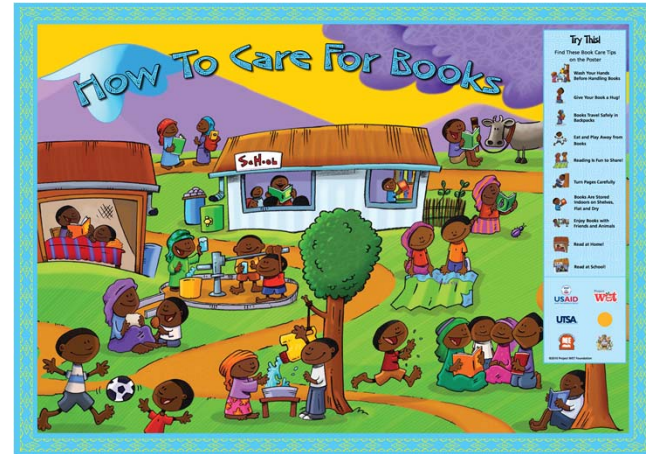
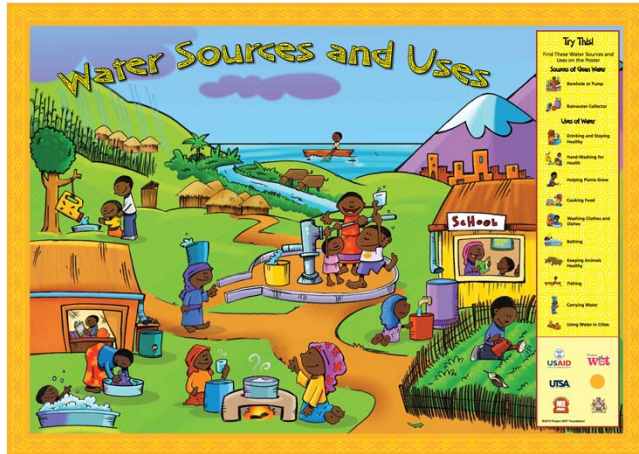


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# Our Water Connection



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Project  
**wet**  
Water Education for Teachers



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**Abbott**  
A Promise for Life

# Our Challenge

- Lack of quality informational texts to support learning that are:
  - Engaging for children
  - Accessible for children
  - Important Information offered
  - Useful to teachers



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# One Path

- (Ithuba like) Use narrative (lived experiences) as the bridge into Content Lessons.
  - Let's try one



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# A different Path

- (Ithuba like) Use narrative (lived experiences) as the starting place but bring in Content Experts to enrich the book during the development process.
  - Let's try one



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# A totally different path

- Gather local experts
  - Nurses, biologists, doctors, agricultural experts (etc.) who are not “educators” but KNOW the content and the context for that content.
  - Write with them (Develop with them) The seed for the texts are the challenges/problems in the context
    - Informational texts
    - Hybrid informational/narrative texts



# Book Development to Teacher Education

- It's not just the books.
- It's the teacher education
  - Bring the experts in to support teachers



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# Why?

- Education is the key to long term change and development.
- Teachers need the tools (the books) and the knowledge to promote learning.
- The support and learning that comes through the engagement with these materials will support literacy.



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