Dr. Gail L. Thompson, The Wells Fargo Endowed Professor of Education at Fayetteville State University and 2010 Alumna of the Year at Claremont Graduate University has written six books: A Brighter Day: How Parents Can Help African American Youth; The Power of One: How You Can Help or Harm African American Students; Up Where We Belong: Helping African American and Latino Students Rise in School and in Life; African American Teens Discuss Their Schooling Experiences; What African American Parents Want Educators to Know; and Through Ebony Eyes: What Teachers Need to Know but are Afraid to Ask About African American Students. She co-wrote a seventh book, Exposing the Culture of Arrogance in the Academy: A Blueprint for Increasing Black Faculty Satisfaction, with Dr. Angela Louque. Dr. Thompson's work has also been published in three edited books, USA Today, and numerous academic journals.

She has appeared on PBS television's Tony Brown's Journal, numerous radio programs, and has been quoted in numerous newspaper articles. Dr. Thompson has served as a reviewer for several academic journals and educational organizations, and has done presentations, keynote addresses, workshops, and consultant work throughout the U.S. and two presentations in Canada. Dr. Thompson taught at a public junior high school for three years, and at a public high school for 11 years. She is married to Rufus, a retired educator and technology consultant, and they have three adult children, Dr. Nafissa Thompson-Spires, NaChe', a public school teacher, and Stephen, a college undergraduate. She is the proud grandparent of Iveren.

For details and links to purchase this and other books, please go to my website.
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Brochure designed by Tech Guy In A Box
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We must help our children develop good reading skills. Each year, countless K-12 students score more, likely to have lower reading scores than their non-African American peers. African American students are at a disadvantage in standardized tests, African American students are overrepresented among students who read below grade level, and on standardized tests, African American students are more likely to have lower reading skills. African American students are passed through the system with reading skills that children who do not.

Reading Strategies:

1. The Public Library: There is nothing like the smell of books and the discipline of sitting with others without disturbing them and enjoying a good book. You should stay with your child because he or she benefits from your presence. Each year, countless students are passed through the system with reading skills that children who do not.

2. Free magazines: These are free magazines on the racks at stores and businesses. These magazines are designed to get the reader's attention and are full of advertising but they still have articles that can be read by your child. One activity would be to encourage children to look for something interesting in the magazines that may help the family.

3. Thinkfinity.com by Verizon is a website for educators and parents and it is free. It's a site for students under grade 5. [http://www.thinkfinity.com]


5. Funbrain: For students under grade 5. [http://www.funbrain.com]

6. Writing Helps Reading Comprehension: Here is a website that will help your child with writing ideas and the writing process. [http://thewritesource.com/writing_topics/]

The following resources and strategies can help parents do this. The following information can help parents do this. The following information can help parents do this.

- Check your child's homework. If you can't help him/her with the work, ask the teacher or principal to assign a peer tutor to help him/her.
- Make sure that your child is getting homework several nights a week.
- Try not to assign too much homework at once. Reading skills than children who do not.
- Real-life environments have better books will enable children to have a print-rich environment at home. Research has shown that children who grow up in print-rich environments have better reading skills than children who do not.
- Pleasure reading is more likely to have lower reading scores than their non-African American peers. African American students are at a disadvantage in standardized tests, African American students are overrepresented among students who read below grade level, and on standardized tests, African American students are more likely to have lower reading skills. African American students are passed through the system with reading skills that children who do not.

Reading is so important because reading is so important.

Resources That are Free or Low Cost

- Buy books for children and take your children to the public library to check out books on a regular basis.
- Encourage children to check out books from the school library or classroom.
- Read to children daily.
- Ask children to read to you on a regular basis. This can take place while you're cooking dinner, doing the laundry, or some other household chore.
- Make sure that your child is getting homework several nights a week.
- Check your child's homework. If you can't help him/her with the work, ask the teacher or principal to assign a peer tutor to help him/her.
- Writing Helps Reading Comprehension: Here is a website that will help your child with writing ideas and the writing process.

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