

## Get Caught Reading! \*

The National Assessment of Educational Progress recently released The Nation's Report Card and the findings were disturbing. Except for the highest-performing students (90th percentile), declines were seen at all levels of performance since 1992. The percentage of students performing at or above *Basic* level decreased from 80 percent in 1992 to 73 percent in 2005. The percentage of students performing at or above the *Proficient* level decreased from 40 to 35 percent. And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

International Reading Association president Tim Shanahan commented, "*An inability to read well harms the individual because of the huge opportunity costs he or she must bear throughout life; and it is harmful to all of us, because it undermines our national productivity and thwarts the dream of a full-participation society...We must do better. America needs ambitious efforts to improve reading achievement from birth through high school, and that includes families and schools.*"

Maurice Arthur, author of **A Black Man Thinking: Volume One – Raising Children** (\$19.95 hc, © 5/07, [www.ablackmanthinking.com](http://www.ablackmanthinking.com)), puts reading at the top of his list of responsibilities parents must address immediately. He writes, "Reading will significantly enhance your child's chances of success. Reading is the great equalizer and can put you on the same level with just about anybody, anywhere. Reading can take you places you'll never go and help you see things you've never seen before. Reading can educate the uneducated."

Arthur urges parents to read books and have books in the home. If you can't buy books, then get a library card and use your local library. Have a regular reading time with your child. Treat reading like something that your child's life will depend on, and you'll probably be right.

Arthur suggests every parent ask themselves the following questions:

- When was the last time you read a book?
- Do you have a library card?
- When was the last time you borrowed a book from a library?
- Do you read at home?
- Does your child see you read?
- When was the last time you read something to get better?
- Do you have a family reading time?

Parents who read often have children that read, and this is a huge area of opportunity for parents. Far too many parents aren't reading and neither are their children.

If you're not currently a reader and would like to become one, here are a few suggestions to get you started:

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- Go to your local library and get a library card. While you're there, ask about any reading programs; or set a goal to read a book every two or three weeks.
- Determine a subject of interest to you, and read a book on that subject.
- Find a place that you would like to learn about or visit, and read a book about that place.
- Consider something that you would like to learn to do, read a book on it and try to do it.
- Have a family reading time without the television.

And if you need assistance with your reading skills, seek out a literacy program at a library near you. The key is to find something to read that is interesting to you. More important than what you read is that you read! Before you know it, you'll discover all kinds of things that you wanted to know, and that's only the beginning. Your child will become a reader with you as a role model. Reading can give you hope. It gives you the ability to learn. Reading is one of the most precious gifts that you can give your child.

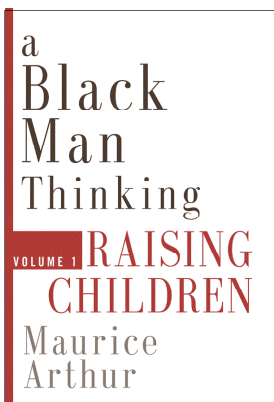
Reading is just one of the areas Arthur covers in **Raising Children**, which provides basic insights regarding parenting, particularly but not solely for black parents. By using anecdotes, thought provoking quotes, and specific action items, this book is inspiring. It incorporates the values of personal responsibility, House Rules, attitude, and spirituality to address parenting issues and offers strategies that can change your world. Whether parents are starting from a place of total family chaos, or just need a little help getting back on track, **Raising Children** provides simple and easy steps that will make a difference.

So make a pledge to *Get Caught Reading* and we can start reversing those reading proficiency findings, one child at a time.

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\* *Get Caught Reading* is a nationwide campaign to remind people of all ages how much fun it is to read. *Get Caught Reading* is the brainchild of former Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association of American Publishers, the industry association representing book publishers.

To request a review copy of **Raising Children**, arrange an interview with Maurice Arthur, or for any additional information, please contact Kate Bandos at KSB Promotions **800-304-3269** or 616-676-0758 • fax 616-676-0759 • e-mail: [kate@ksbpromotions.com](mailto:kate@ksbpromotions.com)



### **A Black Man Thinking: Volume 1 - Raising Children**

by Maurice Arthur

168 pages • 7.8 x 5.3 • Suggested Reading • Appendix Recaps

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