INTRODUCTION

Reading Writing and Arithmetic known as the three Rs were vigorously taught in Nigerian school in the pre-independence ear and continued till the outbreak of the Civil War. These subjects ensured sound educational foundation for students in our primary and Secondary Schools, with the result that the graduates were sound in learning and character. Reading in particular paved the way for better understanding of other school subjects. Unfortunately reading as a culture, is eluding Nigerians in spite of efforts by organizations interested in promoting it among Nigerians. These organizations include Reading Association of Nigeria, National Library of Nigeria among others.

Huge human and material resource have been expended in organizing National Reading Campaigns but it seems a result –oriented strategy has not been found for this national problem. These campaigns among other things emphasized the development of a vibrant indigenous book industry in Nigeria, as well as the promotion of authorship and the cultivation of reading habit among Nigerians.

Students at all levels it was observed during Campaigns do not remember or keep records of what they read. Sometimes they remember or keep records of what they read. Sometimes they remember either a title or an author’s name but other book details like publisher, theme of a book, idioms or good phrases and other important details are very easily forgotten. This National Diary of Reading is being published to help solve this problem and to enable users records the title, author, publisher, number of pages, date reading started and completed, as well as other useful book details.

By this simple exercise, young people are gradually introduced to the cultivation of the exciting healthy habit of reading. Head –teachers, principals and Classroom teachers are strongly advised to monitor the use of this useful book in their classes, as well as parents during holidays, to know what their children read, by inspecting and discussing its contents with the children. By ‘catching them young’ as avid readers, a healthy, life improved standard of academic work during and after school. To further enhance the reading culture some innovations such as. The Major Part of a Book which provides valuable bibliographic information on a book, little appreciated until one is in a tertiary institution and the Book Gift Calendar is aimed at encouraging people, especially the young, to include books as important gift items during such occasions as birth day, anniversaries and festivities, instead of giving only fanciful, expensive cards that quickly gather dust and are soon throe away. Book gifts encourage reading!