

Storymoja connects kids to the world through literary art



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Art and craft, storytelling and origami making are among the fun activities the Storymoja reading Festival is promising Kenya kids this year. The five day festival has 3 days dedicated to school going children and hopes to excite kids about reading.

This year, the festival will again run with the theme 'Imagine the World, Waza Dunia' for the third time in a row.

"We all know that a book opens up a whole different world and we are telling people to imagine a world where that is possible because of the books they are reading," explained Ian Arunga, Head of Creative at Storymoja Festival. On why the theme is being used for a third time running, Arunga added that they wanted the message to sink in.

Starting Wednesday September 17th, Nairobi National Museum will play host to around 6,000 children. The first three days of the festival will see a flurry of activities for children as it a school programme. The festival will end on Sunday 21st September.

The events during the school's programme will run for 45minutes to 70 minutes with most of the events starting at 8.30am. The events will target children of school going age between the ages of ten and eighteen years. There will however be events for the younger ones aged between six and years.

One of the events for kids will be 'Paper Magic' whereby children will get to learn the Japanese art form of folding paper art, also known as origami. There will also be a Careerpedia tent which will have events such as teaching kids how to blog and become entrepreneurs. The younger kids aged between six and nine years will get to enjoy an etiquette workshop and a puppet show among many other events.

Another event to get kids excited is the 'Guinness Book World Record Warm-up'.

"Here we want to practise breaking a world record of having the most number of children read aloud the same text," said Arunga.

The 'Guinness Book World Record Warm-up' is an initiative of Storymoja's 'Start A Library', a revolutionary reading campaign that aims to excite children about reading for pleasure. Usually, two warm-ups are done annually. Schools are enrolled and children get their reading material around June/July. The current record stands at 300,000 children reading aloud and 'Start A Library' hopes to break it.

The price for the festival is Sh 1,000 per day per child or Sh 1,500 for the weekend. With this ticket, children will be able to access all the events at Storymoja apart from the Master Classes which are paid for separately.

During the whole festival, there will also be books on sale of which some will be for children.

"The festival bookshop will see books both local and international being sold. The Storymoja books will range at Sh 350-400," remarked Arunga.

Other activities include book launches and an arts & craft centre for the kids especially during the weekend which will see more adult events.

Tickets can be bought via TicketSasa, from Storymoja Staff, via Mpesa or Zap.

For more information on the school program, contact Millie@storymojafestival.co.ke

One can also get in touch with the following for any queries, tickets@storymojafrica.co.ke or Info@storymojafrica.co.ke

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