

Rhythmic Reading "Cornbread's Skate Jam"

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On May 14, 2005, one hundred kids were given free tickets to attend the "Cornbread" Skate Jam, at Skate Station in Orange Park, Fl. This community event was developed to introduce the *Cornbread Series*, a collection of chapter books centered on the elementary grade levels. The series is child centered and has a strong foundation built on family. The collection also promotes higher order thinking, and a mastery of comprehension skills, a critical skill needed for state tests such as the FCAT.

The first book, "Cornbread Runs for President," is a story about Isaiah (aka Cornbread) who decides to, with the help of his best friend Roscoe, run for president of his fourth-grade class. Along with the personal satisfaction of becoming the next president, he wants to beat out the teacher's pet, Symone, who is his only real competition. All of the characters in this novel are African-American. This can be discovered, not just by the front-cover, but also by the author's choice of diction, setting, and life scenarios by the characters.

So who exactly is the profound author? It is none other than Vincent Taylor. He himself is a fifth grade teacher, who deals with students like Cornbread, Roscoe, and Symone everyday. When asked why he wanted to promote this skating event, he responded, "The purpose of this event is three-fold. First, as an educator, I wanted to send a message that even though school is concluding this year, reading and learning should continue. Secondly, I wanted to give reading a positive connotation by making it FUN (i.e. The Cornbread Reading Skate Jam). And the third reason is because in all that we do to become prosperous, we must remember that it's imperative to give back to our community."

The "Cornbread" Skate Jam, created by author Vincent Taylor, could not have taken place without the help of TriEclipse Publishing and its sponsors: Senator Tony Hill, Sr.; Charles E. Simmons, III, M.D; and Wood, Atter, and Associates, P.A. were the noted sponsors of the event. The music and skating experience was not the only thing that the children will remember about the occasion. Along with the free admission, the children were given a Cornbread T-Shirt and a Cornbread chapter book.

Vincent Taylor is also the author of, "Rhythmic Reading with Rap," which correlates with his workshop entitled *Reading, Rapping, and Having Fun*, and the book "The Abstract Art of a Poet." Vincent Taylor is a native of Jacksonville, Fl. He is married and has two beautiful daughters. When he is not writing or teaching, you can find him practicing martial arts...or roller-skating. For more information on Vincent Taylor, his books, workshops, or "Cornbread," you can visit his website www.cornbreadthebook.com.

