



LIFE CHANGING RESULTS OF

# LitWorld<sup>®</sup>

SEL REPORT ON LITCLUB YOUTH  
Sept 2023 – June 2024



Evaluation & Report by  
SEED Impact

# WHO WE ARE



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LitWorld champions the cause of vibrant literacy and the profound impact of storytelling on a global scale. We join forces with local organizations worldwide to cultivate comprehensive, empowering learning opportunities that not only bolster literacy but also instill a sense of community. Our approach enables young individuals to prosper as future leaders in their communities.

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# WHAT WE DO



## The LitWorld Model: 7 STRENGTHS

Around the world, approximately **393 million children** grapple with illiteracy, which is intricately linked to educational disparity, gender bias, and poverty. **Our 7 STRENGTHS** model forms the basis of LitClub, our primary program, and the cornerstone of our efforts. We incorporate evidence-based, social-emotional learning (SEL) tools into our award-winning, child-focused programs. By cultivating seven strengths innate to every child, we encourage literacy as a means for self-empowerment, and foster self-expression, community and confidence.



# HOW WE DO IT



Social Emotional Learning (SEL) refers to the intentional development of attitudes, behaviors and skills that are fundamental for academic and life success.

An SEL-focused program provides well-rounded instruction and accelerates student growth.



At LitWorld, our SEL programming intends two essential benefits:

1

encouragement of positive, strength-based behaviors as norms for lifetime practice

2

a safe space to practice storytelling and develop self-expression skills



Educators, policymakers and employers increasingly attest that SEL is the key to optimizing education and training.

*“In LitClub, I learned how to be a better friend. Before joining, I didn’t know how to treat my friends fairly, but now I understand how to be kind and caring to them. LitClub helped me make stronger and happier friendships.”*

-LitClub Youth

# LITCLUB HIGHLIGHTS, 2023



Delivered over **11,500 books** for young readers and created **82 libraries**



Reached over **64 million people** through our digital "World Read Aloud Day" campaign, with **11,000 joining in-person** events through our partners around the globe



Partnered with **20 grassroots,** community-based organizations across **17 countries**



Engaged over **1.3M participants** through LitClub and LitCamp programs in the United States and abroad

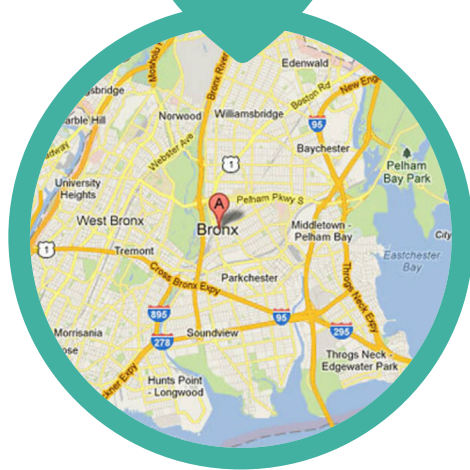
## LITCLUB PARTNER VOICES: READY FOR READING

*"The partnership between Ready for Reading and LitWorld has transformed my community. Individuals of all ages are embracing literacy and storytelling... inspiring a brighter and more connected future through the power of words."*

*"I am consistently impressed by LitWorld's commitment to supporting unserved youth through its innovative LitClub programs."*

# THREE KEY PARTNERSHIP SITES

This report focuses on LitClub programming at three sites:



**MS 391:** The Angelo Patri school in the Bronx, New York City. LitWorld ran 2 LitCLubs with about 25 regular attendees.



**Ready for Reading,** a nonprofit organization based in Rwinkwavu, Rwanda. Ready for reading ran 4 LitCLubs with 45 attendees.



**Un Mundo,** a nonprofit based in La Ceiba, Honduras. Un Mundo ran 18 LitCLubs with 130 attendees.

## LITCLUB PARTNER VOICES – UN MUNDO

“We are witnesses to the impact that [LitWorld] funds and resources have on the quality of education, especially on the empowerment and creation of local leadership.”

“LitWorld has positively impacted the quality of education for children, adolescents and youth in the region. We implemented LitClub programming as part of the school curriculum in each educational center, including the disabled population.”

“The region and our organization are very grateful to LitWorld supporting a region with high rates of poverty, illiteracy and low-quality education, achieving a sustainable transformation over the years.”

# THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

LitClub Program Results: Sept 2023-June 2024

## WHO:

A sample of **48** LitClub participants

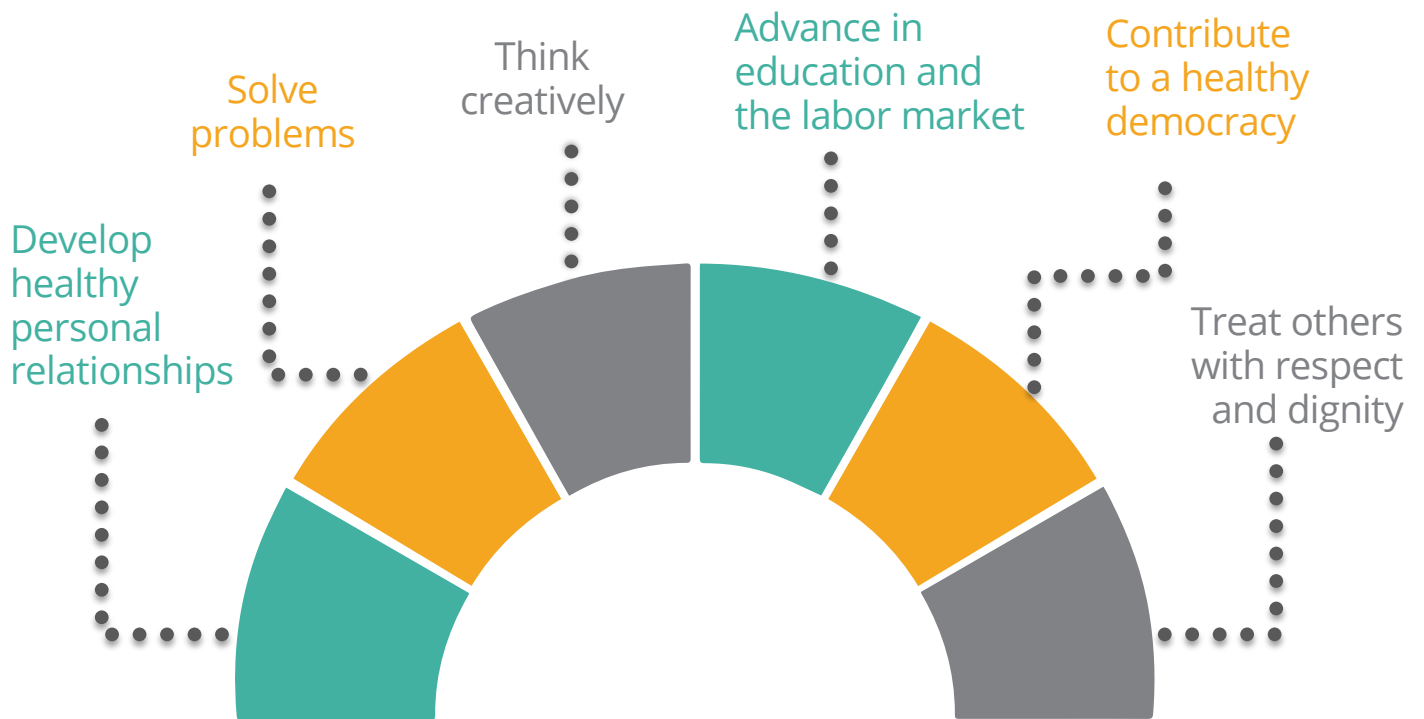
## GROWTH:

**24** percent increase in SEL competencies



## RESEARCH CONFIRMS<sup>1</sup>

SEL equips youth and adults to:



(1) Greenberg, M. T. (2023). Evidence for social and emotional learning in schools. Learning Policy Institute. <https://doi.org/10.54300/928.269>

*LitClub allowed me to have fun, develop emotional intelligence, and significantly improve my literacy skills. Now, I read stories to my classmates confidently.*

-LitClub Youth



## How We Measure Social Emotional Learning

Working in partnership with [SEED Impact](#), three [SEED Competency Ladders™](#) were customized by the LitWorld program staff and integrated with our programming to measure, credibly report, and accelerate major shifts in SEL competency.

1

### Being:

Focuses on the youth's identity, emotions and values

2

### Doing:

Emphasizes the youth's personal responsibility through goal-setting, decision making and problem solving

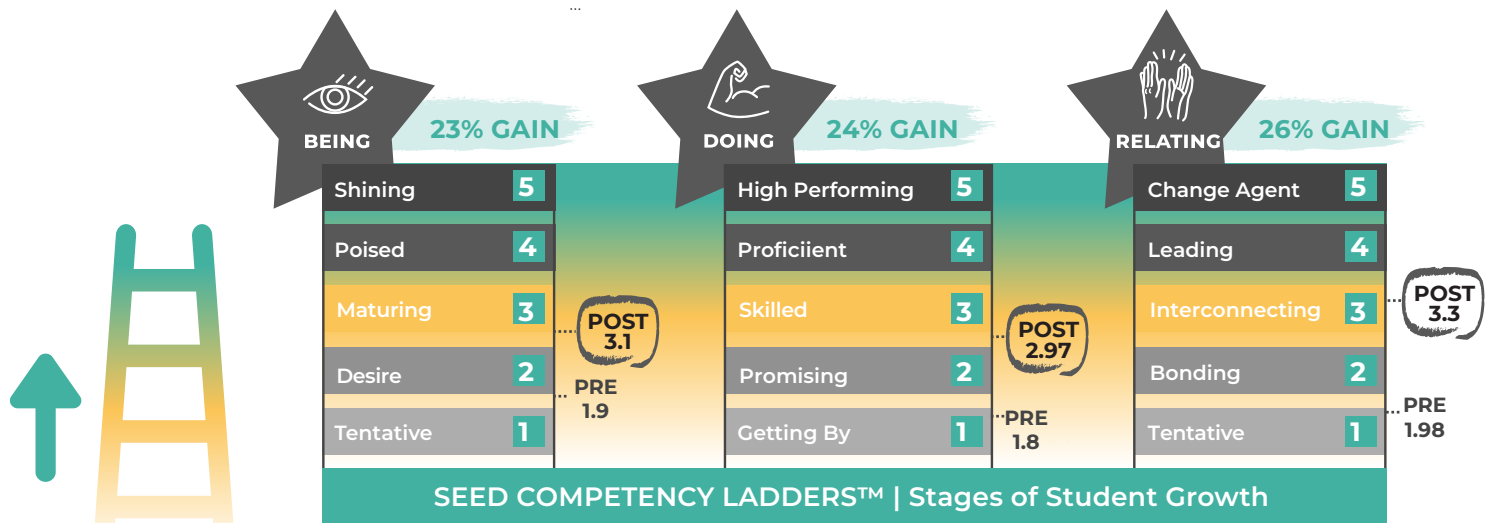
3

### Relating:

Involves social interactions, increased communication and improved relationships with others



## Staff and Teacher Observations of Student Growth in SEL Competencies



These findings validate the efficacy of our approach, since stage three on the competency ladders (shown in gold) is the sweet spot we expect participants to reach. The most significant increase in students' SEL competency was in the domain of **RELATING**.

*“Smaller group sizes positively impact the LitClub environment. We’re excited to...apply what we’ve learned.”*

-LitClub Mentor



*“Throughout the year, we navigated the complexity of school environments with changing rosters and uncertain scheduling. We ended the year with positive member relationships and saw young people develop a greater sense of confidence and connection with one another.”*

-LitClub Mentor

# STAFF OBSERVATIONS: THREE STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS\*

**Tarek\*** has shown significant growth in LitClub, becoming a more active member by initiating and participating in group discussions and demonstrating vulnerability and creativity in core activities. Initially reserved, Tarek is now more confident when communicating with peers and mentors, actively participating in group discussions related to community-building and core activities. Tarek even takes initiative in starting conversations and incorporating creativity into core activities.



Throughout the LitClub program, **Jaylah\*** has consistently shown empathy for her peers and characters in the stories she reads. She actively engages in activities with enthusiasm, even stepping out of her comfort zone to participate. She created her own invention during a challenging activity. Jaylah is now more comfortable initiating conversations during sessions and has improved in her ability to share her creative ideas with peers and mentors. Overall, she has grown in her ability to confidently connect with her peers throughout the session.



**Ari\*** initially struggled with timidity, participation, decision-making, and socializing in the program. However, she has since transformed, becoming more confident, engaging, supportive, and active in all activities.



\*Note: Names throughout this report are fictitious to protect student anonymity. Photos represent general students in the program, not the one attributed to these quotes

# STUDENT SELF-ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Participants were invited to self-reflect using a survey tool customized by the LitWorld staff, with guidance from SEED Impact.

Below are the results for the **11 youth** who completed the self-assessment:



Students indicated 19 percent growth on average across the SEL practices, three per domain:



**19 percent**  
growth in  
Being



**21 percent**  
growth in  
Doing



**17 percent**  
growth in  
Relating



# Students' Sense of Personal Growth

"I had difficulties with reading and have overcome my apprehensions and acquired significant reading skills."

"I've developed relationship-building skills, learned the value of forgiveness, and embraced a more harmonious coexistence with others."

"At first, I was a little shy and then I gained confidence, I recommend that the other classmates learn from this experience."

"I am not only learning to be confident but also how to do active listening. I learned how not to shout in class but to focus on learning."

"Before joining LitClub, I was selfish to the point I would not even lend a pen to my peers, but now I am not selfish. I help others whenever I could."

"I learned advocacy skills. Now I can stand up and effectively communicate my interests"

"Before joining LitClub I did not know that everyone is important and needed, but now I understand that everyone is important and is valuable."

"Since joining, I notice a change every day because every day we learn new things which made me discover my strength. I realize things I didn't know I had."

