

SARITA CHOUDHURY

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Raoul S. Juneja a.k.a. DeeJay Ra
Lyrical Knockout Entertainment
'Hip-Hop Literacy' Campaign

DeeJay Ra,

I first would like to say how happy I am to support any literacy program.

Reading was something my mother encouraged from the age of six, and she was very specific as to what books I should read. I remember knowing as a teen-ager that the best seller romance novels were mostly trash, and I would never buy them for fear of my mother catching me.

This proved to be very helpful later on in my life, for example at university when I had to write essays or as an actress when I had a meeting and had to express myself or inspire the person in front of me to give me the job.

Sometimes I meet really bright kids who just don't have the 'words' to express themselves, but the thoughts are there. When I shoot a film, I often read, because there is so much time on the film set when we as actors are not used, and if it weren't for my faithful books, I would go insane from boredom. I am a big daydreamer, and with a book I forget my whereabouts and travel quite far in my mind.

Right now I am reading E.M Forster's "Howard's End". My favorite author is John Berger, especially his book "Lilac and Flag". Another favorite is Michael Ondaatje, particularly "Anil's Ghost" and "Running in the Family". Jumpha Lahira is a also great Indian writer, she wrote "The Interpreter of Maladies" and "The Namesake", which I did the voice for on the audio book version. A lot of my authors of choice are foreign, partly because I grew up in so many countries, and partly because they let me pretend to travel.

Sincerely,

Sarita Choudhury

