An important part of economic growth is that people have jobs that pay enough to support themselves and their families. The good news is that the middle class is growing worldwide—almost tripling in size in developing countries in the last 25 years, to more than a third of the population. But today, job growth is not keeping pace with the growing labour force. Things don’t have to be that way. We can promote policies that encourage entrepreneurship and job creation. We can eradicate forced labour, slavery and human trafficking. And in the end we can achieve the goal of decent work for all women and men by 2030.
Across Africa, the negative perception of agricultural enterprise is changing and the number of agricultural entrepreneurs is increasing. Kokoti is not only a farmer but a peer educator who introduces innovative methods of farming and husbandry to his neighbours in the community. When he suffers hard times, we watch him rebuild his life through resilience, hard work and community support. His wife shares in the labour. They are equal partners. Children will see that through his success as a farmer, he not only has enough for himself, he has enough to share.
This immersive book references diverse professions and work/economic opportunities with an emphasis on acting as a viable vocation. It is good news indeed to hear an African father encourage his son to become an actor, using the same words of advice once limited to conventional professions eg medicine, engineering, law: “In this world, only those who are focused and ready to sacrifice for what they really want to succeed”. The book represents the changing nature of the work force from traditional to newer, modern descriptions and additionally promotes drama/film as an effective vehicle for advocating on social issues.
Mrs. Jonas is the generous benefactor of the inhabitants of Okoma Village, South East Nigeria. Whenever she visits their village, she comes laden with all kinds of wonderful gifts for parents who have been gullible enough to entrust their children to her care in Lagos, the commercial capital of Nigeria where she lives. She lives in the luxury of a large house with the children she brings back with her after each trip to Okoma until she has made arrangements for them which do not involve helping them find decent work or a good education. An immersive story and
cautionary tale. Madam Delight is a great resource for starting conversations with children about the perils of blind trust, the prevalence of human trafficking, the responsibilities of parents towards their children, the child’s right to protection from slavery, servitude, exploitative labour and the child’s right to education. The illustrations are superb.

Title: *Lelo and the Person Who Knows Everything*

Author: Oxford University Press, Southern Africa

Publisher: Oxford University Press, Southern Africa

Website: [https://publishsa.co.za/](https://publishsa.co.za/)


This delightful book emphasizes the importance of knowledge and advocates for the acquisition of knowledge through both physical libraries and the internet. Miss
Zungu, the librarian, tells the children, “If you look in the right place, anything can be found”. One of the brightly coloured illustrations is of Miss Zungu reading a story from the doorway of a mobile library to a group of children gathered in a circle on the ground outside it.

Title: *Project Pinkaso*

Author: Akua Serwaa Amankwah

Publisher: NNF Esquire Limited (Ghana)

Website: [http://nnfesquire.com/](http://nnfesquire.com/)

ISBN: 978-9988-9213-6-1

When the school principal observes that too many children are going hungry in his school, he asks Miss Yahaya, a teacher of agriculture and farmer, to oversee a school farm project alongside 3 resourceful school-children, Ayiwa, Roro and Rafiq. The farm project is a joint-enterprise involving teachers, pupils and parents
– the key stakeholders in a child’s education. This is a fun and endearing story that promotes a practical approach to the study of agriculture and the establishment of school farms where nutritious foods can be grown to help reduce hunger in schoolchildren. The story additionally highlights the school farm as an opportunity for creating jobs and income generation for members of the community in which the schools are located. With great illustrations and a quiz at the end of book.