



Join us for a fun afternoon of creativity and community on behalf of the world's children. At this workshop you'll get inspiration from best-selling children's book creators Paul & Peter H. Reynolds (*Judy Moody*, *The Dot*, *Ish*, *Going Places*), learn about the global literacy efforts of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and begin work on your very own children's book, which will ultimately be uploaded to a digital library and made available in dozens of languages for early language learners around the world.

**Sponsors:** [US Agency for International Development](#); [Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life](#); [Lynch School of Education](#); [Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences](#); [School of Social Work](#).

**Context:**

Around the world, children lack access to books in local languages. Even when books are available, quantities are insufficient, quality is low, and they are rarely written in the languages children understand. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is working with a range of partners in the U.S. and around the world to dramatically increase access to high-quality early grade reading materials, in part through campus-based book-writing events. With the help of [BLOOM](#)'s free, open-source book-writing software, participants at these "book-a-thons" can write and produce short books in their native language and upload them into the free digital library, where they can be downloaded in translation in over 50 languages. The Boston College Book-a-Thon aims to raise awareness about the challenges of global illiteracy, encourage young authors (college students) to find their voice, and bring together parts of that BC community that share an interest in global development and international education.

The BC Book-a-Thon will begin with a presentation about the creative process by [Peter Reynolds](#), a *New York Times* best-selling children's book author and illustrator who has sold over 20 million books worldwide in more than 25 languages. Following a short presentation from USAID officials about their education initiatives, and a quick software tutorial, participants will split into groups to begin work on a children's book of their own, which (when complete) will be uploaded to a digital library. Children and educators from around the world can then download the books, translated into their native language, for free.

**Schedule:**

4:30 - 4:45 pm Introduction to the USAID book-a-thon initiative: Christie Vilsack & Amie Harris (BC '11)  
4:45 - 5:30 pm Keynote presentation by Peter Reynolds, New York Times best-selling children's author  
5:30 - 7:00 pm Brainstorming session: Work on your books with friends!

**About USAID's work in Education:** [www.usaid.gov/education](http://www.usaid.gov/education) or [www.facebook.com/USAIDEducation](https://www.facebook.com/USAIDEducation)  
**About Peter Reynolds:** [www.peterhreynolds.com](http://www.peterhreynolds.com) and [www.fablevisionstudios.com](http://www.fablevisionstudios.com)