

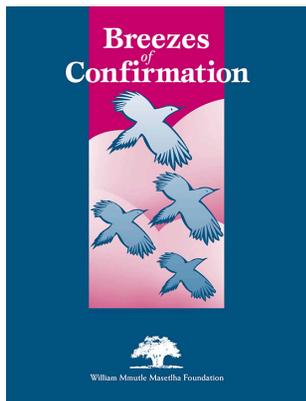
## CURRICULUM

To create a setting where young people can discuss ideas and form a strong moral identity, a series of books have been developed for use in Junior Youth Groups.

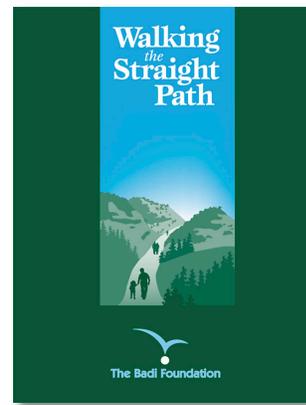
All of the titles are concerned with developing language skills and the power of expression. Some also address mathematical concepts and social issues, while others seek to prepare young people to approach the investigation of physical, social and spiritual reality in a scientific manner.

The titles that have been developed include:

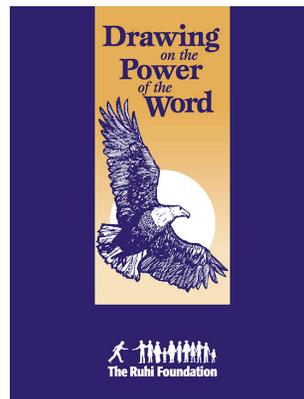
***Breezes of Confirmation***, prepared by the William Mmutle Masetlha Foundation in Zambia, tells the story of Musonda, a young girl who has just turned 13, and her older cousin Rose, who has come to visit for the school holidays. A theme that runs throughout the story is that of making an effort and receiving God's confirmations. While the book maintains a certain level of simplicity in terms of sentence structure and flow, the use of difficult words is not avoided. By placing such words in different contexts, and drawing out their meaning through exercises, the text builds vocabulary and strengthens literacy skills. The book works best with youth aged 11 and 12.



Stories have traditionally been a means for conveying moral concepts from one generation to the next. The Badi Foundation in Macau draws on this tradition by bringing together twenty stories from different cultures in ***Walking the Straight Path***. Each story is relatively short and followed by a series of exercises designed to further comprehension, build vocabulary, and enhance moral reasoning. Short quotations for memorization are also provided. The book is intended to be studied by youth aged 13 to 14.



***Drawing on the Power of the Word*** by the Ruhi Foundation in Colombia seeks to enhance the power of expression and explore the moral implications of speech and action. It consists of twenty readings, each of which is complemented by exercises in language skills. The readings begin simply, but gain in complexity both in terms of thought and language. The first reading introduces Diego and his youth group, who live in the small town of Alegrías. With the help of a tutor from the nearby institute named Elisa, the group thinks about the power of enlightened words and pure deeds to bring about social change. The book is designed for youth aged 14.



## Junior Youth Empowerment Group



Assisting 12 - 14 year olds to take steps to discover their talents, positively express themselves, and to become empowered to transform their community

**The Junior Youth Empowerment Program is a spiritually-based three-year educational program that assists youth ages 12-14 in transforming themselves and their communities. While the concept of God and prayer are a part of the program it is a non-religious service offered by the Baha'i community.**

**Purpose:**

- To empower junior youth to contribute to the betterment of their community through acts of service
- To assist junior youth to make positive decisions and to express those decisions through clear speech and meaningful action
- To help build basic literacy skills and assist junior youth to articulate ideas with precision and clarity
- To help junior youth create a peer group that is encouraging and free of ridicule



**Activities include:**

- Service projects
- Arts and crafts projects
- Drama/skits
- Public presentations
- Dance performances
- Field trips
- Fundraising



**Schedule:**

The group meets at least twice a week, according to the junior youth's availability. Additional meetings may be scheduled for service projects and outings.

**Date/Time:**

**Location:**

**Contact:**

**TESTIMONIAL**

"... here it explains that one should be a person that others speak well of, who doesn't get in trouble, who helps others, a person who participates within the community. For me, it seems important that we should see each other as human beings, in order to help everyone..."

- a junior youth describing the impact of the book "Drawing on the Power of the Word"

**EXAMPLE OF MEMORIZATION QUOTES**

"...happy is he who arises to promote the best interests of the peoples and kindreds of the earth."

"...let your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your path."

"Ye were created to show love one to another."