

# Jet Delivers Books To Kids Overseas



An airplane with more than 100,000 special “passengers” recently flew from Seattle, Washington, to China. The passengers aboard the flight were not people. They were brand new books for children.

An organization called Room to Read planned this special trip. Room to Read collects books and other school supplies for children who have little money to buy them. Some of the books are written in English and others are written in the children’s native languages. Room to Read also builds schools and libraries. Since the year 2000, Room to Read has donated more than 3 million books, built almost 300 schools, and opened 5,000 libraries.

To help pay for books and new schools and libraries, Room to Read has a special program called Students Helping Students. Kids in the U.S. and other countries raise money for Room to Read. Some of the money students raise is used to pay authors and artists in other countries to write and illustrate books for children in those countries.

## **NEWS WORD BOX**

passengers native  
rural organization  
donated poverty

Room to Read was started in 2000 by John Wood. When Wood was on a backpacking trip to Nepal in 1998, he learned that many rural schools there had few books. Wood knew it would be very difficult for those students to escape poverty if they could not read. Today, Room to Read helps kids learn to read in Nepal, India, Vietnam, South Africa, and many other countries.

## **MORE FACTS ABOUT THE NEWS**

- Scholastic, Inc., has donated 400,000 books to Room to Read. Some of those books were on the flight to China.
- Cathay Pacific Airlines donated the use of the plane, which was called Literacy One.

## **THINK ABOUT THE NEWS**

Imagine your school with no library and only a few books.  
How would your school and your education be different?