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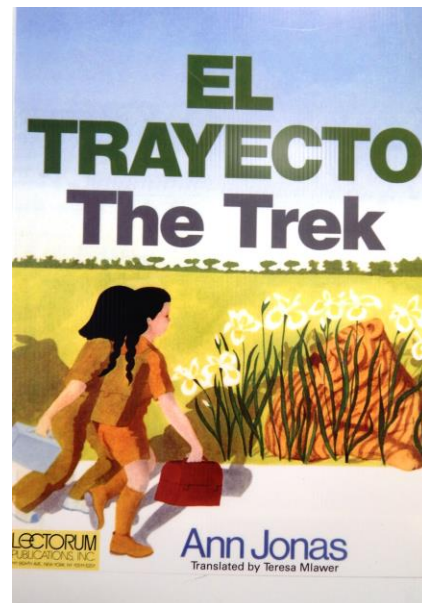
For Immediate Release

Literacy Celebration Downtown StoryWalk Kicks Off Saturday

Hartford, CT August 16 — Join us Saturday, August 19, from 11 am to 4:30 pm, in the Center for Contemporary Culture, Downtown Library, for the kickoff of Literacy Celebration Downtown StoryWalk. The Library will have parent-led literacy activities to help with development of language and literacy skills, physical development, and communication.

This year's featured book is "El Trayecto/The Trek," by Ann Jonas, a story about a little girl and her friend on their adventure-filled walk to school. In the book their journey takes them past a water hole, desert, river, trading post and many wild animals. The text is in Spanish and English.

From Noon-1 pm at the Library, Craig Norton presents One Heart/One World Drumming, a program of Native American, African, Caribbean and Latin stories, song and dance integrated in a participatory experience.



At 1 pm some guides will be available to start the tours. Families can also use maps for a self-guided walk.

StoryWalks are designed to lead children and their families to designated stops along a route noted in a passport they will pick up at the Library. Families will check off completion after visiting each location. Each stop will have enlarged pages from "The Trek," and activities. Stops include Hartford City Hall, Bushnell Park Carousel (free from 1-3 pm), the Old State House, the Connecticut Science

Center, the Wadsworth Atheneum of Art, and the Butler-McCook House and Garden. Admission is free with the passport to the Old State House and Butler-McCook. Hartford residents can get free passes to the Science Center at the Library. Hartford residents have free admission to the Wadsworth Atheneum.

When the passport is complete, families can return to Hartford Public Library and pick up backpacks with folders, papers, and pencils, and a picture book, each one per family as supplies last.

The storyboards will remain at all the locations until the end of August. Each stop has signage in English, Spanish, and Hindi.

StoryWalk is supported by a \$900 grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, as recommended by the S.A. Johnson Family Fund.

Hartford Public Library/500 Main St./Hartford CT 06103