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## Little Rock, Arkansas, Teacher Publishes Novel

Richard Emmel, a teacher at Joe T. Robinson Middle School, in western Pulaski County, Arkansas, has recently published his first novel, entitled *Louisa*. It is loosely based on the life of colonial African-American poetess, Phillis Wheatley, and is released just in time to celebrate Black History Month in February 2007.

Appropriately, Mr. Emmel will participate in a special Black History Month program to be held in the Robinson Middle School at 1:45 p.m. CST on Friday, February 9, 2007. This program will spotlight the historical accomplishments of notable Black Americans, including acclaimed poetess Phillis Wheatley. We will announce this event again and provide further details closer to the occasion.

Mr. Emmel's story of *Louisa* transports you back to colonial American times to witness the terrifying capture and brutal enslavement of Farih Morowa, a Fulani African princess, who is renamed Louisa by her owners. She later amazes the world with her intellect and poetic writing skills. How she was nurtured, educated, and rose to international celebrity as an authoress, before ultimately gaining her freedom from slavery, is a truly inspiring journey for readers of all ages.

Ms. Kathy Hickey, also known as "the Book Lady", a Literacy Specialist with the Arkansas Department of Education, says of *Louisa*, "The narrative swept me along as I vicariously lived the amazing story of this black woman who rose, despite all odds, to become a famous poet of her day." Dr. Paul J. Smith, a Little Rock educator, says, "*Louisa* is an excellent book."

***To obtain copies of Louisa, ask your local bookstore or library to order it from Ingram Books using ISBN 978-0-9786567-0-6, or purchase it directly from the publisher at [www.parsonplacepress.com/store](http://www.parsonplacepress.com/store) It is also currently available through Barnes and Noble's online store at [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com) (just search on the book's ISBN).***

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