



Dear students,

This book, *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach*, was written by an author named Carmen Agra Deedy. Carmen grew up in Georgia – just like you.

Carmen and I, along with some friends where I work at the Georgia Department of Education, wanted to give you this book because we want you to be a Literacy Champion. We want you to learn how to read, write, and communicate in all sorts of ways – including reading stories like this one, and telling your own stories!

Here's what I want you to do: first, read LOTS of books. Take home a big stack from your school media center, or ask a parent or your media specialist to find an e-book for you to read. Keep reading new books and try to find your very favorites.

And then, I want you to tell your own stories. We all have stories to tell, whether it's through writing, stage dramas (plays), graphic design, or even music. Never be afraid to share your stories – remember, the author of this book was once a student just like you!

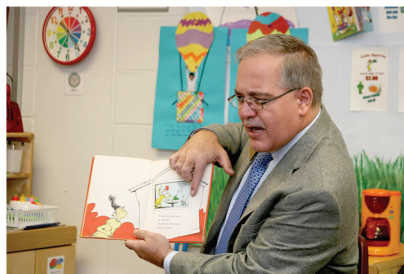
When you are a Literacy Champion, the whole world opens up. Books and stories can entertain you when you're bored, comfort you when you're sad, and help you learn about anything in the world you find interesting – from astronauts in space to princesses in castles. When you are a Literacy Champion, you have the tools you need to accomplish just about anything.

I hope you like this story about *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach* – it's one of my favorites. And I hope you discover many of your own favorite books, too.

Sincerely,

*Richard Woods*

Richard Woods  
State School Superintendent



*I love visiting schools and reading to students just like you!*



*There's Carmen -- the author of this book!*

*A Note to Media Specialists:*

We want to hear about your students' adventures as Literacy Champions and their experiences reading this book! Share on social media using **#LitChampsGA** or send photos to **social@doe.k12.ga.us**. Learn more at **l4ga.gadoe.org**.