

**Larry Abrams**  
**Founder & Executive Director of BookSmiles**

Larry recently retired from teaching English at Lindenwold High School so that he can run BookSmiles full time. Always an avid reader, he graduated from the University of Rochester with a BA in English, and a day later received a commission as an officer in the US Navy where he served on-board an aircraft carrier during the Persian Gulf War.

After his discharge, he became a Kinko's manager while completing his Masters in Teaching at The College of New Jersey. Kinko's taught him how to run a business.

Larry has taught high school English for over twenty-one years, first in Moorestown, NJ and then in Lindenwold. He experienced the socio-economic disparity which was reflected in the very different reading scores. He observed that kids who grew up with books came to the classroom reading at or beyond grade level. Kids who lack books struggle with fundamentals.

Larry believes that **all** children should have a personal library and he knows that an alliance of educators, parents, and BookSmiles people can make it happen. Larry lives in South Jersey with his wife and two cats. His two children are grown.