

## Praise of Learning

Learn the elementary things!  
For those whose time has  
come  
it is never too late!  
Learn the ABC. It won't be  
enough, but learn it!  
Don't be dismayed by it!  
Begin! You must know  
everything.  
You must take over the  
leadership.

Learn, man in the asylum!  
Learn, man in the prison!  
Learn, woman in the kitchen!  
Learn, sixty year olds!  
You must take over the  
leadership.

Seek out the school, you who  
are homeless!

Acquire knowledge, you who  
shiver!

You who are hungry, reach for  
the book: it is a weapon.

You must take over the  
leadership.

Don't be frightened to ask,  
comrade!

Don't be talked into anything.  
Check for yourself!

What you do not know yourself  
you do not know.

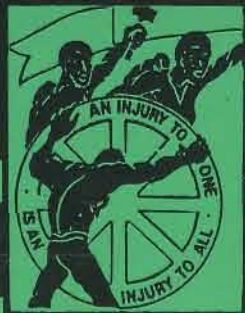
Scrutinize the bill,

it is you who must pay it.

Put your finger on each item,

ask: How did this get here?

You must take over the  
leadership.



Bertolt Brecht (1898-1956)



International Literacy Day is the day on which people all over  
the world celebrate the right to read and write.

The United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural  
Organisation (Unesco) co-ordinates International Literacy  
Day, and many countries pay tribute to projects which are  
involved in teaching people how to read and write.

In South Africa, there are still hundreds of thousands of  
people who are unable to read or write.

Within our unions, we need to be asking why this is so.

We need to ask:

- Is literacy necessary in our struggle?
  - How can we integrate literacy into worker education?
- Send your ideas to Cosatu Education Department, PO Box  
1019, Johannesburg 2000

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# International Literacy Day September 8

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Cosatu Education Department, PO Box 1019, Johannesburg 2000