One School, One Book Inspires One Town, One Book

One School, One Book participant Bradfield Elementary School in Texas had such a successful experience last year reading one book throughout the school that they have decided to go one better, getting the whole town involved!

Teaming up with Armstrong Elementary, they have dubbed the project One Town, One Book, utilizing Read to Them's acclaimed One School, One Book program, they challenged every student, teacher, staff member, and parent that is part of the Highland Park School District to read Beverly Cleary's beloved classic The Mouse and the Motorcycle aloud with friends and family, so the entire Highland Park community will be enjoying the same book!

This momentous undertaking did not go unnoticed. WFAA News 8 out of Dallas-Fort Worth recently did a segment on the program, interviewing Bradfield fourth-grader Charlya Grace Williams and Armstrong Library Media Specialist Lori Riley in studio! For Charlya Grace, the best part of the program is reading with her family, especially her older brother. Lori Riley says, "I've seen the excitement for reading just spread throughout the community. It's like a giant book club with 1,300 members!"

Bradfield Elementary Library Assistant Bonnie Urschel isn't stopping there, she's spearheading Texas Reads One Book across the entire state! For more information visit ReadtoThem.org/TexasReads.
Read to Them is renowned for promoting literacy, but programs like One District, One Book also do a remarkable job encouraging community and solidarity, and the partnership between Goochland Public Schools and Adams International School, a private school in Goochland county, Virginia, serves as an excellent model.

By working together, the schools of Goochland County set a strong example for the community and children, who are their top priority. This year, the Goochland community will be reading Charlotte’s Web, by E.B. White. Stephen Geyer, assistant superintendent to Goochland Schools explained, "Literacy has the greatest impact when it's a shared experience, whether it's through reading aloud or simply sharing the same silent reading. Our partnership with AIS highlights our common interest in our community and maximizing the potential of every child. ODOB has made literacy a true community endeavor."

And the word is spreading! Recently York Schools, in York, Nebraska, also signed on to participate in a One Book reading that includes not only their elementary students, but the elementary students from two local private schools. York Schools also hopes to involve local businesses and the local radio station and newspaper. Now that's community building!

These schools demonstrate that great things happen when communities—via a public-private school partnership—come together to promote Family Literacy and the overall well-being of children.

Study Finds Key to Success: Reading Aloud

In the fall of last year, Scholastic partnered with YouGov and conducted a study to explore family attitudes and behaviors around reading books for fun. Among their goals: discover predictors on what will make a child a frequent reader. The study was recently featured in a New York Times article.

Read to Them is pleased, but not surprised, that one of the key findings is children who read aloud with friends and family are more likely to become frequent readers as they age. Frequent readers have been shown to have better reading skills and comprehension and are more successful in school.

Most parents read aloud to their children from up to the age of five; however, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends starting at birth and continuing to at least age eleven.

Pam Allyn, founder of LitWorld.Org, a nonprofit group that works to increase literacy among young people said, “It's this idea of marinating children in higher-level vocabulary. The read-aloud can really lift the child.”
Audubon School District Swings into Spring Reading!

After completing a successful community-wide One District, One Book reading of Kate DiCamillo's Newbery Honor Book, Because of Winn-Dixie, the Audubon School District in Audubon, Iowa is bringing in another classic for their spring reading: Charlotte's Web by E.B. White.

The positive response to Read to Them's program last fall encouraged the Audubon School District to do another reading event this spring. All the students, Pre-K through 6th grade, along with their parents, family members, district staff and members of the Audubon Community will be reading Charlotte's Web. But that's not all. Audubon Schools is hosting a series of activities to go along with the shared reading event, including a musical performance of the book!

Being part of the community is important to Audubon schools, and to this end they spread the joy of reading by having 5th and 6th graders head to their Care Center and read to the residents. The reaction was so positive, they have had other community members outside the school ask to participate this spring! According to middle school librarian Lynn Spies, "The reading message is spreading!"

She went on to say, "We believe that when students see not just their parents and siblings reading but other adults, community members and older students reading as well, it creates great role models for the younger readers to aspire to! It gets the kids excited about reading!"

Read to Them couldn't agree more: community engagement and togetherness leads to great things and sharing a good book is a great way to build Family Literacy.

Book Spotlight: Charlotte's Web

Charlotte's Web by author E.B. White is a beloved classic that combines a thoughtfully crafted story with beautifully rendered prose, making it a great read for all ages.

This Newbery Honor book tells the tale of a pig named Wilbur and his quest for friendship. This book overflows with great characters, from the little pig Wilbur, the young girl Fern who saves him, and, of course, the wise old spider Charlotte.

If your school is looking for its next Read to Them book, check out Charlotte's Web, you won't be disappointed!
More and more people are discovering Read to Them on Facebook.

On our Facebook page you can keep up on our latest news, read testimonials from excited participants, browse our photos and more.

Don’t forget to “LIKE” us!

Read to Them
Educational Organization

Lorine Linde
February 11 at 9:50pm

I am a kindergarten teacher at the IKM-Manning School District in Irwin, Iowa.

I read on Facebook that another Iowa school district implemented your program last fall and it was such a huge success that they are doing it again this spring!

I am interested in implementing your program in our district. Please send me more information!

Read to Them shared Andrea Taylor Snowden’s post.

Andrea Taylor Snowden  Betty G. Birney
January 20th

Thanks so much for The World According to Humphrey!! My boys (4 years and 7 Years) and I just read the book for One School, One Book. It was great bonding time for us! We will really enjoy the Humphrey inspired activities at the elementary school on Wednesday night!! Thanks!!

Read to Them
January 6th

We love receiving notes like these from our participating schools! Thanks to Margaret Post from Mount Laurel Public Schools.

“We are getting ready for this year’s One School, One Book. It has been the best reading program we’ve ever done over the years I’ve been a librarian. I can’t wait to introduce our new book, The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies. And if plans work out, we’ll have her visit our school!”

– Margaret Post, Mount Laurel Schools, NJ