Reading Goes Bananas!

**Perry Hill does One School, One Book**

Perry Hill Elementary School in Shelton, Connecticut, just took their One School, One Book experience to a whole new level. Not only did the whole school participate in the reading of The One and Only Ivan, by Katherine Applegate, but they wrote a song about it.

The song, "Set Them Free," was penned by Lori M. Lisi, a fifth-grade teacher at Perry Hill who wrote the lyrics to the tune of the Beatles' "Let it Be." You can hear the song, performed by two fifth-grade classes, on our website. The assistant principal also got into the act, dressing in a gorilla costume and doing an amazing "guitar solo" on an inflatable guitar.

"The positive feedback we've received from students, parents and staff has been overwhelming," Lori said. "One School, One Book was such a great program for everyone—and the book was perfect!"
Jacqueline Davies, author of *The Lemonade War*, a Read to Them recommended book, recently shared some thoughts with us. She talked about the excitement of visiting schools, the importance of reading as a family, and more. Here are some highlights. You can read the entire interview on our website.

Jacqueline Davies visits a lot of schools each year, but she says, "Without a doubt, one of my favorite type of school visits is when I'm the author at a One School, One Book event. The energy and excitement around these visits cannot be overstated. Of course this attention is gratifying for me, but the important thing is what it does for the kids. These events make kids look at authors as rock stars, and that's critical for encouraging children to value reading and writing and to aspire to become writers themselves."

She's also enjoys seeing the way One School, One Book activities impact the community. At Eli Whitney Elementary School in Enfield, CT the students put together a fundraiser for Alex's Lemonade Stand, which funds research in pediatric cancer. They raised more than $1200! Jacqueline says, "At schools all over the country, I've seen creative teachers who have used the book to design remarkable projects in art, math, science, writing, social/emotional development, conflict-solving, and community building. It's a joy to see the ways in which my book has contributed to the growth of children."

Being a mother of three taught Jacqueline the importance of reading together, saying, "Reading can be one of the greatest and most lasting bonding experiences between parents and children, and One School, One Book provides the perfect opportunity to make reading together as a family a nightly event."

---

**Book Spotlight:**

**The Lemonade War**

*The Lemonade War* by author Jacqueline Davies is a funny and engaging book filled with unforgettable characters and important life lessons.

Fourth-grader Evan Treski is people-smart. His younger sister, Jessie is math-smart, but not especially good with people. So when the siblings’ lemonade stand war begins, there really is no telling who will win—or even if their fight will ever end. The book combines an entertaining story with the teaching of math skills, making math fun. *The Lemonade War* is a great read that is also available in Spanish.

If your school is looking for its next Read to Them book, check out *The Lemonade War*, or the sequel, *The Lemonade Crime*. Either book is sure to please!
Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is one of the nation's oldest and largest federally funded programs, according to the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). Its stated purpose is "to ensure all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education."

Increasing parental involvement is a top priority of the DOE and Title I. Parent support is critical to student success in elementary and secondary school. To achieve its mission, the DOE has created broad guidelines in furtherance of these goals, requiring:

- Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school

Family Literacy programs like One District, One Book offer schools simple and effective ways to meet the requirements established by the Department of Education.

You can learn more about Title I at the U.S. Department of Education's website or on ReadToThem.org.