What is One District, One Book®?

One District, One Book® (ODOB) is a family literacy program that enables you to create a district-wide book club in every school. Everyone - students, families, teachers, staff - reads the same book at the same time. At home and at school, all grade levels. You will saturate your schools - and your community - with literacy.

Why Family Literacy?

Research demonstrates the benefits that accrue when you actively promote family literacy in your community. Students...

- Experience gains in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and phonemic awareness.
- Perform better academically, attend school more regularly, and are more likely to finish high school.
- Gain improved social skills, self-esteem, and attitudes towards learning.
- Increase general knowledge and score better on intelligence tests.
- Experience improved mental and physical health.

How does One District, One Book® work?

Choose one of our recommended titles. We will send you a copy for every student in your district. And your staff. Send it home with a reading schedule. Ask families to read each night. Celebrate and explore the book in school. Voila!

One District, One Book® – A Game Changer

1. ODOB models reading as a positive, fun, and meaningful activity for all students and their families regardless of their backgrounds, past experiences, reading scores or literacy levels.

2. ODOB promotes vocabulary and literacy development in the home and is especially effective with at-risk children, raised in poverty, who have a 30 million word deficit in their language exposure by the time they enter school.

3. ODOB builds relationships and turns family members into “Literacy Leaders.”

4. ODOB creates lasting systemic change especially when multiple programs are instituted annually.

5. ODOB is flexible, fun, easy, and cost-effective and leads to a community of readers.
**What else will you do?**

This is the fun part:

- Plan an assembly to kick off ODOB, to introduce your new title, and explain ODOB.
- Select and read daily trivia questions. Award prizes.
- Select and modify (or create) in school, in class, and at home activities to extend student exploration/celebration of each book.
- Publicize your district’s participation in ODOB to your wider community - e.g. press and social media.

**What happens next?**

You will experience school-wide enthusiasm for reading among your families. Your principal will see an increase in parental involvement and awareness - all because of a book. You will see a daily conversation among students, faculty, parents, bus drivers in the cafeteria, in the schoolyard, on the bus - and at church and the supermarket and the soccer field. And you will have parents and students clamoring to know - “What will our next book be?”

**What do I get from Read to Them®?**

Read to Them® (RTT) provides materials to explain the program to your staff, families, and community. (e.g. “How To Do ODOB in 10 Easy Steps”) You also get a packet of specific material for each title - letter home to parents, reading schedule, a complete bank of trivia questions, assembly ideas, and suggested activities for home and classroom. Of course you get a copy of the title(s) you’ve chosen for every student in your school. Best of all you get ready access to RTT support and personnel whenever and however you need it. You also become part of RTT’s network of participating schools - with access to newsletters, downloadable audio reading tips, and updated ideas from other schools.

**How many books should we read?**

It may sound like a lot just to organize one ODOB event, but you will find the experience breeds enthusiasm and energy for your next title. We have also found that in order to instill the regular habit of reading aloud at home for your families, you will be more successful if you read two or even three books with your families. One book is an excellent taste. Two and three books plant seeds that bear fruit. And, when your district reads more than one book in a single school year, you get a personal visit from a Read to Them representative who will come and present to your parents and staff - shepherding you through the planning process - or pumping up parents on why and how to read aloud with confidence.

**How much does it cost?**

That depends on how many titles you read together each year.

- $5.95 per student for one title.
- $10.95 per student for two titles.
- $14.95 per student for three titles.

**What’s my next step?**

If you have further questions, email programs@readtothem.org. We stand ready to answer all queries.

When you’re ready, write cathy.mitchell@readtothem.org or call at 804-334-5872 and tell us you’re in! She’ll process quotes, estimates, purchase orders, and invoices.

We’ll send the full suite of materials just as soon as we know what book(s) you’re reading. And once you specify quantities - each selected title will arrive lickety-split - usually in a week or two!
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