

Help us collect 100,000 books for the children of Houston.



BLAST OFF FOR BOOKS



The 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering
Houston Literacy Campaign

The Gathering will be collecting books for students in Pre-K through 6th grade.



3 IN 5

HOUSTON CHILDREN LACK READING-READINESS SKILLS WHEN ENTERING KINDERGARTEN.



1 IN 4

HOUSTON CHILDREN DO NOT MEET MINIMUM STANDARDS AT GRADE 3.



2 IN 5

HOUSTON YOUTH FAIL READING AND WRITING EXAMS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION ON FIRST ADMINISTRATION.



1 IN 5

HOUSTON ADULTS ARE FUNCTIONALLY ILLITERATE.

The Gathering has recognized the need to lift up literacy in Houston. Building a foundation of literacy starts before entering Kindergarten. Students who read at home become strong writers, critical thinkers, and more successful students than those who do not. Houston Independent School District estimates that 74% of the students in the district come from families who struggle to provide books for their children. This means the students begin each school year at a disadvantage.

In joining the Gathering's Blast Off for Books campaign, you will help ensure bright futures for Houston's students. The books you donate will be distributed at community book fairs, camps and other events around the city as part of the Gathering's Service Learning experience. By putting books in the hands of Houston's economically disadvantaged students, you can help change lives.

Info graphic from The Barbara Bush Houston Literacy.
<https://www.bushhoustonliteracy.org/>



Our partners at the Houston Independent School District identified the following books for Gathering participants to bring to Houston.

- *Bad Kitty* (Series) by Nick Bruel
- *Elephant and Piggie* (Series) by Mo Willems
- *Frog and Toad* (Series) by Arnold Lobel
- *It's Shoe Time* by Mo Willems and Brian Collier
- *Little Bear* (Series) by Elsa Holmelund Minarik
- *Mercy Watson* (Series) by Kate DiCamillo
- *Amulet* (Series) by Kazu Kibisji
- *El Deafo* by Cece Bell
- *Ghost* by Raina Telgemeier
- *Mighty Jack* by Ben Hatke
- *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson
- *Secret Coders* (Series) by Gene Luen Yang
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jaqueline Woodson
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (Series) by Jeff Kinney
- *Dog Man* (Series) by Dav Pilkey
- *Dragon Masters* (Series) by Tracey West
- *Eerie Elementary* (Series) by Jack Chabert
- *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- *Frank Einstein* (Series) by Jon Scieszka
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *I Survived* (Series) by Lauren Tarshis
- *Laura Line* by Crystal Allen
- *Matilda* by Ronald Dahl
- *Nerds, Book 1: National Espionage, Rescue, and Defense Society* by Michael Buckley
- *One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate
- *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams Garcia
- *Origami Yoda* (Series) by Tom Angleberger
- *Some Kind of Courage* by Dan Gemeinhart
- *The Cross Over* by Kwame Alexander
- *The Lions of Little Rock* by Kristin Levine
- *The Year of Billy Miller* by Kevin Henkes
- *Wonder* by Raelael Palacio
- *Creepy Paid of Underwear* by Aaron Reynolds
- *Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubim
- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena
- *Mango, Abuela and Me* by Meg Medina
- *Martina and the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale* by Carmen Agra Deedy
- *Pete the Cat* (Series) by James Dean
- *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt
- *Why Am I Me* by Paige Britt



Please only bring the books that are listed above. All books must be new or gently used.

