

BOOKS ON BREAK



An Effective Way to Provide Home Libraries for Summer Reading

WHAT IS BOOKS ON BREAK?

Book Harvest's Books on Break program partners with school districts and organizations to enable elementary school students to select ten brand new books to take home and keep forever, right before summer break.

Books on Break is a joyful, exciting way to help students build their home libraries and equip students with high-interest books to help them practice reading all summer long.



WHY BOOKS ON BREAK MATTERS

- Increasing access to self-selected books for summer reading is an effective strategy for lowering summer reading setback and narrowing the income-based achievement gap among students. [1]
- Programs that encourage home-based reading during the summer have been proven to be effective in stemming summer learning loss. [2]
- Successive years of book provision confers benefits equal to or more than those from successive years of summer school at a fraction of the cost. [3] [4]



HOW BOOKS ON BREAK WORKS

Books on Break partners with districts and organizations to run Books on Break every spring. Choice and quantity are key, as students select 10 books each to read over the summer and keep forever. They take their books home in special co-branded string backpacks filled with information for their families about summer learning.

- [1] Allington, R. L., McGill-Franzen, A., Camilli, G., Williams, L., Graff, J., Zeig, J., Nowak, R. (2010). Addressing Summer Reading Setback Among Economically Disadvantaged Elementary Students. *Reading Psychology*, 31(5), 411–427. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02702711.2010.505165>
- [2] Quinn, David M. and P. Morgan (2017) Summer Learning Loss: What it is, and what we can do about it? Brookings Institute.
- [3] Allington, R. L., & McGill-Franzen, A. (2013). Summer reading: Closing the rich/poor reading achievement gap. New York: Teachers College Press.
- [4] Allington, R.L. (2024). Free books to close the reading achievement gap. Kappan.

ABOUT BOOK HARVEST

Book Harvest's mission is to provide books every child, support for every parent, and literacy for every community. Since 2011, Book Harvest has provided more than two million books to families in North Carolina and beyond, ensuring that children grow up with abundant home libraries and parents have the tools and power to ignite and strengthen their children's literacy. With programs that are grounded in evidence, Book Harvest believes that literacy starts at birth, in the home, powered by parents, and nourished with books. For more information, contact Rachel Stine at rachel@bookharvest.org.