

ONE SCHOOL · ONE LIBRARY · ONE FAMILY · ONE COMMUNITY · ONE DISTRICT · ONE GOAL

# ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK

A User's Guide for Educators, Parents, Librarians and Communities



## The Humphrey Series



Supported by [readtothem.org](http://readtothem.org)



# A SHARED READING EXPERIENCE

The One School, One Book program is designed to create a shared reading experience within a school community. Choosing the right book for your group is important: Humphrey is a uniquely qualified choice, as developing readers can enjoy and understand the plot during a read aloud, and established readers are captivated and entertained by the storyline. Ultimately, it is up to you to make the program a special event in the school year. So follow the guidelines and utilize the resources outlined below to extend the lesson and create a celebration of literacy! From the bus drivers, to the librarian, your school can be abuzz with excitement.

The contents of this brochure emphasize the importance of creating a community of readers: whether you are a parent, an educator, a community leader, or a children's librarian. Use this brochure to implement a One School, One Book program, or supplement your already existing project.

There are a number of ways to get started. The literacy nonprofit Read to Them® offers **10 EASY STEPS TO START THE ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK PROJECT**. We have adapted their guidelines below:

**PITCH!** the program to principal or school leader.

**CHOOSE!** a book: *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney.

**SECURE!** funds for the book. It is ideal that each child has a book to take home and read with their parents.

**COLLABORATE!** with other community members to be involved in the program.

**CREATE!** an assembly or an announcement about the program.

**MAKE!** a reading schedule and event overview.

**SHARE!** the supplementary reading material with other community members.

**READ!** during the school day, at home, or a combination of both.

Reading is the crux of the program.

**ENCOURAGE!** all community readers to provide updates during the progress of the book reading.

**CELEBRATE!** the success of your program with discussion and trivia questions, writing exercises, and a community-wide assembly to congratulate yourselves on a job well done!

"Humphrey's views underscore the importance of knowing the full story before making judgements, and his presence makes a positive difference in the lives of the people he meets." –*School Library Journal for The World According to Humphrey*



# HOW CAN I HELP?

When the program is off the ground (or soon to be) and you are looking for ways to elevate the shared reading experience, use the tips below.

## FOR PARENTS: MAKE THE TIME!

Most of the reading time for a typical One School, One Book program will be at home: if this is the case for you, try to schedule time that is most available for you and your family. It might be at the breakfast table instead of the bedroom before lights out. Think outside the box and be sure to engage your children as much as possible. Pause at big words—did they comprehend what they mean? Are they understanding the overarching storyline? If there are large gaps between reading time, spend a few minutes talking about “what happened when we left off.” It will help jog your memory, too!

## FOR TEACHERS: CREATE THE TEACHABLE MOMENTS!

While parents are busy reading *The World According to Humphrey* at home, how can you scaffold the learning during the school day? First, the book is teachable in many different ways. Download the Humphrey classroom curriculum guide and try some of the classroom activities. If this is a K-5 community, you can adapt the activities to your students’ needs. Have students draw Humphrey’s cage, or write an essay about what they think Humphrey’s ideal cage might look like. Play on some bongo drums like Humphrey likes to do, or look up bongo drums in the dictionary, encyclopedia, or on the Internet and write a short piece about drums. If possible, pair the 5<sup>th</sup> graders with some kindergartners for a “reading buddies” program. Have them read a short chapter and as a larger group, talk about the big ideas presented.

## FOR LIBRARIANS: PROVIDE THE SCAFFOLDING!

Many parents will look to a school or community librarian at the start of the program to take the book out of the library if the books haven’t been provided (they usually are if you can secure the funding). Create some read-aloud tips for your community and pass them out at the reference desk. Provide a checklist of other books in the Humphrey series or a collection of nonfiction titles on hamsters. If time allows, work with the school to host a kick-off (or check-in) party for the program—invite parents and children to the library for a special read aloud (maybe it’s the first chapter, the middle chapter, or the last) and encourage kids to dress up or bring their favorite stuffed pet. Provide a stuffed hamster for kids to check out and take on adventures!

## FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS: GET INVOLVED AND STAY INVOLVED!

If you are able to contribute to the reading experience, do so! Reach out to local elected officials and the offices of community workers and helpers (such as the fire and police departments). See if they’d like to visit the school for a read-aloud session, or to record their own reading of a chapter. Contact a local theatre and see if they would help the school develop a small script based on a scene in the book. Support the program any way you can—if you are involved in the lives of your parent and school community, they will in turn involve themselves in your work and mission for a more successful, cohesive community.

“Readers will find that seeing the world from Humphrey’s standpoint is mighty satisfying.” —*Kirkus Reviews for Friendship According to Humphrey*



# EVERYONE LOVES HUMPHREY AND ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK!

## THE WORLD ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY

Rhode Island Children's Book Award · Pennsylvania's Keystone to Reading Award

Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award · Iowa Children's Choice Award

Washington State Sasquatch Award · Oklahoma Sequoyah Award

Nebraska Golden Sower Award · The Children's Crown Award for 2006–2007

WOW-WOW-WOW!

### AND NOW A WORD FROM ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK PROGRAMS:

"We have approximately 90% (our goal is still 100%) of the households keeping up with the book, reading it together at home as a family! As a principal, I could not be happier with this. I think it is in large part due to the high interest the students have in *The World According to Humphrey*. I was thrilled when the buzz around school was 'Humphrey this' or 'Humphrey that.' The first week was amazing!

I can't go 10 minutes before I hear someone talking about the latest chapter."

—Daniel Sebring, Principal, Maple Elementary, Painesville, Ohio

"Thanks to Humphrey for being such a wonderful gateway to reading for our community!!"

—Helene Ray, Librarian, Meadow Creek Elementary, Bedford, Texas

"The Dowdles just finished reading *The World According to Humphrey*. I couldn't help but think that just as Humphrey brought people together in the book, he also brought our family together each night like never before and reminded us that relationships are the most important thing. Thank you for this experience. It was more than worthwhile. JOY-JOY-JOY." —Shelley Dowdle, Parent, Meadow Creek Elementary, Bedford, Texas

Check out Betty G. Birney's website, [bettybirney.com/oneschool.html](http://bettybirney.com/oneschool.html), for links to videos, pictures, and stories about successful Humphrey One School, One Book programs!



### TECHNOLOGY TIPS:

- Start an all-school blog on your school's website, and provide weekly updates for interested community members.
- Enhance the reading experience with video productions of a reading, recording, or reenactment of a certain scene.
- Take photos and share them whenever possible—the visual impact will remind parents at home and librarians in other buildings that their contributions are working!
- Make a trailer for Humphrey! What would Humphrey's soundtrack be? Who would play the voice over? Make it inventive, imaginative and FUN-FUN-FUN!

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