

November, 30, 2015

Dear Fellow Book Lovers,

Imagine snuggling in your bedroom, the blankets wrapped around you, and it's just you and a book. The magnificence of words fills your heart, trickling off the page into your mind like a beautiful waterfall. This feeling almost all of us dedicated wordsmiths and readers indulge in, but for some, this is not the case. The horrible tragedy happens to fall upon the brilliant minds of most 2nd graders at Oakland Elementary, who are below grade level in far too many categories. The most ravaging and impactful of all these deficiencies is reading, and we have taken it upon us to resolve this important problem. Here's the 411 on how we'll make our 2nd graders into reading superstars.

Reading is one of the most renowned experiences anyone can indulge in. Many find that a single brief exposure to reading can increase your mood for the better not to mention intelligence. 88% of our second grade friends in Ms. Rogstad's class are reading 1 year below grade level. It's incredibly difficult to imagine a world where reading a round of your favorite book as an arduous challenge where every word is a struggle.

With our help, these second graders can become proficient readers and delve into the magical realm of literacy. It is critical that we interject now because statistics prove that 60% of students in the 4th grade who are ineffective at reading are shown to be prone to violence and indictment in prisons. If we can show these amazing buddies, we can open myriad opportunities for them to follow prosperous endeavors in life. In summary, we strive to provide many successful ideas for our 2nd grade buddies that will deploy bounds of potential for them.

Our readers at Oakland require help and here are some innovative solutions for their literary plights. One of our resolves was to be penpals with them. There are many beneficial aspects to this solution but one of them is that it is very interactive. The reason interactivity is so essential is that it encourages them to think and process their writing and critically analyze for quality. Quality in writing is one of the most beautiful indulgences of literacy so developing a strong skill of evaluation and progression would raise our friends to perfection. One article proclaimed that consistent writing of emails or notes dramatically increases productivity and enthusiasm for writing.

Another solution we've come up is to send them nifty little bookboxes. Bookboxes are an excellent advocate for diversity as they would contain many diverse genres for our buddies to be exposed to. Think of the first time you experienced the colossal majesty of the library, your fingers gliding over the sea of books. Bookboxes also show them that understanding different things and respecting them for what they are, a vital lesson for the real world. Furthermore, some statistics drew the conclusion that kids who were colored with exposure to socialization had a greater vocabulary than those who didn't. They also provide both a way to transport their books from school to home and adapt to any financial and sentimental challenges their family might face. A study showed that mothers and other family who read to their toddlers versus those who didn't were a drastic indicator of literacy proficiency. We find it depressing that our buddies are reading below grade level, and feel responsibility to solve this with these solutions.

In the end, we adore our buddies and have an unflagging drive to fix their deficiencies ASAP. Hopefully, we are the pen that can help draw their paths.

Sincerely,

Ruby Kartler, Mariah Langley, and Nilson Tibbits.