



One School, One Book

The da Vinci Academy, Academy School District 20

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The goal of the One School, One Book program at The da Vinci Academy (TdVA) in Academy School District 20 was to foster a shared culture of literacy, connection, and joy by engaging all K–5 students, staff, and families in a common reading experience. As an arts-integrated public elementary school in Colorado with a diverse student population, TdVA aimed to promote family engagement and strengthen reading habits across grade levels.

One School, One Book was truly a team effort. The school’s digital Learning Coach/Teacher partnered with classroom teachers and the principal to plan and lead this initiative. The PTO generously funded a copy of the book for every student and staff member. Staff coordinated logistics, communication, and engagement activities.

The 2024-2025 One School, One Book was *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney, chosen for its humor, accessibility across K–5, and built-in opportunities for social-emotional learning. Every student at TdVA received a copy of the book, a shared reading schedule, and comprehension questions to discuss as a family at home. The Digital Learning Coach/Teacher Librarian created and shared nightly trivia questions and guest reader videos for each odd-numbered chapter. These videos featured staff members reading aloud. Teachers incorporated book discussions into classroom routines, and the shared storyline became a touchstone for conversations, connections, and creative projects.



Students who typically struggle with reading were able to access the story with family support or video scaffolding. The program supported key student outcomes by increasing motivation to read, strengthening comprehension through discussion, and encouraging family literacy habits. Overall, the program contributed to school improvement by promoting a culture of reading and belonging that extended beyond the classroom walls.

While the program was not formally evaluated, informal feedback from students, families, and staff was overwhelmingly positive. Students consistently referenced the book in conversations, trivia participation remained high throughout the month, and teachers reported strong engagement. In the future, staff plan to gather more structured feedback through short surveys for families and staff. One challenge was balancing staff capacity during a busy season.

Start with a book that is engaging, accessible, and enjoyable for a wide age range, and plan creative ways to sustain enthusiasm. Clear communication and staff buy-in are key. One family shared, “Thank you for organizing this! We have loved reading about Humphrey together and participating. We hope this continues next year!”