

Gift of Literacy
Inspiring Young Readers Through Partnership

Book Selection Criteria

The Gift of Literacy strives to put books in the hands of children, in classrooms and in the community. Our mission is to foster a love for reading and encourage literacy among young students; therefore, a wide variety of books should be included in the annual book collections.

The following criteria should be considered when selecting the Gift of Literacy annual book collections:

- All books should be picture books and hardbound.
- Overall, the collection must appeal to a diverse group of students. The collection should include:
 - Books that are well suited to read aloud
 - Books that appeal to both genders
 - An assortment of reading levels, ranging from easy to more advanced
 - A variety of artistic styles and illustrations
- Specifically, the collection should incorporate:
 - A non-fiction book
 - A classic or award-winning book
 - A multi-cultural book
 - A book featuring a historical event or human character
 - A Spanish – English bilingual book
 - A rhyming or poetry book
- These characteristics do not necessarily need to be exclusive to one book; multiple themes can be incorporated into one book or many.
- Preferably, the collection should include one book by an author who can attend the Gift of Literacy celebration.

Book Selection Sub-Committee

The Gift of Literacy has a book selection committee that coordinates the selection of all books used in the program. This team provides recommendations to the Gift of Literacy steering committee for final approval.

The committee should be composed of at minimum:

- An elementary school principal
- A first-grade teacher
- The literacy coordinator from district level
- A librarian
- The Gift of Literacy program assistant

The Gift of Literacy book selection sub-committee should consider the following:

- There is a life span to typical children's books, which affects purchasing.
 - Newly published (Age 0-1 year) are too hard to obtain
 - Old books (3+ years) are hard to find
 - A book published within 2-3 years old of the current celebration year is ideal.