OAKLAND
IS A
READING TOWN
POWER+JUSTICE+JOY+BELONGING

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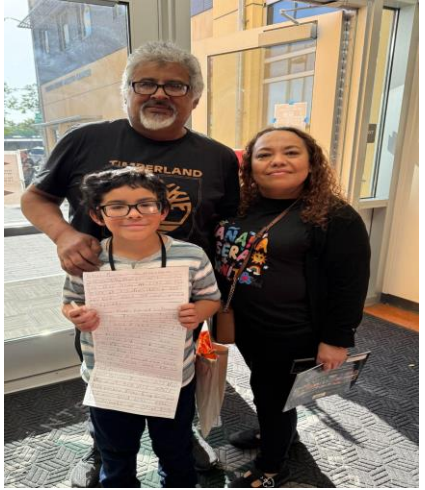

VISION:

In Oakland, every student is a reader. We believe books are windows into other worlds, carrying students to places they have never been, introducing them to people they have never met, and reflecting back the stories and experiences that make them feel seen and known. When students have access to books that speak to them, spaces that welcome them, and adults who make reading feel like something worth doing, motivation follows. Habits form. Identity deepens.

Our vision is a city where reading is celebrated by every family, school, library, and organization, where it is joyful, social, and woven into the fabric of daily life. Where every child picks up a book not because they have to, but because they know what it can unlock. We are building a generation of Oakland readers who carry that key with them for the rest of their lives.

WHY READING MATTERS

Reading Campaign: Oakland Is a Reading Town

Power · Justice · Joy · Belonging

OUSD · Oakland Literacy Coalition · Oakland Public Library · ELP · Mayor's Office · OPL

📖 In Oakland, every student is a reader.

Reading just 20 minutes a day exposes children to 1.8 million words a year!

K–5

- Protected independent reading time every day
- Targeted differentiated instruction in the Reading to Grow block for K-2
- Reading logs in every classroom
- Culturally relevant books that reflect students' lives and communities

At Home Too

Families are reading, singing, telling stories and engaging with students with reading and writing at home.

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LitFest Launch — April 23, 2026

SUMMER
AT OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
TRIBUNE
FOX
READ - CONNECT - EXPLORE

OAKLAND IS A READING TOWN · SUMMER 2026

Your Summer Reading Challenge Starts Now.

Read for 20 days. Earn 100 books for your classroom.

The Challenge

Mirror the same reading journey you ask of your students every summer.

20

Days of Reading

Track your reading for 20 days over the summer — just like students in the OPL Summer Program.

1

Platform: Beanstack

Enroll on Beanstack to log your reading and track your progress all summer long.

100

Books for Your Class

The first 10 teachers who complete the 20-day challenge earn 100 books of their choice for their classroom!

☀ Why Reading This Summer Matters

When we read alongside our students, we don't just model — we grow together.

Build Your Own Reading Life

Reading 20 minutes a day exposes you to over 1.8M words a year — the same magic we want for our students.

Talk the Talk in the Fall

Teachers who read deeply over summer return to school with richer vocabulary, stronger comprehension models, and better book recommendations.

Walk the Walk with Students

When students know their teacher is doing the challenge too, it builds community and shared purpose from day one.

Win 100 Books

100 books of YOUR choice for your classroom library — an investment in every student who walks through your door.

Be Part of Oakland

This challenge connects you to the OPL Summer Program and the Oakland is a Reading Town movement districtwide.

Grow Your Practice

Reading what your students read — or exploring something new — builds empathy, curiosity, and instructional depth.

How to Join

Three easy steps to get started this summer from May 23–August 1,2026

1

Enroll on Beanstack

Go to https://ousdsandbox.beanstack.com/

1. Click “Sign In.”
2. Enter your email as the username, followed by “beanstack” as the password

2

Read for 20 Days

Read anything you love — fiction, nonfiction, poetry, professional texts. The goal is 20 days of reading tracked before summer ends.

3

Claim Your 100 Books

Complete the challenge and we will purchase books to the first 10 teachers who reach the goal.

Teacher OPL Page:

OPL has its own teacher page where you can schedule class visits and request student library cards. Consider scheduling a visit the last week of school and getting your class excited about the summer OPL reading program.