2022 Pennsylvania ONE BOOK
Evaluation Report

Prepared by: Elaine M. Czarnecki
Resources in Reading
August 12, 2022
Executive Director of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Andrew Medlar, reading *Saturday* at Summer Reading Kick-Off Extravaganza. He is standing in front of a set that was inspired by the book and created by the Citi Parks department.

**Program Summary**

For the 17th consecutive year, Pennsylvania's One Book program has highlighted the importance of early literacy development across the state. Since its inception in 2006, the One Book program has gone far beyond just giving parents and caregivers a book to read to preschoolers. The program's design is based on studies showing that simply reading a book is not enough. Adults must find ways to engage children in activities like talking about a book's cover and illustrations, discussing the action in the book and favorite parts, engaging in pretend play related to the book and more. Through this program, adults with preschoolers in their lives will learn ways they can support the literacy development of their children.
The Pennsylvania One Book program was made possible through a collaboration of state agencies and non-profits. This project was funded in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through Pennsylvania's Office of Commonwealth Libraries. Additional support was provided through the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

2022 Selection

The selection for this year's program was Saturday, written and illustrated by Oge Mora. Ms. Mora is a renowned children’s book author and Caldecott award-winning illustrator. Published in 2019 by Little Brown and Company Books for Young Readers, Saturday is a heartfelt story about a mother and daughter who look forward to their special day together each week. This Saturday, however, one thing after another goes wrong spoiling all their activities. Mom is upset and near a meltdown until her daughter reminds her that the most special thing about their Saturdays is spending time together!

In a starred review, School Library Journal stated, "A story that weaves mindfulness, appreciation of family time, and the lesson that parents are human, into a gorgeously produced package. Perfection."
The 2022 PA One Book program included:

- Alignment of all activities to Pennsylvania’s Learning Standards for Early Childhood
- Distribution of the book to certified Pennsylvania Child Care Programs, Head Start, PA Pre-K Counts, Migrant Education, Home Visiting Programs and all PA libraries
- Virtual Author Event for the state
- Library programming for families
- A website [https://paonebook.powerlibrary.org/](https://paonebook.powerlibrary.org/) of activities and information for sharing *Saturday* with children and families
- A printable *One Book Activity Guide* focusing on before, during, and after reading activities for *Saturday* (also provided in a large print version)
- Bookplates with discussion questions for *Saturday*

**Program Resources**

The PA One Book collaborative steering committee developed the creative package of resources described above.

**Website** – [paonebook.powerlibrary.org](http://paonebook.powerlibrary.org)

The website contains information about the current selection, along with all the resources for librarians, early learning professionals, and parents. Past PA One Book selections and resources are also archived on the site.

**Books**

Approximately 7,400 copies of *Saturday* were distributed to certified childcare programs across the state, including PA Pre-K Counts and Head Start grantees.

Each of the state’s 667 libraries and library outlets also received a copy of *Saturday.*
Virtual Author Event

Oge Mora spoke virtually to children across the state on Tuesday, April 5. During this event, Ms. Mora talked about her work as a storyteller and answered questions from librarians, teachers, and students alike.

- 352 people registered for the event
- 201 people attended
- 72 people have watched it on demand

Evaluation of the 2022 Pennsylvania One Book Program

Feedback was sought to assess the program's impact and provide guidance for future development. Information from two specific groups was solicited through online surveys:

- Early Childhood Professionals
- Library Programs

The following is a summary of key findings as they relate to the three goals of the PA One Book program.

**Goal 1:** To increase awareness among parents, other family members, and the early care and education community of the need for practices that promote early literacy development: reading often to children, and engaging children in the story as they read it.
**Goal 2:** To reach children more at risk because of poverty and other factors; to provide rural and urban children with increased opportunities to participate in early learning activities.

**Goal 3:** To increase the education community’s ability to respond to early literacy needs through collaboration to reach those not typically served.

**Early Learning Professionals Survey**

- Early learning professionals from Child Care Centers, Group Child Care Homes, and Family Child Care Homes in the state completed an online survey. Thirty-five counties were represented.
- Nearly all the early learning professionals (90 percent) surveyed found the resources provided to be helpful to their programming with the book.
- Many early childhood professionals (61 percent) involved families by sharing PA One Book activities and information.
- According to respondents (n=109), *Saturday* was shared with approximately 3,853 children. Estimating from this data, the book was shared with approximately 175,000 children across the state.

**Quotes from Early Learning Professionals on Programming with *Saturday***

“We brought in a local state representative to present the book to our preschoolers. The teacher then did a follow-up reading and the activities during the week. Our younger students were presented the book with their individual teachers.” – Christine from Teddy Bear Academy in Bucks County

“I read the book with several groups of children at different times, and we discussed what Ava and her mom were planning and then what happened when their plans failed, and what could they do. What did the children think would happen if that was their mom and things didn't go as planned? What would they feel, mad, sad, angry, disappointed? What activities do they like to do with their moms? We also used the mindfulness breathing activity as we have several children while behavioral concerns and have a great deal of difficulty sitting for any length of time.” – Jocelyn from The Kreig Institute for Early Childhood Education in Lackawanna County

“Teachers read the book to the classes. They had a discussion about what they did on a "non-school" day. They shared and we wrote a list of the things they did. We then discussed how many "sleeps" there were until the next "non-school" day.” – Andrea from the Rosetree Early Learning Center in Delaware County
“We had an open discussion about spending time with family. We also spent some time discussing our feelings when plans change. We talked about what the children considered "good changes," and "bad changes" in plans. Vocabulary from the story was introduced and used during this discussion. The book was shared with a Dialogic Reading Approach. This book was engaging! After we finished the story, we used picture cards to show how plans could change, but how keeping a good attitude can help us approach those changes.” – Brenda from The Salvation Army Afterschool Program in Dauphin County

“The book is the theme for our graduation. Classrooms are making displays that represent some of the storylines in the book. Each child is getting a copy as part of their graduation gift.” – Christine from Hosanna House, Inc. in Allegheny County

“Love the book! We have been dealing with kiddos struggling to understand/cope when things don't go their way, or they don't get what they want. This book provided a nice lesson on how we can handle situations out of our control and make the most of them by changing our perspective.” – Caitlin from The Conneaut Lake Child Care Center in Crawford County

“A blurb about the author and the book accompanied the pictures the children drew. These were displayed at the Dime bank in our community.” - Nalini from Little Wonders Learning Center in Pike County

Quotes from Early Learning Professionals on the Impact of the PA One Book Program

“Our children love to read different books and the ONE BOOK program helps to give us the materials needed to do that as books are very high in price these days.” – Danielle from FUN Academy, LLC in Lycoming County

“It helps tie our families, SD collaborators, and teachers together with a common focus. We love having people come in and read to the children and the children love seeing family members or SD staff they don't typically get to interact with (school custodian, superintendent, etc.) in their classrooms. It also allows these adults to see the value of reading with the children (and the importance of early education overall). It's a win-win...and one more high-quality book in the homes for our kiddos.” – Kris from Blueprints in Washington County

“It allows me to introduce students to literature with diverse characters. The characters and setting were relatable, and we were all able to make a connection.” – Syieda from SMG Clubhouse in Montgomery County

“We enjoy getting a new book for our classroom with the program. We enjoy sending a book home with our children and thanks to the James V. Brown Library we were able to do that today as they delivered and read this book to us during
“Our Storymobile time. We love Ms. Pam and Ms. Robin!” – Melissa from First Southern Baptist Church in Lycoming County

“This was a book that allowed the children to bring a piece of their personal life to the text. They really related to this book.” – Brenda from The Salvation Army Afterschool Program in Dauphin County

“Provides an opportunity for us to share an excellent book with multiple activities/resources...great for a model for future book talks/activities. Highly appropriate!!!!!!” – Mary Jo from BORO Little Learners Academy in Erie County

“The One Book program always introduces us to a great author and illustrator. Oftentimes, I have not heard of the author, so it broadens our horizons. There typically is an impactful message with the books.” - Nancy from The Learning Center at Third Street Alliance in Northampton County

**Library Programs Survey**

- Libraries responding to this survey (n=134) reported offering a variety of library programs around the PA One Book selection, including storytimes, special PA One Book events, virtual, in-person, & hybrid programs, and outreach programs in a setting other than the library. Forty-six counties were represented in the completed surveys.

- Most libraries (64 percent) reported that the activities provided were helpful to their programming.

- According to respondents, 340 PA One Book programs on the selection, *Saturday*, were held across the state with approximately 4,524 children attending. From the data collected, it is estimated that approximately 1,667 programs were held across the state, with approximately 21,671 children in attendance.

**Quotes from Libraries on PA One Book Library Programming with Saturday**

“I hosted a storytime specifically highlighting Saturday that included songs and a craft based on the style of art the author/illustrator used in the book. I also put up a special display in the kid's room at the library highlighting the book itself, the suggested at-home activities, coloring pages, and other books in our collection by the author/illustrator.” – Katie at Pittston Memorial Library in Luzerne County
"We held a special Family Storytime for the Saturday book and we scheduled it as the same day as our used book sale to reach a wider audience. We sang songs, discussed what we do on Saturdays with our family, if we had an exciting Saturday that was coming up. We had a dog themed craft to do after the storytime as well as the various mazes and coloring sheets printed out. Our local Science Center provided passes to each library in our county for a pass for one kid and one adult. We offered families to enter to win these tickets by using the activity sheet of drawing a photo of what they do on Saturdays, along with their name, age and contact information." – Jessica at West Lawn-Wyomissing Hills Library in Berks County

“We hosted a virtual, live story time celebration of Saturday on Tuesday, April 12. We also created a Story Walk with the book that ran from April 19 until May 2. Our story time celebration included activities kits that could be picked up prior to the virtual event. Our virtual event began with a reading of the book, followed by showing a small clip of the author discussing her book and then we learned a calming breath. We followed those activities with some crafts. We began by drawing something we would love to do on Saturdays (using the publisher’s handout) and then we created a paper bag puppet. We had planned to do an “emotions” matching game but ran out of time. All supplies for the crafts (as well as some additional handouts from the publisher packet) were included in the activity bags for pick-up prior to the virtual event.” – Nicole at Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library in Bucks County

“We ran four individual programs during the week of the One Book program. During the first session, we were able to participate in the live webinar with Oge Mora, which the kids really enjoyed. During each program, we read two books written by and/or illustrated by Oge Mora and then did a craft afterwards. I also had her books on hand for patrons to check out at the end of the week. I handed out the Family Activity Guides to families as well.” – Andrea at Mifflin Community Library in Berks County

“We held a special storytime program on Saturday 4/9. We explored the days of the week, read "Saturday," sang the Wheels on the Bus, explored different types of homes using Little Mouse flannel board activity and also incorporated the United Way Kindness Campaign book "Yellow and the Blues" to further explore social-emotional learning. We ended our storytime with breathing exercises to practice mindfulness. After the storytime, families were encouraged to stay and explore early literacy activities focused on the 5 early literacy practices. Each station had an activity that highlighted the five practices. We also offered a puppet craft and snacks.” – Amanda from Columbia County Traveling Library in Columbia County
“We offered a Pa One Book Program on a Saturday for our community and provide access to our families that work away from the home. We had 5 puppet stations, and everyone received a book to build their home libraries with a copy of the activity guide. The remaining books were given out at our local preschools and education partners that Storymobile serves, as well as given out at the Foodbank during food distribution with puppet kits.” – Nina at James V. Brown Library in Lycoming County
"I read the book Saturday and also Oge Mora's other book Thank You, Omu! We sang "Days of the Week" and did some deep breathing. We also did activities for Thank You, Omu! making our own stew with plastic vegetables that the children had to name and then stir in the pot and had a pot full of letters that they had to identify. They were sent home with activity packs with activities relating to both books, and each child at the preschool was given an activity pack. Each family was given both books to keep and the preschool was given a copy of each book for their school collection.” – Debe from Bernville Area Community Library in Berks County

Quotes from Libraries on the Impact of the PA One Book

"The One Book program impacts our community because it allows our community to come together to celebrate the same book with various activities. In the past, we've had our local representative come to read the chosen story in partnership with an organization focused on early literacy and young children and their families. So, we've found the One Book program connects various organizations (the library, non-profits, government, daycare/preschools and elementary schools) with the goal of coming together to promote and foster early literacy within our community. Additionally, our circulation staff noticed an increase in holds on the works by Oge Mora during the month of April.” – Nicole from Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library in Bucks County

"The One Book program is great for highlighting quality children's literature and authors and providing resources for teachers and librarians to share these titles with their communities.” - Jeanne from Milton Public Library in Northumberland County

“I do outreach and in-person programming for children. I like highlighting different authors and including educational activities to go with books. I really liked how this author was Nigerian as we have a large number of African families in our community. I like to see multi-cultural authors who represent our children. Then they can see possibilities of maybe being an author or illustrator themselves someday if they see these careers represented by others of color.” – Susan from Upper Darby-Primos Branch in Delaware county

“One Book provides good quality books to children in the community. These books are sometimes the only ones available in a child's home. The positive reactions from the community in the past caused us to increase the free books we give out to the community at other programs. The handouts give us great examples to show parents how to extend the book. This is really helpful to parents.” – Leslie from St. Mary’s Public Library in Elk County
“The patrons I serve who attend Story Time value and prioritize reading and are excellent about getting books into the hands of their children. It’s nice though to be able to take a book home to keep. I love also that this year’s selection was inclusive and diverse and feel the story and characters were better representations of the community I work in than some years past. I would love to see us continue to evolve in this direction.” – Andrea from Mifflin Community Library in Berks County

“The parents responded very positively regarding the One Book program, they enjoy coming in person and they were excited to gather together this year after covid.” – Tracey from Baldwin Borough Public Library in Allegheny County

“One Book is a way for us to remind parents, daycares, and preschools of the importance of reading. This year’s book focuses on parent-child relationships, and we try to emphasize that with our parents.” – Mary from Public Library for Union County in Union County

A family participating in a craft related to Saturday at a Summer Reading Extravaganza
Conclusions

The Pennsylvania One Book program continues to make a positive impact on children and families in communities across the state. Early learning professionals and librarians serving families with young children provided high-quality early literacy programs with this year’s selection. Both groups contributed to meeting the three goals of this initiative, as evidenced by their descriptions of programming and community impact.

The book selection, Saturday, was well received and praised for its themes, attention to diversity and inclusiveness, and appeal as a read-aloud that was enjoyable for young children and adults as well. The resources provided to support the selection were useful to programming efforts and in giving adults ways to extend the book at home with their children. The virtual author event appeared to be well received by those who attended.

The dedication of the librarians, early learning professionals, and steering committee members involved with PA One Book has been invaluable to the success of the program. All feedback and comments from survey participants will be given consideration when planning for the 2023 PA One Book.