

# Kids living in poverty start school so far behind. *And it's hard to catch up.*

By age three, low-income children have heard over **30 million fewer words** than their middle-class peers **because they've never owned a book.**

**Meet Angel**  
2nd grader  
not yet reading at grade level



I hate reading.

I'm behind — and always will be.

I'm embarrassed.

Children who do not read proficiently by the end of third grade are **four times more likely** to drop out of high school.



High school dropouts are **unqualified for 95% of available jobs**, thus much more likely to be dependent on government/social programs.



**WITHOUT BOOK TRUST**

3rd Grade 4th Grade

**WITH BOOK TRUST**

Let's choose some great books together.

What animals do you like?

I LOVE sharks!

These are ours to keep?

Your books have arrived!

Did you know...?

Wow!

Hmmm. Maybe I'll like this one too. It's another killer animal!

**Choice** Interest-based, guided book selection drives reading enthusiasm • Choice and interest grows with practice  
**Consistency** New books every month • Building the healthy habits of great readers and learners daily  
**Celebration** Kids understand that they are readers - and love to read!

Today's the day!  
Your new books are here!

YES! My favorite day of the month!

I feel like I can learn ANYTHING if I find the right book.

I can't believe I used to hate reading!

This science class is tough, but I really like it!

You bet! Let's read all the books you got this month.

Mom, can I read to you?



Academic success!

Angel successfully transitions from "learning to read" to "reading to learn."

"His level of engagement and comprehension has led me to reflect on what I thought I knew as a reading teacher."

- Erika Guerrero

# Choice Changes Everything for Struggling Readers

Book Trust Leverages Book Choice and Ownership to Drive Interest and Grade Level Reading

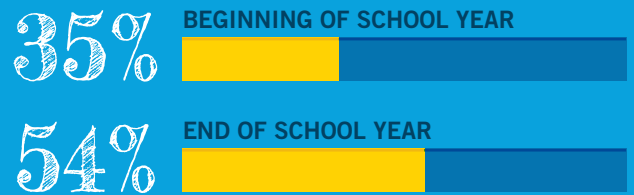
## Our Impact

### Bigger Impact



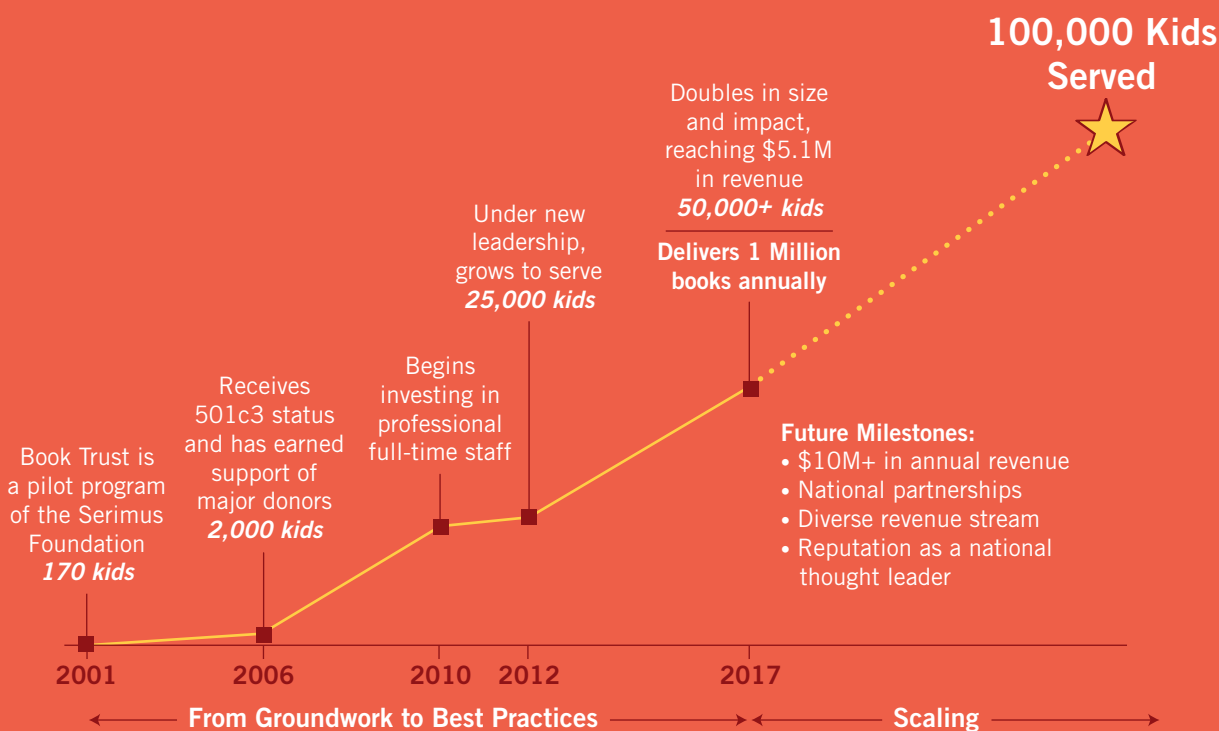
Gain in grade-level reading over the school year

### Better Readers



Book Trust students reading at grade level jumps

## The Road Ahead



With your help, we can bring Book Trust to the children who need it, and truly, help **break the cycle of poverty using one simple tool: literacy.**



BookTrust