

Literacy Enrichment



RADNOR EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION
FUNDING POSSIBILITIES • BUILDING FUTURES • ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY



Author-Illustrator Brian Pinkney's visit to Wayne Elementary school engaged students on many levels, including the writer's **literary process, the importance of literacy skills, and themes of diversity, civil rights and social justice.** The experience was co-funded by the school's Cultural Arts committee and REF, which awarded \$1,600 in support. One parent wrote, "*Brian Pinkney did a fantastic job engaging students, teachers and parents. Each assembly was age appropriate with stories and explanations of his artistic process that the students appreciated and could relate to.*"

Another parent shared, "*My kindergarten daughter talked about this visit for weeks prior to and after him coming.*" A teacher shared, "*His message was very meaningful (finding inspiration, pushing himself to write when he preferred drawing). I enjoyed his humor too!*"

When the Radnor School District

opened its summer reading programs to all qualifying children in the district at no cost, REF was excited to jump on board with a grant of \$3,197 to offer incentives for attendance and participation. The grant application shared research that, "*The best way to grow a student's reading level over the summer . . . Is to have books of their choosing in the home.*" At the program's close, children selected books at Children's Book World, which helped with a generous discount. Some of the children had never been to a bookstore, and when they returned in the fall, the group demonstrated they had successfully avoided the "summer slip," remaining on reading level, or improving their literacy skills.



Part of REF's commitment is to *enrich our community*, so we were thrilled to be approached with an idea generated by librarian Michelle Wetzel and her student-teacher book club at Radnor High School. On June 2nd, the community-wide reading initiative *One Book, One Radnor* was launched with an assembly including a presentation from the Philadelphia Zoo to introduce *Endangered*, the acclaimed book by Eliot Schrefer, who returns to Radnor next October to visit with readers from our schools and community. REF granted \$2,459 to make this possible.