



# MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

**BOOK TITLE EMBARGOED UNTIL: 9 a.m. Monday, May 1, 2023**

OTHER CONTENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mike Donila Abbey Harris  
306-1177 cell 215-4579 office  
705-1681 cell

## **30,000 Knox County Elementary Students to Read the Same Book** *One Book Read City Launches May 1*

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*—On Monday, May 1, all Knox County elementary students will crack open the same book. The title is a surprise until that morning when it will be revealed. The best part is that every student will keep the book as a gift, thanks to Knox Education Foundation with support from Comcast, AMS, The Boyd Foundation, Friends of the Library, ORNL Federal Credit Union, Trane, [many other organizations](#).

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, School Board Member Betsy Henderson, School Superintendent Jon Rysewyk, and Knox Education Foundation CEO Mike Taylor will help launch One Book Read City at 8 a.m. at Shannondale Elementary (5316 Shannondale Road) and at 8:45 a.m. at Fountain City Elementary (2910 Montbelle Drive).

From May 1-15, KCS students will read *Zoey and Sassafras Dragons and Marshmallows* by Asia Citro. The story centers on a girl who uses the scientific method to find the best nutrition for a dragon, which may or may not be marshmallows.

Drawing on the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) themes of the book, East Tennessee PBS has created a series of videos focusing on people employed in STEM jobs locally. The videos will be shown on their channel and in classrooms.

A number of businesses and organizations are participating in One Book Read City by serving as sites for the county-wide scavenger hunt developed by the Knox County Public Library. Students who collect three stamps from these places will be entered to win a seat at the end of year pizza party at **Zoo Knoxville**.

The shared experience of reading a book together creates a sense of community with other students and increases family engagement. Students who complete the book are invited to drop by the Read City USA tent at the Library's Children's Festival of Reading on May 20 in World's Fair Park to claim an additional prize.

“This is a great program,” said Mayor Jacobs. “It’s nice to hear about kids from different schools and neighborhoods discovering things they have in common. In this case, it’s reading the same book.”

School Board Member Betsy Henderson agreed saying, “One Book Read City has been a powerful program. We’re just in the second year and you can already see its benefits. It’s a great way to close out the school year.”

###