The Gathering will be collecting books for students in Pre-K through 6th grade.

The Gathering has recognized the need to lift up literacy in Houston. Building a foundation of literacy starts before entering Kindergarten. Students who read at home become strong writers, critical thinkers, and more successful students than those who do not. Houston Independent School District estimates that 74% of the students in the district come from families who struggle to provide books for their children. This means the students begin each school year at a disadvantage.

In joining the Gathering’s Blast Off for Books campaign, you will help ensure bright futures for Houston’s students. The books you donate will be distributed at community book fairs, camps and other events around the city as part of the Gathering’s Service Learning experience. By putting books in the hands of Houston’s economically disadvantaged students, you can help change lives.
Our partners at the Houston Independent School District identified the following books for Gathering participants to bring to Houston.

- Bad Kitty (Series) by Nick Bruel
- Elephant and Piggie (Series) by Mo Willems
- Frog and Toad (Series) by Arnold Lobel
- It’s Shoe Time by Mo Willems and Brian Collier
- Little Bear (Series) by Elsa Holmelund Minarik
- Mercy Watson (Series) by Kate DiCamillo
- Amulet (Series) by Kazu Kibuisji
- El Deafo by Cece Bell
- Ghost by Raina Telgemeier
- Mighty Jack by Ben Hatke
- Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson
- Secret Coders (Series) by Gene Luen Yang
- Brown Girl Dreaming by Jaqueline Woodson
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid (Series) by Jeff Kinney
- Dog Man (Series) by Dav Pilkey
- Dragon Masters (Series) by Tracey West
- Eerie Elementary (Series) by Jack Chabert
- Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- Frank Einstein (Series) by Jon Scieszka
- Ghost by Jason Reynolds
- I Survived (Series) by Lauren Tarshis
- Laura Line by Crystal Allen
- Matilda by Ronald Dahl
- Nerds, Book 1: National Espionage, Recue, and Defense Society by Michael Buckley
- One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
- One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams Garcia
- Origami Yoda (Series) by Tom Angleberger
- Some Kind of Courage by Dan Gemeinhart
- The Cross Over by Kwame Alexander
- The Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine
- The Year of Billy Miller by Kevin Henkes
- Wonder by Raquel Palacio
- Creepy Paid of Underwear by Aaron Reynolds
- Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubim
- Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Pena
- Mango, Abuela and Me by Meg Medina
- Martina and the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale by Carmen Agra Deedy
- Pete the Cat (Series) by James Dean
- The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt
- Why Am I Me by Paige Britt

Please only bring the books that are listed above. All books must be new or gently used.