

# The gift of reading

## Book ownership

**383,775**

children and young people in the UK **don't have a single book of their own** at home

Disadvantaged children are more likely to **not have a book of their own**



than their more advantaged peers (9.3% vs 6%)

**1 in 11**

disadvantaged children in the UK don't own a single book

## Benefits of book ownership

Children who have books of their own are **more likely to enjoy reading** and have **higher reading skills** than their peers **who don't own books**



Compared to children who don't have a book of their own, **children who own books are:**

- **six times more likely to read above the level expected** for their age (22% vs 3.6%)\*
- nearly **three times more likely to enjoy reading** (56.2% vs 18.4%)

## Closing the gap

In the past six years, the gap between the number of disadvantaged **children** and their more advantaged peers **who don't own a**



**book has halved**

(from 6.1 percentage points in 2013 to 3.3 percentage points in 2019)

In the past six years, we have gifted

more than

**340,000**

books to children and young people who need them most **through our programmes, partnerships and Literacy Hubs**



These findings are based on the National Literacy Trust's ninth Annual Literacy Survey. We surveyed 56,906 children and young people aged 9-18 from across the UK between January and March 2019.

[literacytrust.org.uk/giftofreading](https://literacytrust.org.uk/giftofreading)

[#GiftOfReading](https://twitter.com/GiftOfReading)

\* Small sample size

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