

One-on-One  
Mentoring Program

# BrainStorm™

Grades 1-4

A meaningful way to **LEAD**.  
A meaningful way to **LEARN**.



# BrainStorm builds capacity by helping your high schools,

*I mentor because I love kids and plan on going to college to be a teacher.*

*This program supports both the older students and younger students in my district—in different, but equally meaningful ways.*

*My mentor likes frogs too. We love reading about them together.*



BrainStorm's model offers a valuable **service learning program** for high school students.

BrainStorm's **nonfiction texts** focus on informational learning and align to the **Common Core State Standards**.

BrainStorm's structured, **one-on-one mentoring program builds capacity** by pairing mentors with elementary students to create positive learning experiences.

# Brain

elementary schools, and communities help each other.

*I mentor because I have a lot to give and a lot to learn.*

*My mentor is so cool. I can't wait to see her every week.*

*I mentor because my mentor changed my life and I hope I can do the same for somebody some day.*



**Storm**<sup>TM</sup>

BrainStorm offers a meaningful way for mentors to help young readers **boost reading and critical thinking skills.**

BrainStorm gets students excited and **invested in reading and learning**

BrainStorm promotes overall **community engagement.**

# What Is **BrainStorm**?

**BrainStorm is a mentorship program designed to build the capacity of districts and communities by pairing mentors—teens or adults from the community—with young readers.**

**BrainStorm's simple model and modest time commitment make implementation easy for administrators, teachers, and mentors.**

Although any community member can serve as a great mentor, BrainStorm's success often lies in recruiting teen mentors.

Children and youth take their peers' assessment of them very seriously. A positive relationship with a high school mentor has the potential to inspire, motivate, and boost the confidence and self-esteem of a younger student.

## How It Works...

- ✓ Mentoring pairs meet for one hour per week for up to 30 weeks.
- ✓ Trained mentors utilize structured guides with teaching prompts that align with a student magazine to implement a skill-building literacy lesson.

## A GREAT MENTOR is...

### 1. Committed

Commitment is important. If a weekly session must be missed, advance notice should always be given.

### 2. Caring

Relationships are key. Getting to know one another is critical to creating a safe, trusting environment in which each student can grow.

### 3. Encouraging

Encouragement is essential. Reading can be a tough and sensitive subject. A little patience and a lot of praise will go far.

### 4. Positive

Attitude is vital. A child will pick up on his or her mentor's attitude toward reading. Disinterest is hard to hide. Enthusiasm is contagious!

# Cross-age peer mentoring

can have beneficial effects for both the mentee and the mentor.

BrainStorm mentors who work with younger students support, extend, refine, and strengthen the work that teachers are initiating in the classroom and families are supporting at home.

## Academic and Social Outcomes

### For the Mentee:

- Gains an investment in and a love of reading
- Builds print awareness, phonetic awareness, and oral language skills
- Added exposure to informational text
- Introduction to a variety of STEM subject areas
- Overcomes reluctance and builds self-confidence

### For the Mentor:

- Builds self-confidence, increases self-esteem, and connects with others
- Better conflict resolution skills
- Enhanced organizational skills
- Finds meaningful ways to spend free time
- Shores up his or her own reading confidence and practices key literacy skills
- Builds resume for college applications
- Improved moral reasoning and empathy
- Ability to relate better to parents



*Districts Benefit Too!*  
BrainStorm's model supports both high school students and elementary students, thereby building a district's capacity to support its students while strengthening the skills and character of everyone involved.

# A TYPICAL LESSON

Get Ready...

Get Set....

**BrainStorm**

## Recruit

Program coordinators recruit mentors who are eager to build strong relationships while reading and spending time with younger students.

## Train

Introduce volunteers to the program and prepare them to successfully lead mentoring sessions.

## Mentor

Mentoring sessions typically last 40 minutes and contain prereading preparation, content-rich reading practice, new skill introduction, and meaningful discussion.



**1**

Mentor and mentee greet and catch up with one another.

**9**

After reading, mentor and mentee engage in a follow-up activity to support and deepen what was learned.

*40 minutes*



**2**

Mentor introduces the new topic.



**3**

Mentor gives background information.



**4**

Mentor asks questions that encourage deep thinking.



**7**

Mentor supports the reading with the provided prompts and strategies.



**5**

Mentor and mentee preview vocabulary together.



**8**

Mentor breaks up the reading with a designated activity or interesting questions and facts.



**6**

Mentor and mentee read the article together.



# Student Read-to-Learn Magazines

Student Read-to-Learn Magazines feature high-interest articles and skill-building activities at three levels. The content and difficulty of the reading materials, text features, and activities builds from one level to another. Each engaging lesson is structured in a consistent, predictable layout to help build confidence and skills.

## Feature Article

high-interest reading on a range of topics



## Wow!

fun content-area facts

## Take 5

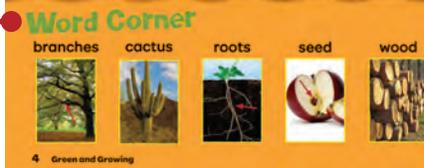
physical activity related to the article for maintaining reader engagement

## Review and Extend

activities that reinforce learning, ask text-based questions, and deepen understanding with related information

## Word Corner

vocabulary from the article with picture definitions



## Wow!

We grind up the grains of a plant called wheat to make bread.



## Take 5

- Sunflowers grow tall. Pretend you are a sunflower. Stretch your petals toward the sun.
- Draw a picture of your favorite foods that come from plants.

## Review and Extend

### We Need Plants!

Plants do many things for people and animals. Read the words. Draw lines to connect the sentences with the right picture.



## Find It!

grammar or text feature investigation

## Think About It

reading-related skill and critical thinking practice



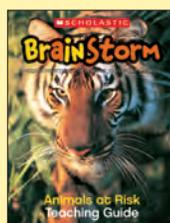
Green and Growing student magazine, pp. 4–7

Grades 3–4



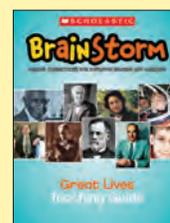
## Wild Weather Level A

Students take a wild ride through every kind of weather imaginable! They also practice **adjectives**, **summarizing**, and other key literacy skills.



## Animals at Risk Level B

Students learn about endangered animals and how humans are helping them while exploring **antonyms**, **text features**, **persuasive writing**, and more.



## Great Lives Level C

Students read about people whose hard work has helped change the world. They also study key **reading and comprehension** skills like **timelines**, **prefixes**, and **adverbs**.

**A study of a youth development program with a strong mentoring component revealed that members were more likely to be high school graduates (63% of members vs. 42% of control group) and were less likely to drop out of school (23% drop out vs. 50% of control group)**

— Center for Human Resources 1994



**Mentees who are the most disadvantaged and/or at-risk are especially likely to gain from mentoring programs.**

— Jekielek et al. 2002



**Middle school students involved in an intergenerational mentoring program had positive outcomes including increased attendance at school.**

— LoScieuto, et al. 1996



**Young people with mentors were more likely to stay in school, attend classes, achieve and aspire to better grades, and go to college.**

— Proctor and Gamble study, 1988

*The strongest effects for mentoring are found for those who meet an hour or more per week.*

# BrainStorm™

**BrainStorm** is a mentoring program  
that **builds capacity** by:

- Helping community groups and schools leverage their most valuable resource: **people**
- Engaging **community** members and forming meaningful relationships
- Helping high schools and elementary schools **help each other**

*Grades 1-2*

**Little Critters**

**Green and Growing**

**Creepy Crawlies**

*Grades 3-4*

**Wild Weather**

**Endangered Animals**

**Great Lives**

The BrainStorm program includes a student Read-to-Learn magazine, a Mentor Guide, and Scholastic books for each topic. An Implementation Guide is included with each order.



[scholastic.com/FACE/BrainStorm](http://scholastic.com/FACE/BrainStorm)

Call one of our FACE Literacy Specialists for more information  
or to place an order at 800-387-1437 ext. 6333.