

Book Support



California teen Rohan Mukhopadhyay is giving books to kids affected by the Los Angeles wildfires, as he was.

LEXILE: 980L



This article and lesson discuss the Los Angeles wildfires: a sensitive topic if there are students who were affected. Please use your discretion when discussing this subject. If you'd like to help those affected, visit the city's website at ti.me/LAstrong for access to relief resources.

ENGAGE THE READER

Have students take a few minutes to consider what possessions they'd save in a fire. Have students write about these items and what makes them special. Explain that when wildfires tore through Los Angeles earlier this year, some people had time to pack and evacuate, but others were not as fortunate. Many people lost all of their belongings. (For background info, students can read "Fires in Los Angeles," 1/9/25, at ti.me/FiresLA). What belongings do students think kids would replace first after the fires?

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- Why is Reading Among Ruins an appropriate name for Rohan Mukhopadhyay's program?
- How do you think Rohan measures success? Would you say the program has been successful?
- Why might books be an important thing to replace for kids who have lost their belongings? How would you feel if you lost the books in your home?

EXTEND LEARNING

Return to the question asked at the beginning of the lesson: What belongings do students think kids would want to prioritize replacing after the fires? Did anyone mention books? Have volunteers share the reasons that books might be important to the people affected by the fires. Can books change how we feel?

Have students think about a specific book that brings them comfort or pleasure. Ask them to write about the book and what it means to them. Have them think of others who might benefit from reading the book. Bring the class together and ask students who might enjoy the book they chose. Tell them they'll be sharing these books with others. Have the class research a group or organization that would benefit from receiving these books. Select one. Then you can have students write to authors or publishers to ask for donations of their books. Have them include the group the books would be going to, and why they think their book would be a good one to donate.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.
To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

- 1. B** (RI.1) **2. B** (RI.3) **3. A** (RI.9) **4. C** (RI.6) **5. B** (RI.8)
6. C (RI.2) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.2)

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week's cover story, "Book Support," to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, you may use the back of this page.

<p>1. What program did Rohan Mukhopadhyay create?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. the Beehive B. Reading Among Ruins C. Together We Rebuild D. Zibby's Bookshop 	<p>4. Which source believes that being able to respond to those in need is a superpower?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Asher Finkelthal B. Veeren Mehra C. Zibby Owens D. Puja Chugani
<p>2. Which event most inspired Rohan's program?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Wildfires destroyed schools and houses. B. Rohan lost his beloved book collection in the Palisades fire. C. Rohan read books by Stuart Gibbs. D. He went to an event that offered free books and toys for kids. 	<p>5. What information does Rohan's mom add to the story?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. She describes a local event that Rohan took part in. B. She indicates the number of books Rohan's program gave away at an event. C. She emphasizes how excited kids were to receive books. D. She describes Rohan's plans.
<p>3. What do Rohan and Asher Finkelthal have in common?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. They care a lot about books. B. They love to give back to their community. C. They have donated books to other kids. D. They are able to sense what others need in times of distress. 	<p>6. Which best summarizes the article?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Rohan Mukhopadhyay has such a big book collection that he's giving some away. B. Rohan lost everything in the Los Angeles wildfires earlier this year. C. Rohan lost his books in the Los Angeles wildfires, so he decided to donate books to kids like him. D. Rohan knows books can bring joy, so he's donating books to kids in tough situations.

7. What brings you comfort in times of distress? How could you share that with others?
