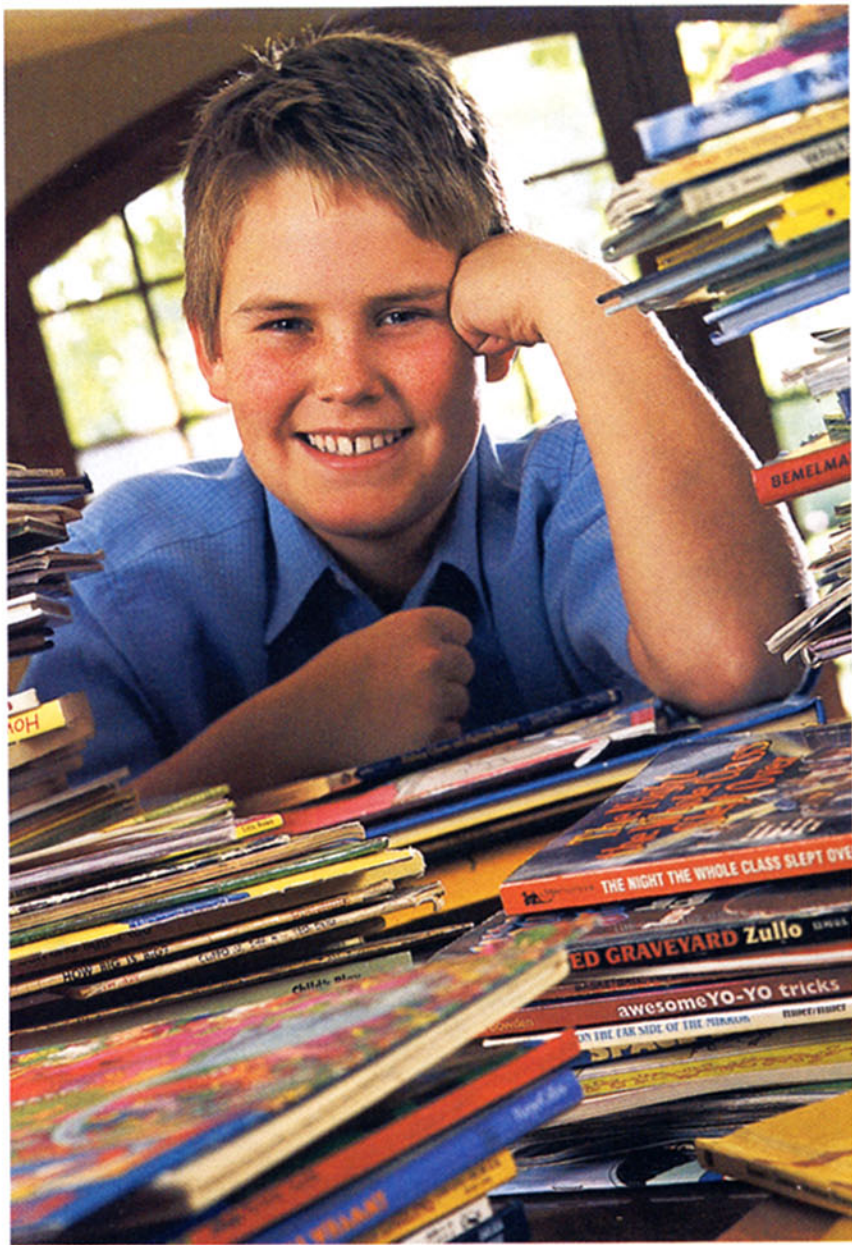




## FOR THE LOVE OF READING

One generous California boy shows how a little idea can change children's lives in a big way.



Mary Sitter is a third-grade teacher in Compton, California. Brant Whiting is a sixth-grader in Fullerton. Although they both live in the Los Angeles area, the two have never met. Still, every time a student reaches for a book from Sitter's classroom library, Brant is there.

The 12-year-old came up with the idea for Read All Over, a program to supply gently-used books to first-year teachers who need them. Inspiration for the idea began while Brant was going through his bookcase at home, pulling out books he no longer read. He offered the books to some neighbor kids.

"It turns out they had too many books, too," says Lisa Whiting, Brant's mom. "I told him I would get some boxes and we could put the books in the attic. He was really upset with me. He said, 'Books are meant to be read, Mom.'"

So Lisa challenged Brant to come up with another solution. He found the answer in his own experience. In third grade, his teacher had a large classroom library. In fourth grade, he had a brand-new teacher who had very few books. He figured there must be a lot of new teachers who could put books to good use.

"And I thought that if I had too many books and my neighbors had too many,