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Founded in 1972 by Ken Gjemre and Pat Anderson, Half Price Books is a private company that operates over 120 stores across 19 states in the US. The retailer's original motto is "We buy and sell anything printed or recorded except yesterday's newspaper." With its corporate office located in Dallas, Texas, the company has grown from its humble beginnings as a single store to become one of the largest used bookstores in the country. The company was founded by Ken Gjemre and Pat Anderson, who opened their first store in 1972 in a former laundromat in Dallas, Texas. The founders filled the shelves with 2,000 books from their personal libraries. Today, the company is led by CEO Sharon Anderson Wright and President Kathy Doyle Thomas. Half Price Books has been recognized for its commitment to promoting literacy and environmental sustainability. The company's original mission statement includes a promise to "promote literacy and be kind to the environment." To support this goal, teachers and librarians are offered a year-round 10% discount on purchases, and each store holds an annual book drive to collect new or gently used children's books. In addition, Half Price Books has implemented various environmental initiatives, including recycling and reusing programs. The company has also launched a formal environmental education initiative called "Become Green" to help spread knowledge about the health of the environment. Recent developments at Half Price Books include union elections at several locations in Minnesota, which resulted in the establishment of the first unionized Half Price Books locations. Employees from these locations belong to local chapters of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW). On July 13, 2023, employees from four unionized locations in Minnesota began a strike, citing the company's conduct throughout the contract negotiation process. Half Price Books and its philanthropic efforts extend beyond its family literacy programs to support various charitable causes and organizations. The company's for-profit arm, Better World Books, donates a portion of its proceeds to these initiatives. Additionally, Half Price Books' publishing arm, Hackberry Press, produces children's storybooks, such as the Say Good Night to Illiteracy series, which benefits family literacy organizations. The text describes the retrieval of information from various online sources on February 21, 2018, regarding Half Price Books. The sources include Trademarkia, Manta, and Texas Bookman's official website, among others. Additionally, it mentions two environmental initiatives - BecomeGreen.org and DeleteCensorship.org - sponsored by Half Price Books. Furthermore, the text references Facebook Page for Texas Bookman Wholesale and Texas Remainder Expo, all of which are related to Half Price Books.