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Books for Kids

Reading Is Tough for Me!

Reading is a tough skill to learn! If you have dyslexia, it can be even harder. The stories in this section feature kids with dyslexia. Read along to find out how other kids learned to face the challenges of reading. One of the authors is even a teenager who has dyslexia!

Josh: A Boy With Dyslexia

By: Caroline Janover

Illustrated by: Edward Epstein

Age Level: 3–6

Reading Level: Beginning Reader

Josh was living a great life—he knew how to get around and who his friends were. In the middle of the school year, though, his family turns that all upside-down by moving to a new neighborhood. Suddenly he has to deal with new kids, a new school, and a nasty bully who makes fun of the way Josh learns. But when the bully needs help, it's Josh who can save the day.

Yellow Bird and Me

By: Joyce Hansen

Age Level: 3–6

Reading Level: Beginning Reader

In a sequel to *The Gift-Giver*, Doris reluctantly starts helping Yellow Bird, the class clown, with his reading problem. To her surprise, Doris finds that in caring for and helping Bird, she develops a new friend.

Help! Somebody Get Me Out of Fourth Grade (Hank Zipzer Series)

By: Henry Winkler

Age Level: 9–12

Reading Level: Independent Reader

Hank creates an elaborate scheme to have his parents win an out-of-town trip so they're gone during teacher-conference days.

How Dyslexic Benny Became a Star

By: Joe Griffith

Age Level: 9–12

Reading Level: Independent Reader

A touching account of one youngster's struggle in learning to read and the painful journey that he took to gain self-confidence, self-respect, and tremendous success as a human being, as a student, and as an athlete. Benny's story stands as a tribute to the human spirit and should serve as an excellent resource for students with dyslexia, their parents, and their teachers.

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Books for Kids *(continued)*

How Many Days Until Tomorrow?

By: Caroline Janover

Age Level: 9–12

Reading Level: Independent Reader

Spending a month on a remote island in Maine with his teasing older brother and grandparents he hardly knows is not Josh's idea of a great time. But that's what happens the summer his parents go abroad. Twelve-year-old Josh, who has dyslexia, can't do anything right in his grandfather's eyes, and is constantly compared to his perfect, bookish brother, Simon. His biggest challenge, though, comes at the end of the summer when he faces a life-threatening emergency and uses skills he didn't know he had to lead the rescue.

I Got a D in Salami (Hank Zipzer Series)

By: Henry Winkler

Age Level: 9–12

Reading Level: Independent Reader

It's report card day—the most dreaded day in Hank's school year. And when Hank gets his grades, they're his worst nightmare come true: a D in spelling, a D in reading, a D in math. After school, Hank and his friends go to his mom's deli. His mom is on the prowl—she knows a report card day when she sees one. Hank tries to stall her, but she's going for his backpack. He's cornered. Hank hands the report card off to his friend Frankie, who gives it to his friend Ashley, who gives it to Robert, who puts it into a meat grinder! Hank watches as his Ds are ground into a big salami, and this particular salami is being made for a very important client. How will Hank get out of this one?

My Name is ~~Brain~~ Brian

By: Jeanne Betancourt

Age Level: 9–12

Reading Level: Independent Reader

Brian was not excited to enter sixth grade. He knew that it would be just as frustrating as every other school year. People tease him when he reads aloud in class or writes on the blackboard. But Brian soon learns that this year will be different! This year his teacher notices that Brian is dyslexic. He isn't stupid or lazy; he just needs to learn a little differently.

My Year With Harry Potter: How I Discovered My Own Magical World

By: Ben Buchanan

Age Level: 9–12

Reading Level: Independent Reader

"I'm normal because I am a normal kid—going to school, being happy, getting homework, having a family. I'm not normal because I'm dyslexic. . . ." Thus begins the autobiography of an eleven-year-old boy who created a board game based on the popular Harry Potter series.

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Niagara Falls or Does It? (Hank Zipzer Series)

By: Henry Winkler

Age Level: 9–12

Reading Level: Independent Reader

On the first day of fourth grade, Hank’s teacher assigns a five-paragraph essay, “What I did on my summer vacation,” and he knows he’s in trouble. It has always been difficult for him to read, write, and spell so he decides to “build” his assignment instead—to “bring Niagara Falls into the classroom, water and all.”

The Night I Flunked My Field Trip (Hank Zipzer Series)

By: Henry Winkler

Age Level: 9–12

Reading Level: Independent Reader

The best field trip of the year is becoming the worst night of Hank’s life—how’s he going to get out of this one?

The Safe Place

By: Tehila Peterseil

Age Level: 9–12

Reading Level: Independent Reader

Kinneret feels terrible—she can’t concentrate in class, she’s having nightmares, and her teachers think she is lazy. She fantasizes that a big, white bird will come and carry her away from all of her troubles. Fifth-grade brings someone else to help her, though—a new special education teacher who recognizes that Kinneret is neither lazy nor irresponsible.

The Vicar of Nibbleswicke

By: Roald Dahl

Illustrated by: Quentin Blake

Age Level: 9–12

Reading Level: Independent Reader

The Reverend Less is suffering from a rare and acutely embarrassing situation: Back-to-Front Dyslexia. It affects only his speech, and he doesn’t realize he’s doing it, but the parishioners of Nibbleswicke are shocked and confused by his seemingly outrageous comments. At last a cure is found and the mild-mannered vicar can resume normal service. Or at least as normal as is possible for a man who must walk backwards to be sure of talking forwards!

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Books for Kids *(continued)*

The Worst Speller in Jr. High

By: Caroline Janover

Age Level: 9–12

Reading Level: Independent Reader

Katie Kelso is sick of being a dork. Now that she's in seventh grade, she vows that her life will change. She's going to become a P.K.—a Popular Kid. Soon Katie is up to her neck in problems. Spud Larson, the best looking boy in her class and the leader of the P.K.'s, seems to like her. But so does Brian Straus—sensitive, smart, mysterious Brian. What will happen if her mother turns out to have cancer? And what should she do about the literary magazine? Her teacher wants her to try out for it, but Katie has dyslexia, and she's probably the worst speller in junior high.

Books for Kids *(continued)*

What Is a Learning Disability?

So you've been diagnosed with a learning disability. You probably had some trouble learning in school, and had to have a bunch of tests. Maybe people thought you were being lazy or trying to disrupt your class. Then you found out there are a whole bunch of reasons why you were having trouble. Now you have a name for your learning problems, but it might still be a confusing time, trying to figure out how you fit in and how you'll manage to keep up with your class. These books might help to explain your disability and make you feel better about yourself and about school.

All Kinds of Minds: A Young Student's Book About Learning Abilities and Learning Disorders

By: Mel Levine

Age Level: 9–12

Reading Level: Independent Reader

Understand how you learn, how weaknesses can make learning difficult, and how your strengths can be used to improve your learning skills. The world is made up of “all kinds of minds” and each one needs to be appreciated. (Also available as an audiobook.)

Keeping a Head in School

By: Mel Levine

Age Level: 9–12

Reading Level: Independent Reader

“What’s the best way for me to approach my schoolwork? How do I deal with the problems I’m having in school?” This book will help provide you with some answers that you can put into action, as well as remind you that a learning difference is not an unbeatable obstacle. (Also available as an audiobook.)

The School Survival Guide for Kids With LD

By: Rhoda Woods Cummings

Age Level: 9–12

Reading Level: Independent Reader

This guide offers specific tips and strategies especially for unique learners like you. Use these “school tools” to help build confidence in reading, writing, spelling, math, and more. Learn to organize time, set goals, stick up for yourself, handle conflict, stay out of trouble, cope with testing, and get help from adults.

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The Survival Guide for Kids With LD

By: Gary L. Fisher, Ph.D.

Age Level: 9–12

Reading Level: Independent Reader

First of all, know this—you're smart and can learn! You just learn differently. This guide will help answer some of your important questions about having LD, such as “Why is it hard for kids with LD to learn?” and “What happens when you grow up?” It will also provide suggestions on how to deal with issues in school and take some of the mystery out of what having LD means (and doesn't mean). Includes resources for parents and teachers.

Different Is Not Bad, Different Is the World: A Book About Disabilities

By: Sally L. Smith

Age Level: Teen

Reading Level: Independent Reader

“Disabilities can be ‘nuisances,’ but . . . differences are good—they add to the richness of our world.” This illustrated book explores both physical and learning disabilities. You'll also learn how many famous historical figures had disabilities and succeeded in spite of them.

The Survival Guide for Teenagers With LD

By: Rhoda Woods Cummings & Gary L. Fisher, Ph.D.

Age Level: Teen

Reading Level: Independent Reader

Adulthood is nothing to be frightened of, even if you have LD. This guide is aimed at helping prepare you not only for academic success, but for life as an adult. It helps explain how kids get into LD programs, clarifies your legal rights and responsibilities, and covers other vital topics including assertiveness, jobs, friends, dating, self-sufficiency, and responsible citizenship.