

# Literacy Resources

## Accessible Book Resources

### Accessible Book Collection

#### [Accessible Book Collection](#)

Accessible Book Collection or ABC is a website with the goal of “providing digital text to persons with disabilities.” The site requires a membership for full access, but assistive technology professionals can apply for a free subscription.

ABC has accessible books from Accelerated Reader, classics and popular books, and adapted for Classroom Suite, Clicker 5 and Boardmaker Plus.

Directions for downloading and using are featured for PC and Mac on the website.

### Bookshare.org

#### [Bookshare](#)

Bookshare® “offers the world’s largest collection of accessible titles. As a result, people of all ages, as well as schools and many organizations around the globe can access the books they need for school, work, career advancement, skill development and the simple love of reading in formats that work for them.”

Users of Bookshare® can read books in several ways:

- “Listen to books with high quality text-to-speech voices.
- “Hear and see highlighted words on screen
- “Read with digital braille or enlarged fonts” (UEB is available)
- “Create physical braille or large print
- “Read directly from the Internet browser.”

Student members of Bookshare® must have “expert confirmation” of a print disability that prevents the student “from reading traditional print materials.”

Eligible disability areas include: learning disability, physical disability, or vision impairment. Students with “hearing loss, autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), or emotional or intellectual disabilities or whose first language is not English generally do not qualify based on those criteria unless they also have a qualifying vision, physical, or learning disability.”

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Membership is free for U.S. school district students.

## **Bookshare Tutorials**

### **[Bookshare Tutorials](#)**

Bookshare® has a an excellent page for the beginning user of Bookshare® and for those who are troubleshooting. There are quick tours of the website, membership start-up videos, information about accessing and using Bookshare®, videos for users to make application of the technology more streamlined, suggestions for finding and organizing books, etc. Many of the videos also have accompanying transcripts. There are directions for using Read:OutLoud Bookshare edition and Read2Go Mobile App on this site.

## **Books That Grow**

### **[Books That Grow](#)**

Books That Grow has a wide range of biographies, classics, folktales, content area materials, etc. You are able to adapt the reading level of the material to the level of the reader using this web app.

## **Classic Reader**

### **[Classic Reader](#)**

Classic Reader is a membership based website featuring literature in the areas of fiction, non-fiction, young readers, poetry, short stories, drama, and classical. Literary pieces can be downloaded and read with a text reader or screen reader.

The non-membership access does include pop-up ads that may be distracting.

## **Learning Ally**

### **[Learning Ally](#)**

Learning Ally is “a national non-profit dedicated to helping blind, visually impaired and dyslexic students succeed in education. Started in 1948 in the New York Public Library as Recording for the Blind, the organization utilized volunteers to record books for blinded veterans returning from WW II. They now offer the world’s largest collection of human-narrated audio textbooks and literature as well as solutions, support and community for parents, teachers and students.” To access books from Learning Ally, the school district must be a yearly subscriber to the service for the student(s) in grades K-12. The audiobooks are

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mostly textbooks, and college students can access Learning Ally after high school with their own membership.

Membership includes strategy ideas for improving reading comprehension and listening, VOICEtext (highlights words and sentences as they are read), and free reading apps for Mac, Windows, Chromebook, Android, and Apple devices.

## **Reading Rockets**

### **[Reading Rockets](#)**

Reading Rockets has an article from CAST (Center for Applied Special Technology) and LD Online entitled *Accessible Textbooks: A Guide for Parents of Children with Disabilities*. The article discusses environments and materials that are designed from the beginning to meet the needs of all students. It goes on to discuss reading software, e-texts, and resources. It is fairly reader friendly for those who have not heard about digital reading materials and formats. The article also discusses the fact that not all e-text materials are accessible to text readers and screen readers.

## **Tumble Books**

### **[Tumble Books](#)**

Tumble Book Library is an online library for children's books. It is subscription based. Some public libraries have access to the library.

## **Adapted Literacy**

### **Route 66 Literacy Program**

#### **[Route 66 Literacy Program](#)**

“Route 66 is an online instructional literacy program for adolescent and adult beginning readers. Based on research-proved pedagogical methods, Route 66 pairs beginner readers side-by-side with teacher-tutors who guide the reading and writing activities on the computer.”

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## **Tar Heel Reader**

### **[Tar Heel Reader](#)**

Tar Heel Reader is “a collection of free, easy-to-read, and accessible books on a wide range of topics. Each book can be speech enabled and accessed using multiple interfaces, including touch screens, IntelliKeys with custom overlays, and 1 to 3 switches.” Students can write and submit their own books to the website.

## **Literacy and Reading Resources**

## **60 Second Recap**

### **[60 Second Recap](#)**

60 Second Recap is a decoder for students reading the classics. Each of the books in the “library” has a synopsis and summary of context and resources. Links take the student to other resource pages. Themes are outlined and videos provide quick summaries.

## **Center for Literacy and Disability Studies**

### **[Center for Literacy and Disability Studies](#)**

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has a project to address “the literacy needs of persons with disabilities of all ages.” They have developed and are developing products to assist teachers and students with literacy programs.

## **DIBELS**

### **[DIBELS](#)**

The University of Oregon website for DIBELS provides resources for “proven interventions in literacy skills. Resources include those on assessment, professional development, and research.

## **Google Lit Trips**

### **[Google Lit Trips](#)**

Google Lit Trips allows readers of stories and novels to experience the actual places where the story and events occur using the book and Google Earth. Teachers and students can create and post their own Google Lit Trips to the website.

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## **LitCharts**

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LitCharts is a website that helps students “visualize” what a book is all about. Many of the classics and those books commonly read by students in grades 6-12 are included. Charts are available in each area to help with instruction and understanding of key themes. Books are divided by Chart Boards, background, summaries, detailed summary and analysis, themes, symbols, quotes, and characters.

## **Literacy for All!**

### **Literacy for All!**

“These 11 video clips and related learning guides provide an opportunity to enhance and support teacher’s practice in the area of literacy for students with significant disabilities. Dr. Caroline Musselwhite is an assistive technology specialist with more than 30 years of experience with children and adolescents with significant disabilities.” The learning guides that accompany each clip are great resources.

In the 11 video clips Dr. Musselwhite discusses:

1. Good Literacy Instruction is Good for All Students
2. Creating Opportunities for Students to Explore and Understand Text
3. Symbols and Learning to Read
4. Choosing Words for the Classroom Word Wall
5. Importance of Repetition and Variety in Learning
6. Importance of Building Background Knowledge
7. Give Both Reinforcement AND Informative Feedback
8. Knowing the Difference Between Teaching and Testing Questions
9. The Art of Attributing Meaning to Student Attempts
10. Engaging Older Students
11. The Cost of Underestimating the Potential of Individual Students.

## **Oregon Reading First Center**

### **Reading First Resources**

Although the center is no longer active, the website is a good resource for literacy and reading on the topics of assessment, instruction, leadership, and professional development. The Center focuses on research for student progress and building strong literacy programs in schools. The site contains good data collection information and forms.

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## **Paths to Literacy**

### **[Paths to Literacy for students who are blind or visually impaired](#)**

This website addresses overall literacy and the strategies, resources, technology, and research that supports our educational intervention. Teacher blogs and videos are also a part of this resource.

## **Rewordify**

### **[Rewordify](#)**

When reading text that is difficult, students can use Rewordify to simplify the passage and learn new vocabulary. The difficult text is entered into a yellow box on the home page. The user clicks *Rewordify text* and a simpler version of the same text appears. “The reworded words are highlighted—click them to hear and learn the original harder word.” Rewordify has several features that will assist students with reading comprehension. Teachers can track the number of minutes of reading, words learned and learning errors with the website using *Educator Central*. This is a free website.

## **SparkNotes**

### **[SparkNotes](#)**

SparkNotes give the student an overview of the book in video format with short print reference guides to context, plot overview, characters, themes, symbols, etc. Each chapter is generally summarized and analyzed, too. Novels and other subjects are available. Be aware of pop-up ads.

## **[Text to Speech Resources](#)**

## **Natural Reader**

### **[Natural Reader Text to Speech](#)**

Natural Reader Text to Speech reads aloud PDF, Word, and eBook files. FREE iDevice app.

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## **Read&Write Gold for Google Chrome**

### **[Read&Write Gold for Google Chrome](#)**

“Read&Write for Google Chrome™ offers a range of powerful support tools to help students gain confidence with reading, writing, studying and research, including:

- Hear words, passages, or whole documents read aloud with easy-to-follow dual color highlighting
- See the meaning of words explained with text and picture dictionaries
- Hear text translated into other languages
- Get suggestions for the current or next word as you type
- Turn words into text as you speak
- Highlight text in documents or the web and collect for use in other documents
- Create and listen to voice notes directly inside of Google Docs
- Simplify and summarize text on web pages.

“Read&Write for Google Chrome™ is a user-friendly chrome extension to use with PCs, Macs and Chromebooks. It works with web pages and common file types in Google Drive, including:

- Google Docs
- PDF
- ePub
- Kes

“Install Read&Write for Google Chrome™ to access ALL of these features FREE for 30 days!

“After 30 days, you can still access Read Aloud and Translator features in Google Docs and web pages. Premium features for Google Docs, web, PDF, ePub, and Kes files are available by purchasing a subscription for single users, groups of users, or domains.

## **TextHelp for Teachers**

### **[TextHelp Free for Teachers](#)**

“Teachers can get a FREE premium subscription to Read&Write for Google Chrome™. To register and activate your subscription, go to [TextHelp Free for Teachers](#) after installing the Read&Write for Google Chrome™ trial.

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## **Text Help**

### **[TextHelp Support Premium](#)**

“Get more information on Read&Write for Google Chrome™ features, licensing, and pricing at [TextHelp Support Premium](#).”

## **Snapverter**

### **[Snapverter](#)**

“Snapverter™ quickly transforms classroom papers, images, and Bookshare eBooks into accessible Google Drive-friendly files.” It is an add-on for Read&Write for Google.

## **Voice Dream Reader**

### **[Voice Dream Reader](#)**

Voice Dream Reader has “advanced text-to-speech and a highly configurable screen layout.” The app “supports reading PDF and Word documents, DRM-free EPUB and DAISY eBooks, web pages and more. It is directly integrated with Bookshare, Dropbox, Google Drive, Evernote, Pocket, Instapaper, and Gutenberg.” \$9.99 on iTunes.

## **VoiceOver**

VoiceOver is the integrated screen reader that is built into Apple mobile devices. It reads screen icons, documents, websites, etc. YouTube has many videos to demonstrate the use of VoiceOver on the iPad.