



## Free Digital Resources to Support Struggling Readers

Shawna Benson, M.Ed.  
Jan Rogers, M.S., OTR/L, ATP

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### Literacy Statistics

- 33% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders read below basic levels
- 24% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders read below basic levels
- 75-90% of students with learning disabilities have reading disabilities  
National Assessment of Educational Progress (2011)
- More that 20% of adults read below a 5<sup>th</sup> grade level  
National Center for Educational Statistics

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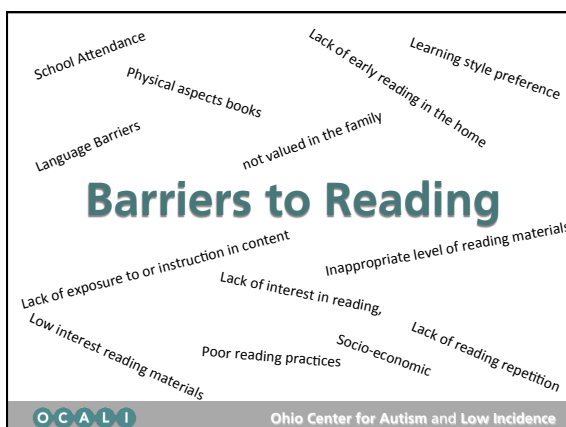
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## Barriers to Reading

School Attendance  
Physical aspects books  
Language Barriers  
Lack of early reading in the home  
Learning style preference  
not valued in the family  
Inappropriate level of reading materials  
Lack of exposure to or instruction in content  
Lack of interest in reading,  
Socio-economic  
poor reading practices  
Lack of reading repetition  
Low interest reading materials

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**The current use of traditional text...**  
...presents a problem for some...

Physical Disability

Reading Challenges

Visual Impairments

Learning Style and Preferences

English Language Learners

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**Digital Text**

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**What can you do with digital text?**

Text-to-Speech

Spacing

Alternate Access

Summarize

Highlight

Reading Level

Color

Background

Size

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Digital text can be found in many places.....




e-mail




Download it




WWW  
(html)



Create it



Textbook CDs



PDFs

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# Digital Textbooks

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**ck-12** flexbook

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**Learn It**

Learn the basics of our Flexbook tool with our step-by-step video instructions.

**Our Tool**

Review & Presentation

**Survey**

When did you hear about CK-12 and Open Education Resources?

☐ In the last six months


☐ In the last year

☐ One year ago or more


education can be...  
**affordable**

CK-12 Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission to reduce the cost of textbook materials for the K-12 market both in the U.S. and worldwide. Using an open-content, web-based collaborative model termed the "Flexbook," CK-12 intends to pioneer the generation and distribution of high-quality educational content that will serve both as core text as well as provide an adaptive environment for learning.


**California Free Digital Textbooks Initiative**



CK-12 Chemistry



CK-12 Science



CK-12 Programming

<http://www.ck12.org/flexbook/>

**Featured Chapter**

**Introduction to Invertebrates**  
by Jessica Harwood

This chapter gives an overview of animals and further discusses sponges, mollusks, and annelids, including flatworms, roundworms, and segmented worms.

[View the Chapter](#)

**Featured Author**

**Sharon Bewick**

Dr. Bewick received her B.S. in Chemistry from Howard Allen University. She then went on to complete a Ph.D. at Princeton University where she studied the electronic properties of organic crystals. Currently, Dr. Bewick is at the University of Tennessee where she hopes to use genetic chemical modeling to learn more about how immune systems fight off viruses and bacteria.

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Pearson HTMLbooks™



Helping all students reach their full potential

**Compatible with:**

- ReadStep™
- Screened Step™
- Readability GOLD
- ReadOut Loud!

**Some students who will benefit include:**

- Children with Learning Disabilities
- Speech and Language Impairments
- Visual Impairments
- Autism
- Auditory Learners
- Struggling Readers

**Introducing Pearson HTMLbooks™.** Now every child can achieve maximum benefit from Pearson K-12 basal Student Editions. Pearson HTMLbooks are fully compatible with assistive technologies. The versatile digital design makes them ideal for students with disabilities who may have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and/or 504 plan. Pearson HTMLbooks deliver the same content found in Pearson textbooks, which provide equal access to all students. They also are perfect for students who need additional support at home.

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- Aligned to state standards
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- Same content as the actual Pearson Student Edition

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[Pearson Web Address](#)

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Textbook Publishers



- 3D graphics
- Quizzes, extra practice
- Supplementary products at lower reading levels
- Audio support of chapters

<http://www.eduplace.com/eservices/previews/index.jsp?state=oh>

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**Digital Literature/  
Trade Books**

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literary liberation of books in the public domain

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LibriVox provides free audiobooks from the public domain. There are several options for listening. The first step is to get the mp3 or ogg files into your own computer.  
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[Volunteer](#)  
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<http://librivox.org/>

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**MAKE READING COOL**

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Global Digital Distribution eBooks, audiobooks & more

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 1. Get OverDrive Media Console™  
 2. Explore compatible devices  
 3. Add eBooks and audiobooks with eBooks, audiobooks & more  
 Zip Code:

Library  
School  
Juni  
Publisher

Overdrive App

<http://www.overdrive.com>

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The current use of traditional text...  
...presents a problem for some...

 Physical Disability

 Visual Impairments

 Reading Challenges

 Learning Style and Preferences

 English Language Learners

**I NEED MORE!!!!**

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<http://www.nimac.us/>

<http://cisam.ossb.oh.gov/>

Text books published prior to 2006 may not be available

**Accessible Materials and the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)**

Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials

Ohio State School for the Blind Outreach Program and Services  
3220 North High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43214  
800.510.5117  
614.644.8254 (DNC)  
<http://www.ossb.oh.gov/cisam.html>

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Advanced Search Browse

**Books without Barriers**



**Accessible Books and Periodicals for Readers with Print Disabilities**

- Bookshare® is free for all U.S. students with qualifying disabilities, thanks to an award from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).
- Bookshare dramatically increases the accessibility of books. People with disabilities don't have the same ease of access to books and periodicals that people without disabilities enjoy.
- A searchable online library. Bookshare offers approximately 137,000 digital books, textbooks, teacher recommended reading, periodicals and audio recordings tools.
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# Text-to-Speech Support for Reading

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**Major Reading/Writing Software...not so free.....but should be considered!**




<http://www.donjohnston.com/products/solo/index.html>



<http://www.texthelp.com/North-America/our-products/readwrite>



<http://www.freedomscientific.com/LSG/products/wyn.asp>



<http://www.kurzweiledu.com/default.html>

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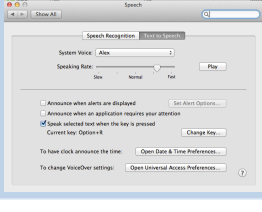
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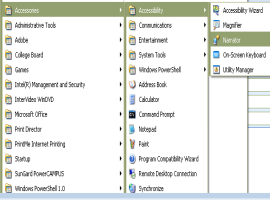
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**OS Built-in Reading Tools**

**Mac OS Text-to-Speech**



**Windows OS Narrator**



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**Text-to-Audio (MP3)/Text-to-Speech Tools**



<http://clipspeak.codeplex.com>



<http://www.readplease.com/>



<http://vozme.com/index.php?lang=en>

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### iOS Devices-Speaking Text

The first screenshot shows the 'Settings' app with 'Accessibility' highlighted at the bottom. The second screenshot shows the 'Accessibility' settings with 'Speak Selection' turned on. The third screenshot shows a text document with the 'Speak' button highlighted.

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The screenshot shows the 'Speak it!' app interface. It has a text input field with 'Hello, how are you today?' and a 'Select Voice' button. Below the button, two voices are listed: 'Heather American Female Voice' and 'British Male Voice'.

<http://youtu.be/oaQDEciGHaw>

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The screenshot shows the 'Prizmo' app interface. It has a text input field with 'Hello, how are you today?' and a 'Select Voice' button. Below the button, two voices are listed: 'Heather American Female Voice' and 'British Male Voice'.

[http://youtu.be/kM1SO\\_6BfQ](http://youtu.be/kM1SO_6BfQ)

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**Audiobooks**

**Popular Books**

- 1) **Treasure Island**  
Robert Louis Stevenson
- 2) **Pride and Prejudice**  
Jane Austen
- 3) **Anne of Green Gables**  
Lucy Maud Montgomery
- 4) **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**  
Lewis Carroll
- 5) **Kidnapped**  
Robert Louis Stevenson
- 6) **Romeo and Juliet**  
William Shakespeare
- 7) **Art of War, The**  
Sun Tzu
- 8) **Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, The**  
Mark Twain
- 9) **Dracula**  
Bram Stoker
- 10) **Wuthering Heights**

**Treasure Island**

0:20 — 0:48

Part 1 of 35

Treasure Island  
Downloading file 7 of 35 (32%)

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**Leveled/Visually  
Simplified Text**

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# Web Site Visual Simplification

## Awesome Highlighter

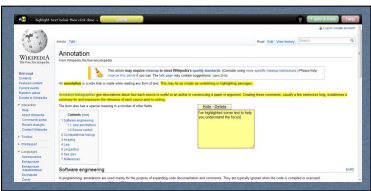
Awesome Highlighter

Show them what's important - **Highlight!**


Awesome Highlighter will let you highlight text in any page and save it as a PDF file or print it out.

Highlight

Print a web address, or just PDF



<http://www.awesomehighlighter.com/>



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## Picture/Video Supported Reading



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<http://www.symbolworld.org/>



<https://www.askability.org.uk/home>



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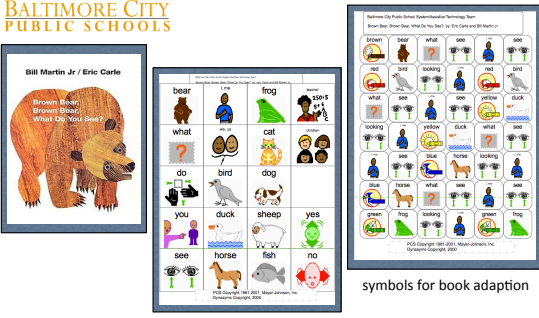
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**BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



communication board

symbols for book adaption

<http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=1446>

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**Tar Heel Reader**



<http://tarheelreader.org/>

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**GCF Vocabulary Videos**



<http://www.gcflearnfree.org/>

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The screenshot displays the ICDL StoryKit app. On the left, a 'Bookshelf' view shows several book covers. The main area shows the details of a selected book, 'The story of the three little pigs', with options to 'Read', 'Edit', or 'Share'. On the right, a 'Story Kit' logo is shown above the text 'ICDL StoryKit'. Below this, two smaller screenshots show the 'Edit Pages' interface and a story page with the title 'The story of the three little pigs' and a picture of a pig.

<http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>

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### Video for Reading Support



Teacher Tube  
AIHE Transcontinental Railway Video  
Below see user comment about video

this video helped me learn alot and i like it we were learning it in mi so studies class so it helped me more so thanks for who ever posted this video

[reply...](#)

Koolkat10767 (1 Month Ago)

<http://www.teachertube.com/>

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The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Center on Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM). The header includes the center's name and navigation links: HOME, LEARN, EXPERIENCE, and COLLABORATE. The main content area features the 'AIM Navigator' tool, which is described as an interactive tool that facilitates the process of decision-making around accessible instructional materials for an individual student. The text lists four major decision points: 1) determination of need, 2) selection of format(s), 3) acquisition of format(s), and 4) selection of supports for use. The AIM Navigator also includes a robust set of guiding questions and useful references and resources specifically related to each decision point. Different scaffolds of support are built in so that teams can access information at the level needed to assist them in making informed, accurate decisions.

[http://aim.cast.org/experience/decision-making\\_tools/aim\\_navigator](http://aim.cast.org/experience/decision-making_tools/aim_navigator)

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Protocol for Accommodations in Reading

Developed by Denise DeCoste, Ed.D. and Linda Bastiani Wilson, MA

<http://www.donjohnston.com/products/par/index.html>

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