

# The Reading Habit

Michael Milone, Ph.D.

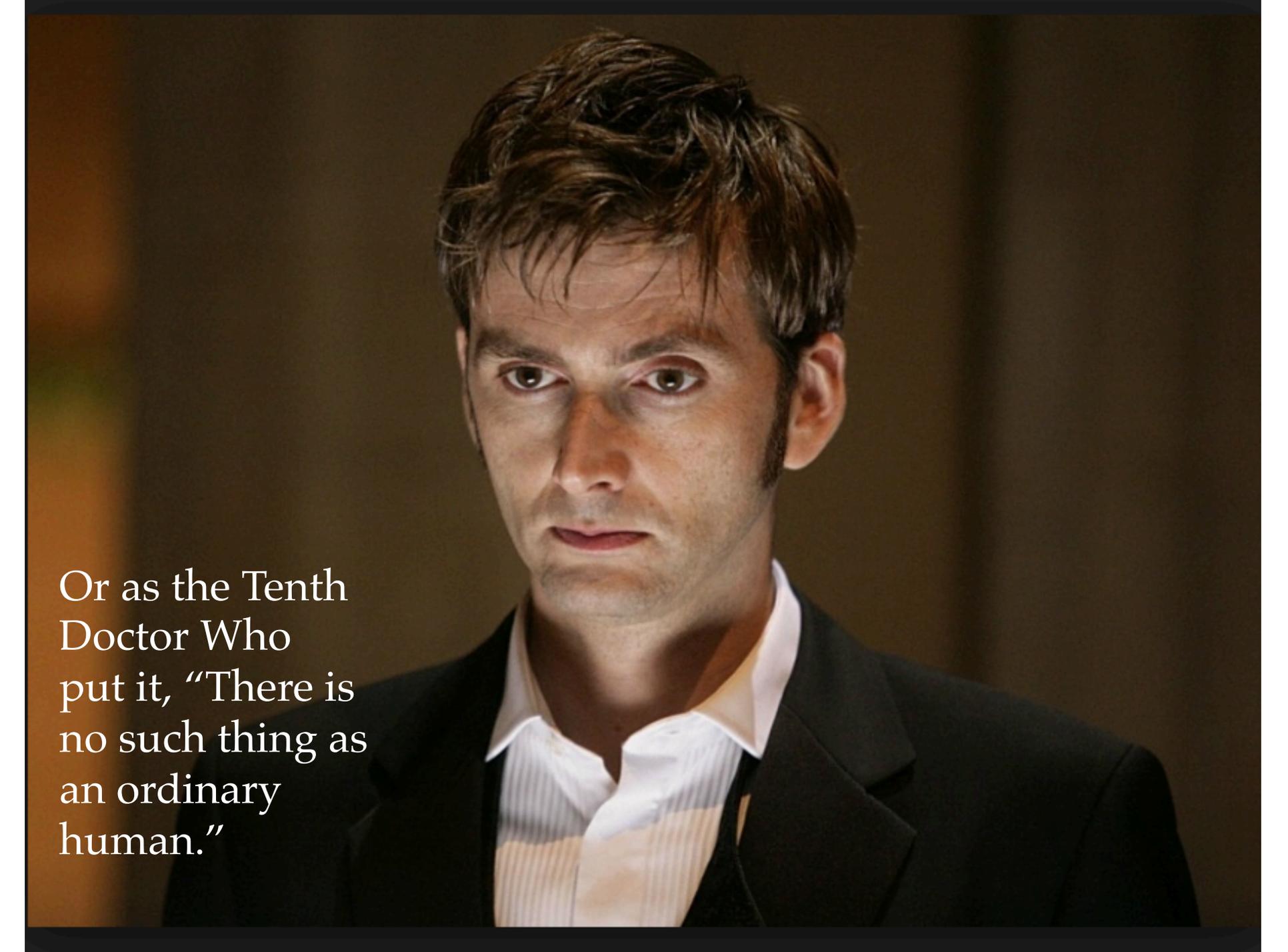


van Gogh

Just a reminder...  
Not everyone  
learns in the  
same way or  
at the same  
rate.



Mike the  
goat



Or as the Tenth  
Doctor Who  
put it, “There is  
no such thing as  
an ordinary  
human.”

Although this seems like,  
duh, everybody knows that,  
they don't.

Hence the practice of  
mandating the same invalid  
accountability test in the  
spring of the year for all  
students. Sigh.

My suggestions today are not  
universal.

If what I suggest  
doesn't work, try  
another way.

Thank you,  
Marc Gold.



# Reading is a learned behavior. So is the love of reading.

Like other learned behaviors, there has to be reinforcement to increase the frequency of the behavior.

Reinforcement is not the same as reward.



Renoir

The first reinforcement for very young children is the interaction with their parents, siblings, other family members, caregivers, friends, and pets.

It starts  
early and  
lasts forever.



“I surrender to the world of my imagination, reenacting all those wonderful tales my father would read aloud to me. I became a very active reader, especially history and Shakespeare.”

Andrew  
Wyeth



The love of reading will be internalized eventually. There is absolutely nothing wrong with using external reinforcement to help children learn the love of reading.

Even capable adult readers are motivated by external factors, the most compelling being reading clubs, reading friends, and celebrities.



For kids who  
can read but  
won't  
...for  
whatever  
reason...  
find the right  
books.

<http://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2012/12/20/where-to-find-high-interest-low-level-reading-books-hilo-readers/>



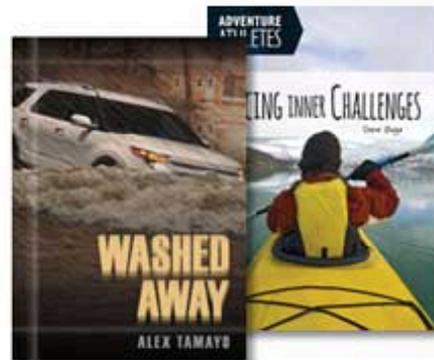
### Reading Level 1

Simpler stories with little or no figurative language



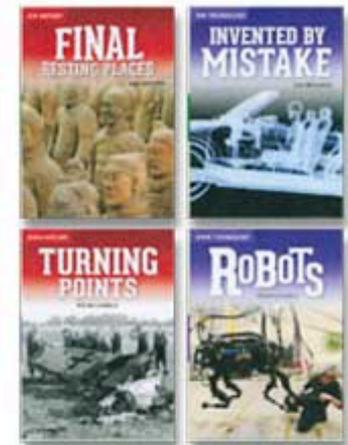
### Reading Level 2

More complex stories and some use of figurative language



### Reading Level 3

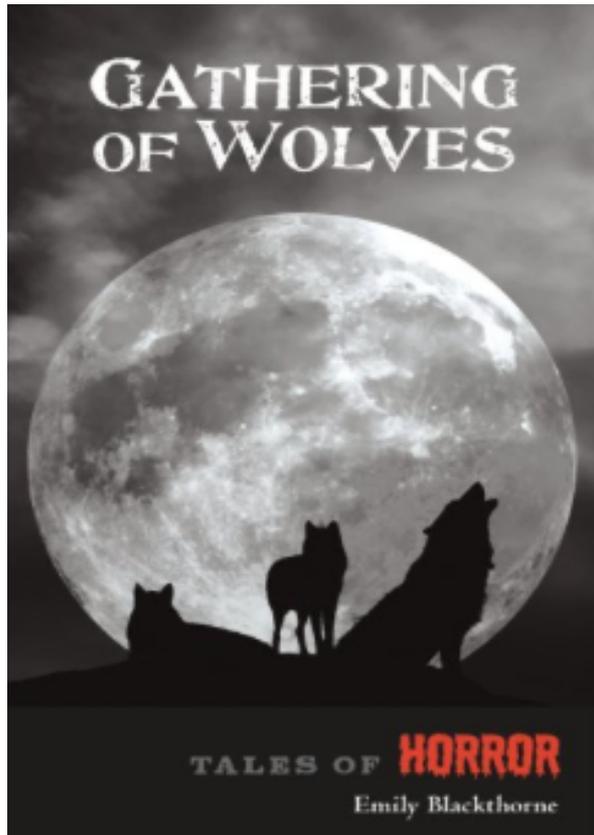
Greater story complexity and Introduction of figurative expressions



### Multi-Level Nonfiction

More complex stories and some use of figurative language

You can do this in a bookstore, library, or online. Many publishers include FREE samples on their websites. This one came from High Noon Books.



Luna frowned. She thought she might like him, but she didn't want him showing up at the ranch. "I don't know."

"I work at the Desert Springs Resort," David said. "I can use the pool after I get off work. Come by tomorrow night and we'll go swimming."

"OK," Luna said. David walked outside with her.

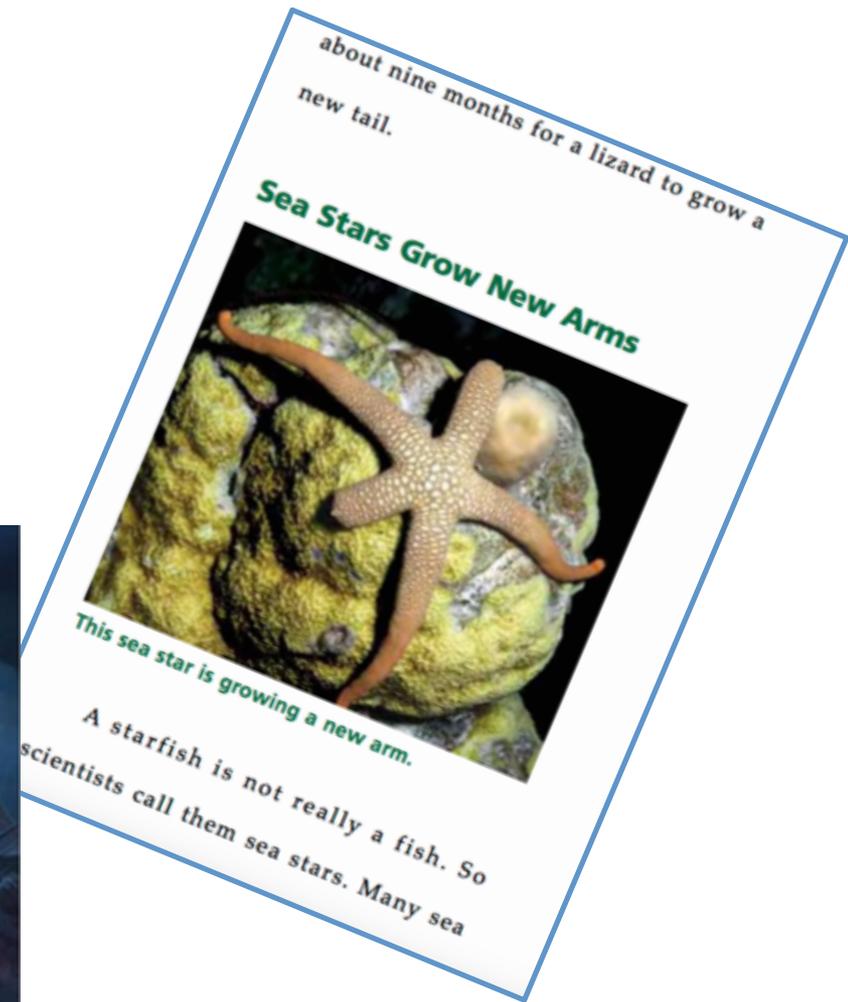
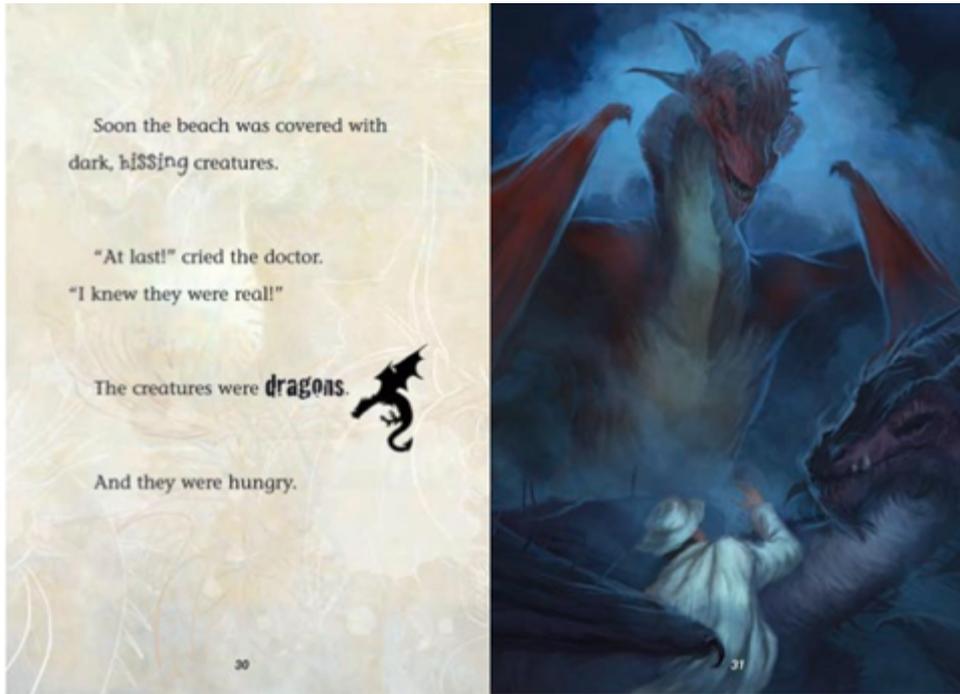
In the van, Bane and Lobo glared at David. Their nostrils opened and closed as if they wanted to remember his scent.



Later that night, Luna paced back and forth in her room. Her family had gone running. They had asked her to go with them. She had said no, wanting to get away from them for a while. But she could not ignore the full moon outside her window. She felt it pulling on her.

As she stared at the sky, her muscles rippled and cramped. She fell to her hands and knees. Silver fur grew from

And don't forget picture books. A great scaffold is to go from more to fewer illustrations...but never abandon picture books.



"...and what is the use of a book,' thought Alice `without pictures or conversation?'"

Look for illustrated books that will help readers build background knowledge. The importance of background knowledge is often overlooked.

This page comes from *Secret Spies Get Scared*, a high interest, low readability book from High Noon Books. Learning these phrases will help readers with other books as well as this one.

**Spy Gear**  
*Sometimes the Secret Spies use spy gear.  
Here are some things they use.*

 <b>Magnifying Glass</b> Makes small things look bigger	 <b>Spy Ear</b> Lets you hear people talk 300 feet away
 <b>Spy Watch</b> Sends secret messages, takes pictures, and more	 <b>Spy Camera</b> Looks like a pen, but takes pictures and video
 <b>Night Vision Glasses</b> Lets you see things in the dark	 <b>Listening Bugs</b> Hide them to hear what people say while you are away

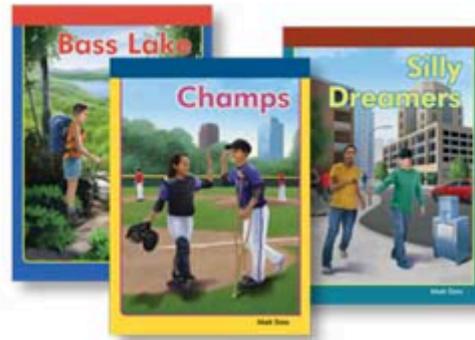
If a reader is having trouble with word recognition, look for books that use mostly phonetically regular or high-frequency words. These books improve word recognition skills, increase background knowledge, and build confidence.

## Phonics-Based Chapter Books

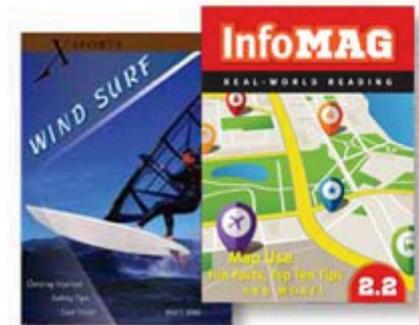
Phonics-based chapter books give students massive opportunities to practice decoding and one-syllable words.

- Progressive levels of phonics skills with controlled vocabulary
- Engaging stories encourage and support independent learning

Select fiction or nonfiction to see the full selection of titles.



Sound Out Sets A, B & C (Fiction)



Sound Out Nonfiction



Sound Out Kit with Workbooks



Phonic Books Series

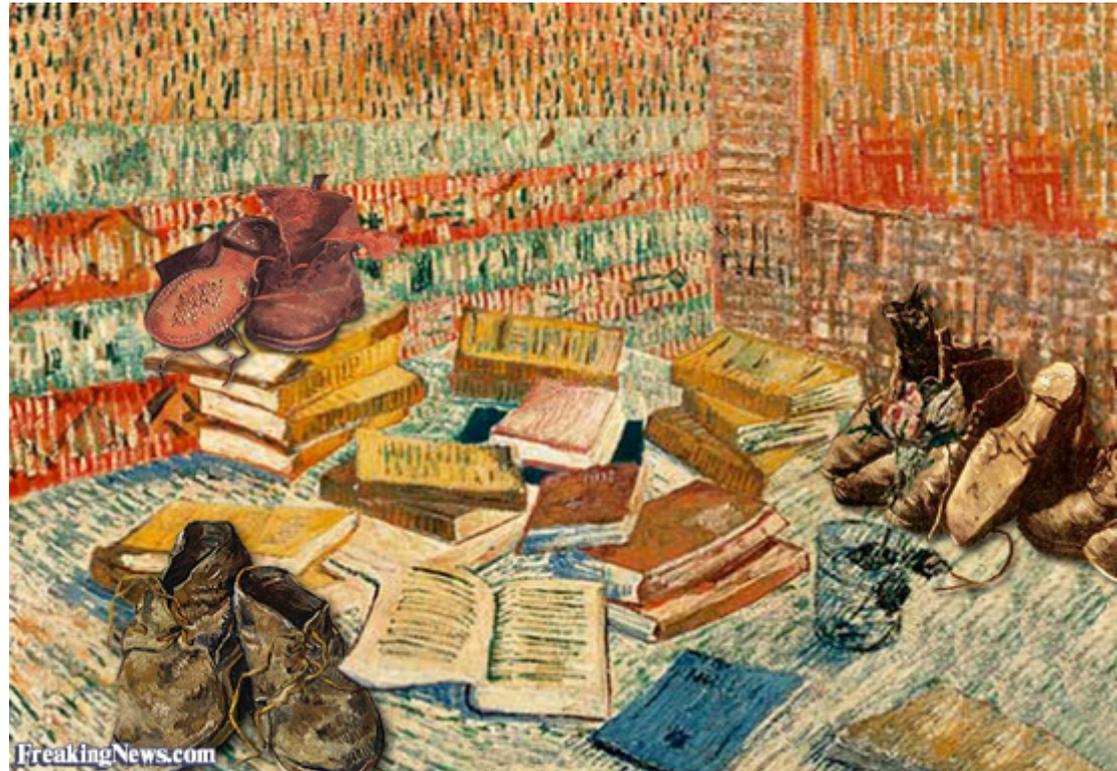
However you do it, be sure that the young reader is part of the selection process.

The more the child participates in the process, the more likely it is that the effort will be successful. Note the word “successful.” There are many paths to the reading habit.



# Model reading behavior.

- Find the time.
- Fill the house with books, newspapers, magazines, and everything else with words.
- Use the local library and the Little Free Library. If you don't have a Little Free Library, make one.

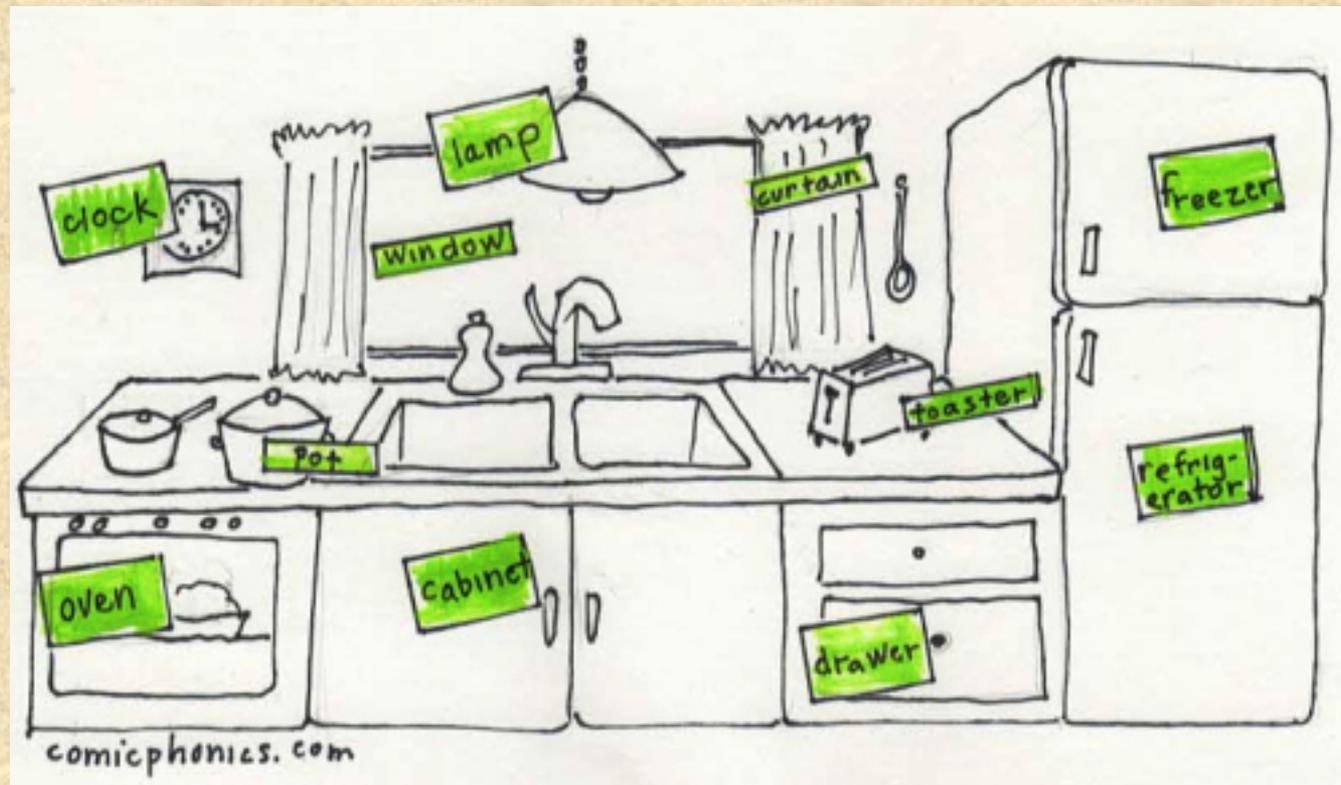


The stages of the reading habit are reading to, reading with, and reading independently.

But it all begins with the spoken word...just ask Dyalekt or Socrates.



If there is a tiny human in the home, label everything you can.



Write notes, jokes, or poems every day using paper, texts, email, social media, whatever. These mini-reads allow kids to nibble and use what they know to develop confidence and approach things they don't know.



Turn on the TV captions.



Find the right books for YOUR ~~young~~ learning reader.

Not everyone who is learning or relearning to read is young. Second language learners, children and adults recovering from illness or injury, and people who did not become capable readers as youngsters can all get into the reading habit by being matched with the right books.



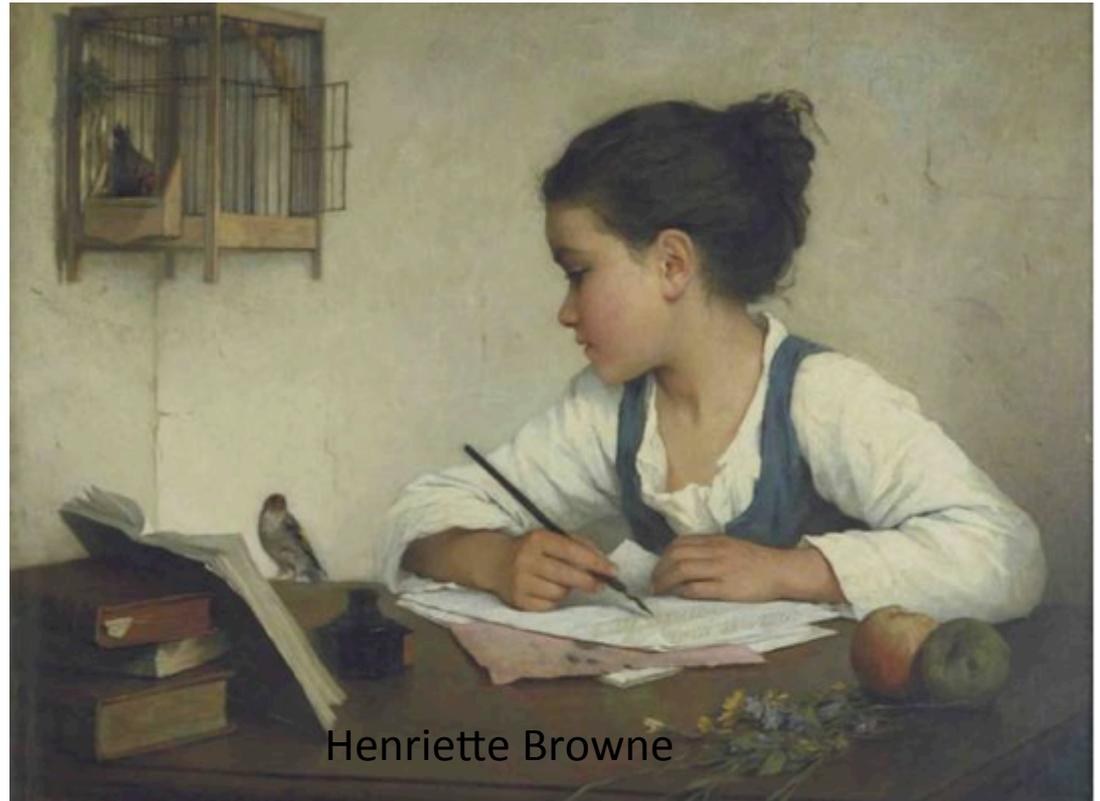
Consider textmapping, which is simply reformatting the pages of a book into a scroll. Yes, I know this sounds a bit mayhem-ish, but for some kids, it really works well.

Speaking of mayhem, try literary littering. Write notes or cut up magazine articles and drop them on the floor. You might even make a game of it and try to put segments of a brief story into the correct order.

<http://www.textmapping.org>



In addition to developing the reading habit, your efforts will encourage intellectual curiosity, one of the most overlooked foundations of success in life.



Henriette Browne

Developing the reading habit is a critical aspect of the growth mindset, popularized by Carol Dweck. If you aren't familiar with this construct, you can check the link below.

“It is probably necessary to interject at this point the qualification that all of us are born with a different set of equipment (physical, intellectual, emotional, interpersonal ... you know what I'm talking about). Those of us who believe in the growth mindset recognize individual differences and certain advantages that are associated with them. But how we use what we're born with is up to us, and as educators, this is one of the most important lessons we can instill in our students. Don't stop believing in them, and do all you can to help them believe in themselves.”

<http://www.voyagersopris.com/edview360-blog/blog/2016/03/02/growth-mindset-in-education-more-than-an-attitude>

