

Shine a Light



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The **PROBLEM**



For more than 50 years,

ILLITERACY HAS BEEN GROWING AT AN ALARMING RATE:

At least
20% of all U.S. high school graduates cannot read their own diplomas.

Most
U.S. SCHOOLS no longer include explicit, systematic phonics instruction in their reading programs.

Up to
85% of children placed in Special Education are needlessly labeled dyslexic, learning disabled, or some other name simply because they have not yet been taught to read.

80% of incarcerated youth cannot read.

Over
25% of the American labor force, anywhere from 30-35 million adults, lack the basic reading, writing, and math skills necessary to perform in today's increasingly complex and technologically challenging job market.

The number of functionally illiterate adults is increasing by approximately

2.25 MILLION persons each year, including nearly 1,000,000 high school dropouts.

65

PERCENT

**OF 4TH
GRADERS
CANNOT
READ
PROFICIENTLY.**

35 percent of those cannot read at all.



The **SOLUTION**

The solution to fixing our astonishing illiteracy rate is simple — a phonics-based, systematic, and scientifically validated method of instruction.

According to the *Report of the National Reading Panel* a truly effective reading program includes systematic, direct instruction in these FIVE ELEMENTS:

1. PHONEMIC AWARENESS:

The knowledge and ability to recognize that words are made up of a combination of individual speech sounds.

2. PHONICS

A body of knowledge consisting of 26 letters used to symbolize 44 English speech sounds. There are approximately 70 common spellings for these speech sounds.

3. VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

Adding to the number of words used and understood by the student.

4. FLUENCY

The ability to read text accurately and smoothly.

5. COMPREHENSION

The ability to understand and talk about what we read.

How You **CAN HELP**

ADVOCATE

By learning the cause of illiteracy, you can become the most effective advocates of the solution:

- Purchase one of the reading programs listed on the RTR resource list (www.nrrf.org) and give it to your child's teacher.
- Post your experience on Facebook, You Tube, Pinterest, or Twitter. Share the good news!
- Inspire others with a short success story, and send it to us to be published on our website.

DONATE

Together we can stem the growing tide of illiteracy. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for more than 20 years, RTR has provided parents, teachers, and policy makers at local, state, and federal levels with information about the cause of illiteracy and the solution to this seemingly intractable problem. Your donations allow us to:

- Research and find excellent reading programs which include ALL of the five essential components of reading instruction for use in the classroom and at home.
- Provide support to individual students, parents, schools, and policy makers.

RTR depends on your generous tax deductible gifts to help eradicate illiteracy in America.

BECOME AN AMBASSADOR

Take your advocacy to the next level. Visit our website for more information.

BECOME A CORPORATE SPONSOR

Support RTR by becoming a corporate sponsor. We have several levels of corporate sponsorship to fit how your organization wants to help in ending illiteracy and creating a more informed and competent work force for the future.



Learn to Read ★ Read to Learn

MISSION

Since reading is a right, not a privilege, in 1993 The National Right to Read Foundation (RTR) was established to ensure that right. RTR believes that the reading deficit in America can be eliminated, and that every child can learn to read if they are taught using approaches that follow the findings of scientifically based reading research (SBRR).

Making sure that students attending schools today receive such reading instruction (which includes a strong component of **explicit and systematic phonemic awareness and phonics teaching**), is crucial if they are to be able to proceed with the other essential elements of reading instruction — **vocabulary development, oral reading for fluency, and comprehension strategies**.

Actively engaged in this effort at the national, state, local, and individual levels, RTR provides information, consultation, and resources through volunteers, phone calls, emails, regular mail, and website information at www.nrrf.org.

The National Right to Read Foundation is a nonpartisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of the reading deficit through explicit, systematic phonics instruction and good literature.

RTR is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) publicly supported organization. Gifts to the foundation are tax deductible.

AMBASSADORS

For more than 20 years RTR has had hundreds of volunteer Ambassadors working in all fifty states. Their diligent and faithful efforts have informed parents, teachers, and policy makers of the necessity for direct, systematic instruction in the “Big Five” essential components of reading instruction. The Report of the National Reading Panel confirmed their importance after reviewing more than 100,000 reading research studies. It is now time to implement these findings in every classroom in America.

RTR WEBSITE: NRRF.ORG

This serves as an informational resource and clearing house for:

- Reading programs that include ALL the essential components of reading instruction as highlighted above.
- National, state, and local reading reform efforts.
- The findings of scientific research in reading.
- Links to relevant original source websites.

