

READING ROCKS!



Learning to read takes a willing student and a well-trained teacher. Do your part! Prepare yourself with the best techniques of research-based reading instruction. Visit www.ReadingRockets.org.

"I decided that I would actually try to read [Harry Potter] myself, 'cause it sounded so interesting." Ben, age 12

Kids: Ben has dyslexia, which makes it very difficult to learn to read. But he began working hard on his reading because he fell in love with the Harry Potter books. What kinds of things would you like to read about? Soccer? Music?

Teacher/Parent: Children with dyslexia or other reading difficulties should have an understanding of what that means. You can find resources to help you explain it – along with the names of some very successful people who have dyslexia – at www.pbskids.org/readingrocks. Also, plan a trip to the library to pick out books in your child or student's area of interest. Ask a librarian for help choosing books at the appropriate level for your child.



Hosted by Nick Spano
Talking with Your Struggling Reader



A Grown-Up's Guide to Reading Rocks!

"Sometimes I wish that there was no such thing as reading."
Madeleine, age 8

For a lot of us it can be hard to imagine having such a feeling: *But Madeleine!* you want to say. *What about Harry Potter? What about Little House on the Prairie? Beverly Cleary and Judy Blume?* Right now, Madeleine couldn't care less – because reading represents pain and failure. And the struggling readers in your life may know just how she feels.

Reading Rocks! gives you the chance to talk with them about those feelings. And it lets them know that they're not alone. We hope children who feel like giving up will be motivated by the stories of kids like them – Ben, Maricely, A.J., and Madeleine – kids who found a way to give reading another chance.

Here are some ideas to get the discussion going:

"Kids would make fun of me and the teacher would start yelling at me." Skyla, age 11



Kids: The students at the Lab School produced a claymation movie to let others know how they feel about learning to read. Can you share some of the feelings you've had when you were asked to read aloud in class?

Teacher/Parent: Encourage kids to talk freely. Remember to validate their feelings and to remind them of the things that they excel in. Every child has skills and talents. Point them out!

"Learning English is hard – especially when your family speaks Spanish only."

Maricely, age 13



Kids: Describe how you would feel if you were trying to learn to read in another language – Spanish, Chinese, or Italian. What might be good about speaking two languages?

Teacher/Parent: Help your students empathize with the English language learners in their class. For your ELL kids, encourage them to share their struggles.

"I just need to try harder and harder."

A.J., age 8



Kids: A.J.'s teacher teamed him up with a buddy. What do you think it might feel like to work with a buddy on reading?

Teacher/Parent: Teaming a child up with a peer who is a stronger reader can help improve a child's reading. He may be less intimidated by another kid and more willing to receive gentle correction. Be open to ideas your child may have about improving the reading experience.

For more information, please visit www.pbs.org/launchingreaders.

For kids, visit www.pbskids.org/readingrocks.

