

Dyslexic Advantage

NEWSLETTER

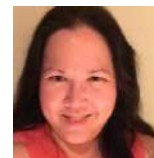


DYSLEXIC ADVANTAGE TRAVELS TO ENGLAND



Photo: Isla McDade Brown
Ella Clements

- NOT BROKEN MOVIE
FILMMAKER LAUREN HAVEL
- SUPREME COURT UNANIMOUS
- HOW TO SET READING MODE
- ART SHARE WINNERS
- DYSLEXIC ADVANTAGE AUDIO

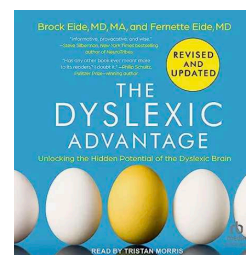


Fernet Eide MD, Editor



Dear Friends

We're happy to report that the audiobook for our revised and updated Dyslexic Advantage is now available. If you have a chance please leave a positive review and help us spread the word. Thank you! ❤️



Become a **Premium Subscriber** and discover the most comprehensive resource on dyslexia in the world.

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The **NEUROLEARNING** Dyslexia Screening App is \$49.99 and available for children and adults 7-70 years old. iPad, iPhone, Android, and Kindle Fire.

The app may be used to identify and qualify for services such as Benetech's huge free library of e-books.

Thanks to Shelley Wear, Trish Seres, Michelle Williams, Cheryl Kahn, and Jack Martin. Thanks to Lady Grace Belarmino for design and layout and Andi and Freshea for their social media and admin help!

PREMIUM

Editor's Note: to make our publications easier to read, we will avoid use of italics and certain types of fonts.

Newsletters can be read online **HERE**. This issue will be available on the Joomag site for 3 months and can also be downloaded as a pdf file.



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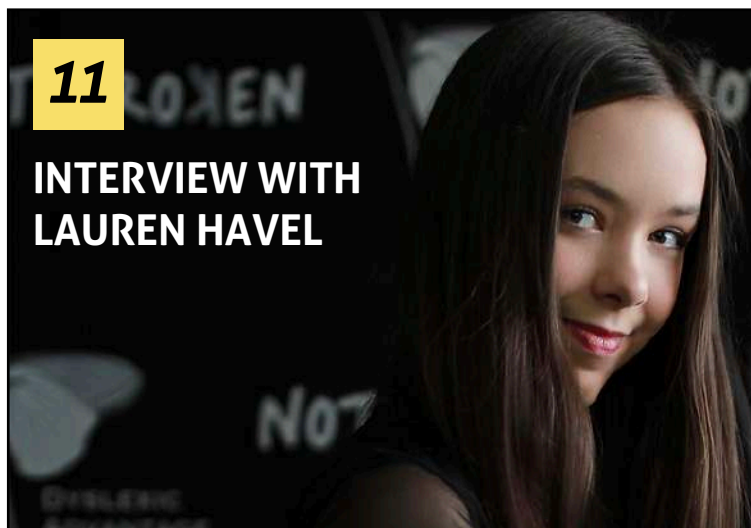
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DYSLEXIC ADVANTAGE TRAVELS TO ENGLAND

In a whirlwind trip, Brock met up with Dr. Helen Taylor of the University of Strathclyde and Cambridge University ([Dyslexia as an Evolutionary Advantage](#)) to speak at GCHQ (Government Communications Headquarters) - the United Kingdom's Code and Cypher School, [Imperial College \(Britain's MIT\)'s Celebration of Neurodiversity in STEM](#) (opposite page), the [Dyslexia Show 2023](#), and many colleagues and experts that we have known for years through their works and research, but never had a chance to meet in person.

Dyslexia in the United Kingdom is very different from Dyslexia in United States.

I think it's fair to say that dyslexic strengths are more widely researched and recognized at all levels of education (from early grades through higher education) as well as at work. Here in the US, there is tremendous emphasis on early literacy and decoding, but with far too little available for older students including those at university. In the UK, there is [Access to Work](#) which provides support for things like dyslexia coaching and assistive technology. Here in the States, there are departments of vocational rehabilitation and [AskJan.org](#), but specific informed support for adult dyslexics is much rarer and harder to find.

British intelligence has long recognized the benefits of neurodiversity and dyslexic minds in surveillance and spycraft.

"Jo Cavan oversees recruitment for the section of the British Intelligence Services that provides surveillance of networks and telecommunications. He states that four out of ten of his department employees are dyslexic. 'We are looking for people who can quickly spot small anomalies in the big picture. They must be able to sift through large amounts of data to prevent a terrorist act or the organization of a crime. Skills such as good shape and pattern recognition are essential. And many of my colleagues with dyslexia have these abilities.'"

- Susan Ibitz (2022) The Super Power of Dyslexia - Why does the British secret service hire dyslexics as profilers?

To our knowledge, the intelligences services here in the states have not been as outspoken as the GCHQ about their desire to recruit dyslexic people for their service. The GCHQ has a neurodiversity advisor and dyslexia and dyspraxia group. We were told that some 10+ years ago when our book first came out, the neurodiversity advisor shared our book and even did some exploratory work with employees about MIND strengths. If only more companies tried to understand the different minds that make up their organization.

For his talk at GCHQ, Brock spoke about some of the cognitive benefits tht come with dyslexic thinkers - and spent some time talking about personal or episodic memory and visualization and scene construction.

It was a joy to also see prominent dyslexic professionals organizing events like the one at Imperial College, where people can talk about their different career paths and how they found and built on their strengths.

Imperial College's Neurodiversity events were created by Dr. Sara Rankin, a world-caliber scientist who is also dyslexic and recognizes the importance of neurodiverse minds in science and technology disciplines.

DYSLEXIC ADVANTAGE

In the discussion segment with an expert in bioinformatics, biotechnology CEO, and clinical drug scientist, all three recognized the importance of being self-aware and being open to tell their team or managers what they needed to perform well in their job. One of the group mentioned that she wasn't always confident enough to speak up and disclose, but that happened only after some years.

When there is an opportunity for dyslexic professionals to talk aloud about their work experiences, inevitably there are recurring themes, with strengths - like interdisciplinary thinking as well as challenges.

It's refreshing to hear from so many accomplished STEM professionals; to hear about how they overcame their struggles, but also how they discovered their talents. Every workplace should have events like these on an annual basis!





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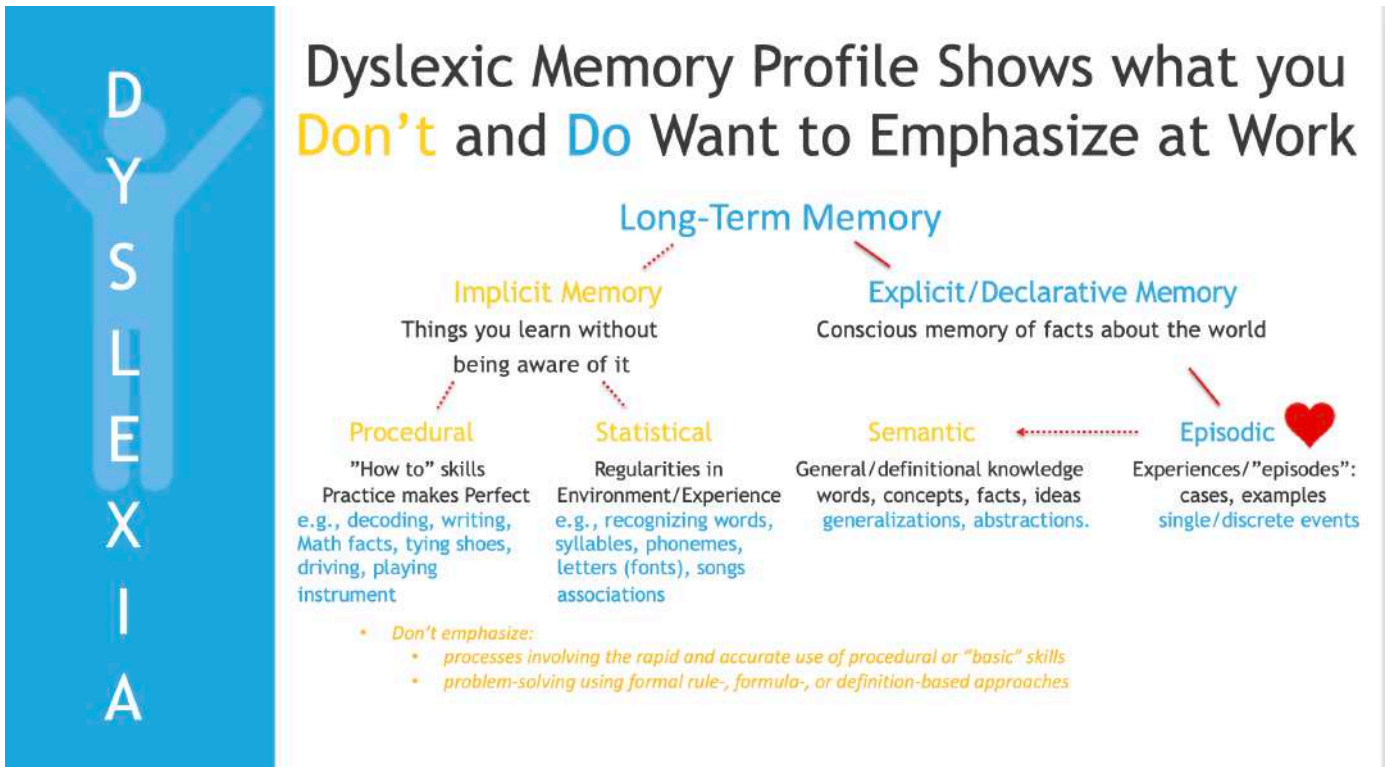
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DYSLEXIC ADVANTAGE

Brock also had a chance to speak at [Dyslexia Show 2023](#) (no recordings available) where he spoke on Understanding and Using the Dyslexic Mind at Work.



Like his talk at Imperial College, his talk at the Dyslexia Show was warmly received.

At the event, Brock had a chance to meet up with Jack Churchill, OBE, co-founder of the company that makes those wonderful [Scanning Pens](#).



UNANIMOUS SUPREME COURT DECISION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

In a unanimous Supreme Court decision in the case of Miguel Perez vs. Sturgis Public Schools, the courts ruled that students aren't required to exhaust the IDEA procedures before seeking relief (for instance money damages) under the ADA.

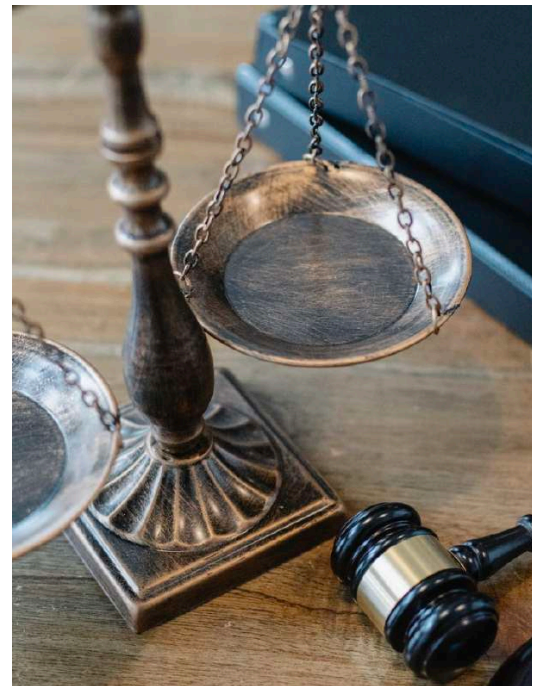
The case involved a deaf student who for 12 years was denied reasonable accommodations (a sign language interpreter) so that he could adequately learn and comprehend others around him.

Apparently, there was even another deaf student at the school, but they could not communicate with each other.

From [Wrightslaw](#):

For twelve years, the school district passed Miguel Luna from grade to grade. The district inflated his grades to As and Bs so he made the honor roll. Miguel Luna did not learn how to read or write. He couldn't hear his teachers so he didn't learn subjects like science, history, literature, and geography. A few weeks before graduation, school officials told his family he would receive a certificate of completion, not a high school diploma.

The practical significance of the decision is that students and their families will be able to sue districts for lack of reasonable accommodations. It is mind-boggling that the school in this case would assume that their education was appropriate. They were not preparing him for life beyond school whether that was to be employment or higher education.



ADVOCACY

For dyslexic students and their parents, there are important conclusions:

- Do not assume your students are receiving an appropriate education and reasonable accommodations that will prepare them for their future.
- Be aware that students can be given passing grades due to adjusted lower expectations rather than appropriately high goals and expectations.
- Realize that there are laws in place to make sure your student is learning and being adequately prepared for the future.

The two laws supporting students with disabilities in schools are the IDEA and the ADA. The IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act) states that students should have free and appropriate public education (FAPE), but it does not provide for monetary damages if FAPE is not provided. The ADA or American with Disabilities Act, on the other hand, does say that students can sue their schools if they are not being provided with an appropriate education.

So this is a powerful decision for students and their families.

What this hopefully means is that schools will need to be much more attentive to students and their families when they are saying that their educational needs are not being met.

Is your student making progress in reading and writing? What about other subjects like math or science?

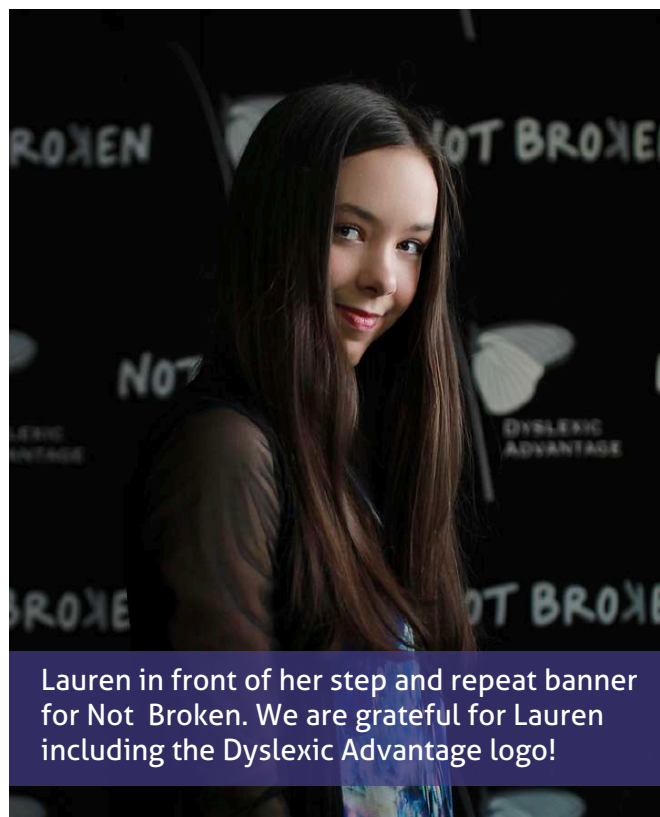
We also favor having assistive technology plans in IEPs or 504s. If the goal is to prepare students for higher education and employment, then technology may be crucial for that.

Suing under the ADA is not a light decision. Be aware that overwhelming numbers of families won't have to do this. The positive of this decision is that it places the pressure on the schools to meet the needs of their students.

NOT BROKEN MOVIE: INTERVIEW with GIFTED FILMMAKER LAUREN HAVEL

"In 2018, just after I turned thirteen, my mom signed me up for a film camp at a local private school. The moment I picked up a camera, I felt like I never wanted to put it down!"

- Lauren Havel



Lauren in front of her step and repeat banner for Not Broken. We are grateful for Lauren including the Dyslexic Advantage logo!

Recently, I had the chance to talk with an amazing young filmmaker, Lauren Havel of [Lauren Grace Studios](#). Watch and like it on **Youtube (below)** or [Amazon Prime](#).



INSPIRATION



Here's how Lauren describes her movie, *Not Broken*:

"Young Winter Knight is profoundly dyslexic and equally artistic. Despair sets in as she finds herself defined not by her talents but by her disabilities. As her dyslexia begins to impact virtually every area of her life, she becomes convinced that she's hopelessly broken. Until, that is, she discovers the purpose behind her pain."

From my interview with Lauren and her mother Jennifer who wrote the screenplay:

Lauren: "School was just super hard because it's kind of like everything just went in one ear and out the other. I couldn't understand a lot of things..."

Jennifer: "...I was pushing the academics and trying all these different curricula, but Lauren came to me and pulled me aside, and said, 'Mom, this is just going in one ear and out the other. It's not working.' She said, 'I want to be a filmmaker. I have all these passions, and things that I'm good at.'

'Why are we focusing on what I'm bad at? Can't we pursue the things I'm good at?'

After she did that, it was very difficult and scary to just set aside the academics and say, okay, Lauren, this is obviously how God has created you. He's wired you this way, and let's run with it. But In hindsight, I think it was the best thing we ever did for Lauren."

As a kid, Lauren enjoyed beautiful things and art.

Lauren: "I've begun to realize that Dyslexia has really helped me with storytelling, because the things that I learned from were stories and when my mom would read us books, and like, great classics, and it was just like, those things clicked with me. And I realized that's how I learn and how I process things. And so I feel like dyslexia has become a real benefit to me, because it allows me to be super creative. And I don't need to be perfect or even good at any of the other stuff. Because I've been able to be gifted in like, creative endeavors, which is really a blessing.

Lauren's start as a filmmaker came when she did a film camp over the summer at a private school. She started making little films, watched Youtube videos, and began training her eye for what she admired in films. She also joined the [Tomorrow's Filmmakers](#) community and took their courses.

Lauren, again:

"When I first started making films, it was just for fun, I thought, like, you know, just play around with it. But I started to realize how powerful film can be to impact people and bless people, and just share with people and encourage them. And so I started making films that have messages that I really love and can get behind. And all of my films, since my first short, have been about different struggles and different things that people go through, hoping to encourage them through that."

As a child, Lauren had directed skits for her cousins at Thanksgiving and listened to and read many classics. Her first film short after camp was put together in a few days. Few people saw it, but she was hooked on making films.

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INSPIRATION

A few weeks after finishing that, she made an anti-bullying short called "I Hate Kate". She uploaded it to YouTube (below). At first it only had a few hundred views, but some months later, her views skyrocketed. Today it's been viewed by over 7 million. Lauren personally responded to thousands of comments she received on the film from around globe. What a powerful response to her film!

Congratulations to Lauren and her mother for bringing such meaningful and impactful movies to the world!



Lauren's full movie Not Broken can be watched on Youtube at EncourageTV here: <https://youtu.be/sCwxAxeTymc>

Lauren will be posting work in progress photos for her upcoming movie, The Ground Beneath Our Feet here: <https://www.instagram.com/thegroundbeneathmovie/>



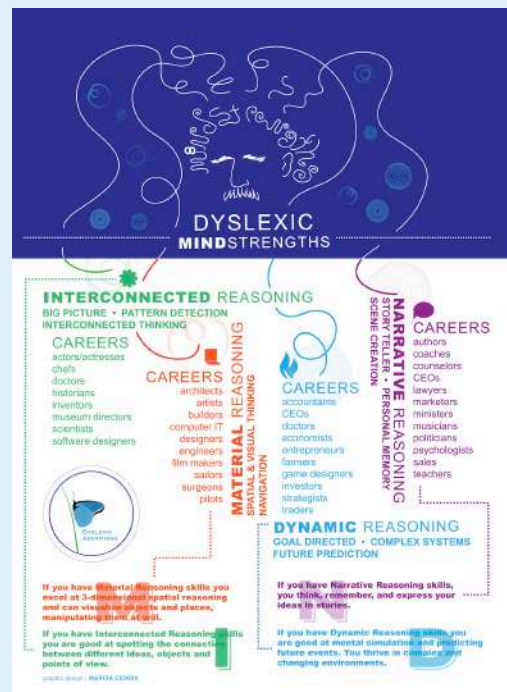
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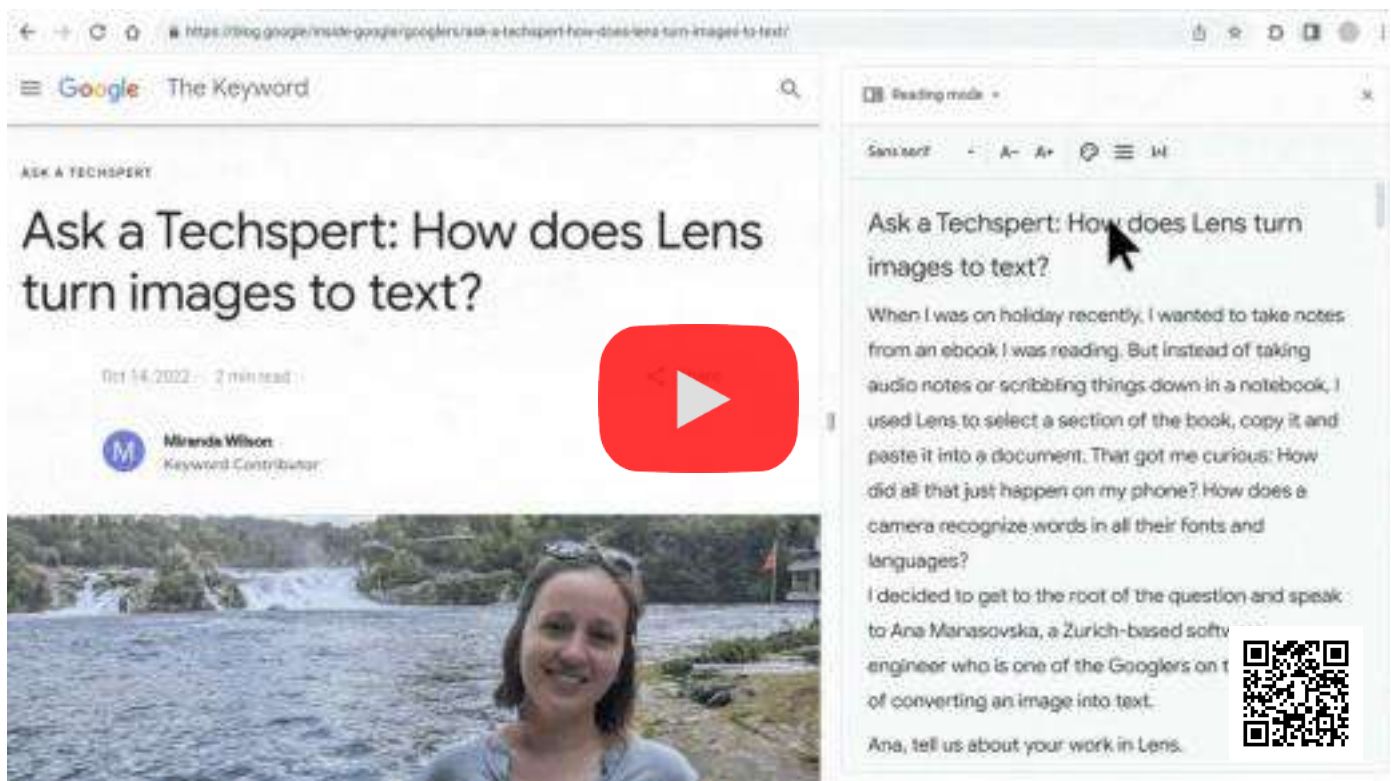


Dyslexic Advantage & Seattle Pacific University

READING MODE: HOW TO MAKE WEB PAGES EASIER TO READ

Do you find it easier to read webpages that aren't cluttered? If so, you're not alone. Popups and even photos can be distracting. Many browser reading modes offer customizations like font size, color, and sometimes character and line spacing. Typically, many dyslexic children and adults prefer slight increases in default font size, slight increases in character spacing, and double line spacing between paragraphs.

After having their Reader Mode hidden for years, Google launched it officially in March, making it available on Google Chrome and Chromebooks. Here is how it works:





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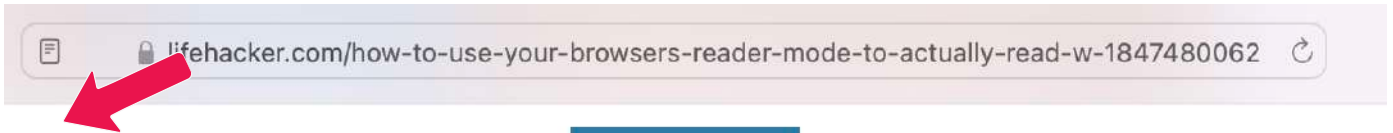
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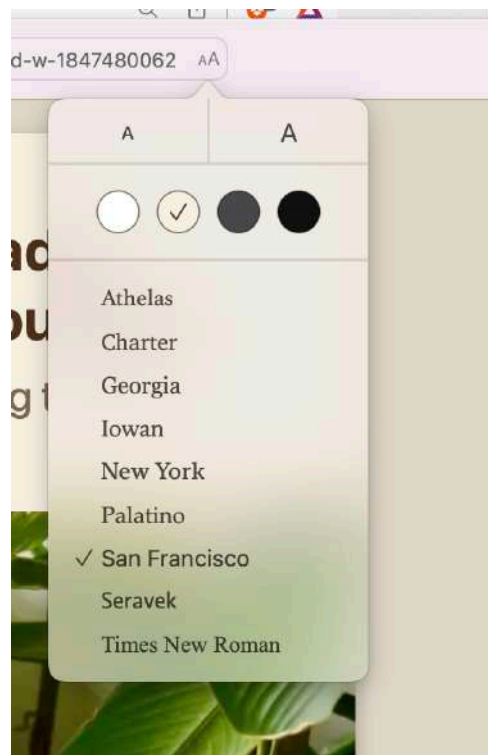
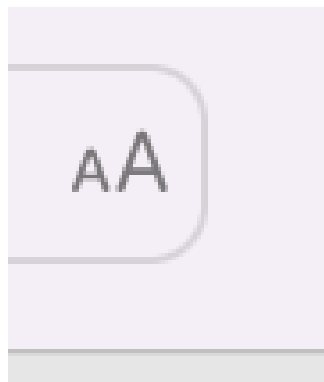
TECHNOLOGY

Lifehacker has a helpful article on [How to use Reader View](#) for how to access Reader View on Safari, Firefox, and Microsoft's Immersive Reader.

For example, on Safari, there is a tiny page icon near the URL or web address or link area.



If you click on that, it will open up a tiny AA to the right of the web address and it's there you can adjust font size, font, and background color. Once you set it, it your preferences will always be shown on Reader Mode.



If you thought there was a separate app or extension to declutter like this - there are - the preferences were so popular that companies started including as part of their standard browsers...they just may be a little difficult to find if you don't know about them.



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National Center for Learning Disabilities, the International Dyslexia Association have evaluated the Sonday System(r) and deemed that the program contained the required elements for teaching reading identified by the Nation Reading Panel.

ART SHARE WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to our
ArtShare Winners of 2023!

LEIOLA, 13 CALIFORNIA

I am a skateboarder and make animations of my skate friends. I started making clay figures of them, and needed a pool for them to skate in and made a replica of our home park. I decided to make a mini documentary about our group and called it The Newark Sesh! It took over a year to make the armatures and pool, video recording my friends, interviews and animating and editing.



Check out Leiola's skateboarding animations in this short video.

A longer video can be watched here:
<https://youtu.be/8YDtfbZEVdQ>

Wow what a talented animator, skateboarder, and artist! Congrats Leiola!



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Michelle Lucas, M.Ed., AT



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ART SHARE

DANNY, 9 MASSACHUSETTS

Danny loves Legos, he has been building detailed creations since early on. He is running out of space in this picture on his dresser of some of his Lego creations which he calls "The New World". Danny was diagnosed with dyslexia in 1st grade; undoubtedly he has many special gifts attributed to this challenging but exciting difference in learning.



He has many special art creations we have enjoyed. He was selected to display his picture of the tiger at an art show at his school, which he calls "The Great Mountain of the Tiger".



He also was recognized at his school for his donut multimedia painting he calls "Donut World". The later two have turned into his Dad's favorite coffee mugs.



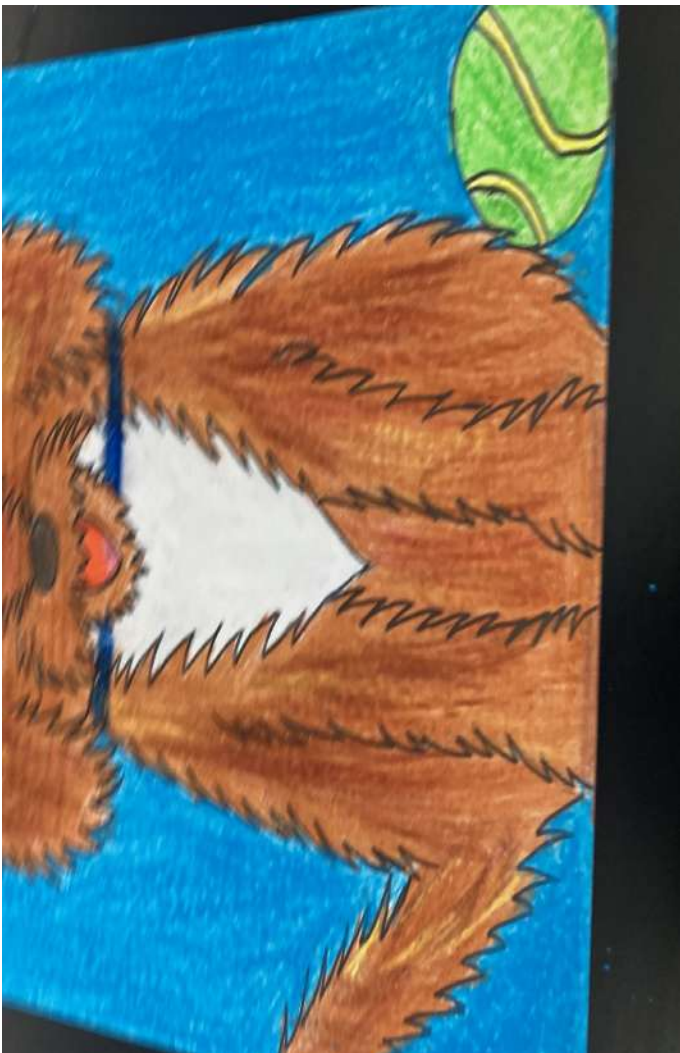
ART SHARE

ANYA, 16
CALIFORNIA

Buttercup: Before and After Scratch Art

Buttercup was my first puppy, and she always makes me happy. I created scratch art from a photo of her. First I drew her in original colors and then I painted over her with black, and finally I used scratch art techniques with a scraper tool to create the design. I have attached the before and after.

I hope you enjoy this scratch art design of Buttercup.



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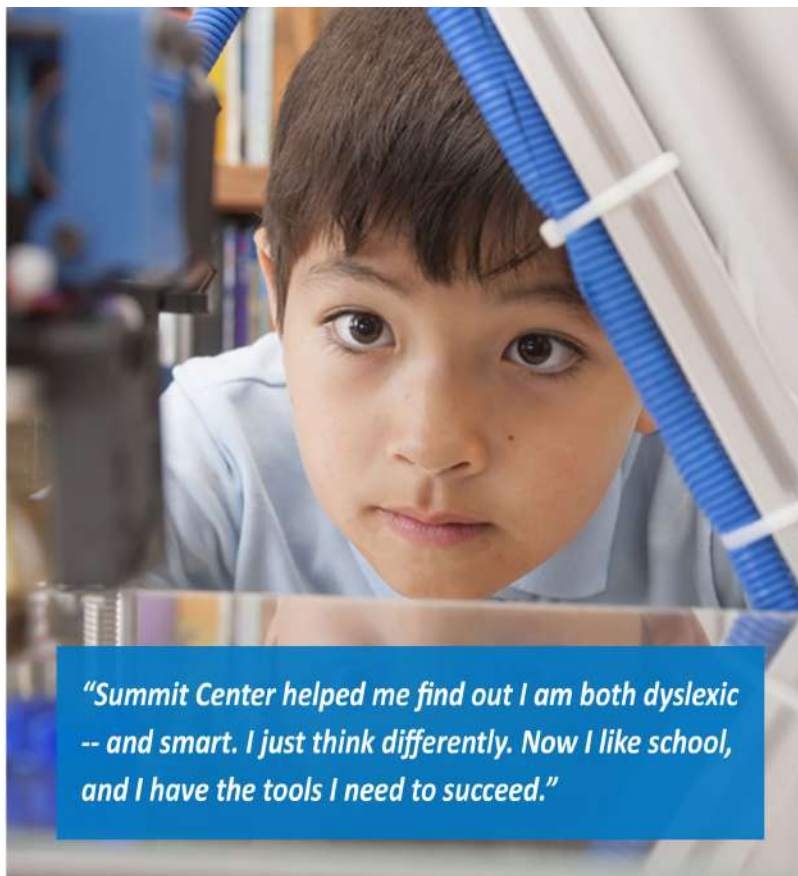
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"Summit Center helped me find out I am both dyslexic -- and smart. I just think differently. Now I like school, and I have the tools I need to succeed."

ART SHARE


CAMILLE, 17
CALIFORNIA

Untitled

the effects of
remote learning



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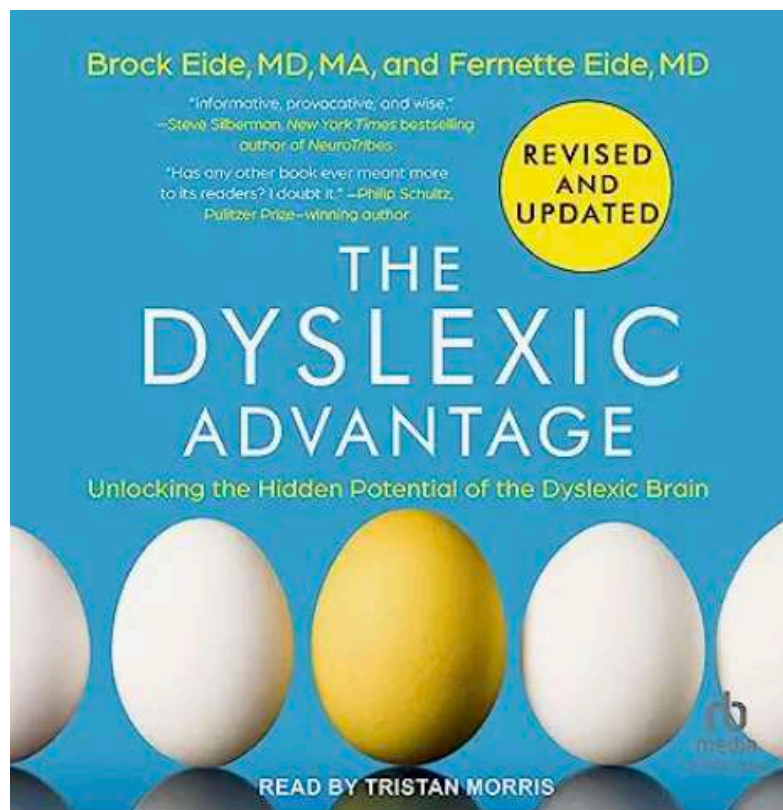
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helped me understand how
my child communicates,
listens and thinks."

—A. VAN METER,
AMAZON REVIEWER



"Dyslexia has really helped me with storytelling..."

Lauren Havel, award-winning filmmaker of **Not Broken**, **Screened In**, and **I Hate Kate** (Anti-Bullying Film). She is currently filming her third feature film, **The Ground Beneath Our Feet**