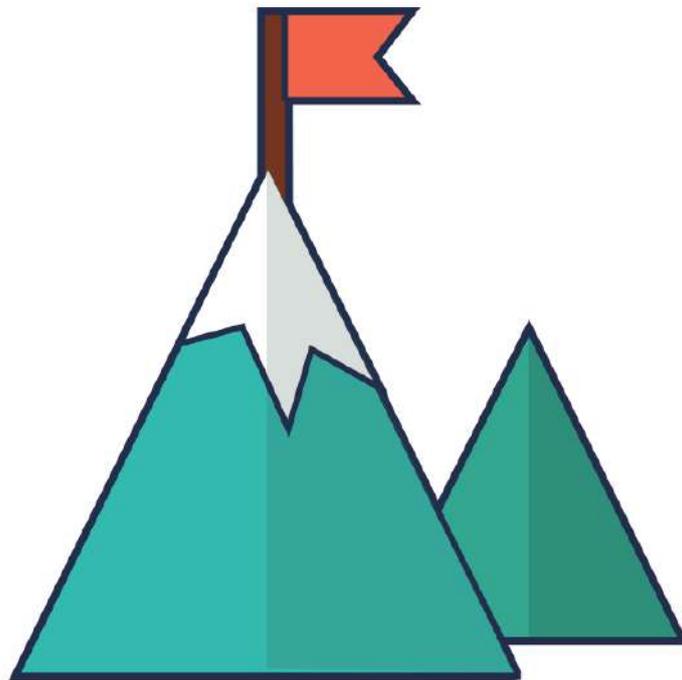


# Dyslexic Advantage

## NEWSLETTER

You can do this.



PLANNING FOR DYSLEXIA DURING A PANDEMIC

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- SCHOOLING FROM HOME
- COMMUNITY
- GETTING HOOKED ON BOOKS
- DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM MICHELLE OLLIE AND COCO FOX
- DYSLEXIA NEWS



Fernette Eide MD,  
Editor

DOWNLOAD THIS  
NEWSLETTER **HERE**.

Dear Friends,

Hang in there! Lots in this issue to be inspired and to help with the changes in education. We also have exciting news for potential homeschoolers; we're launching a new online course for parents planning to homeschool their students with dyslexia. You don't have to go it alone. Find out more **HERE**.

Stay Well!

- Fernette

Visit our wonderful sponsors: **Winsor Learning / Sunday System All About Learning (Reading & Spelling), Summit Center, Churchill Center & School, Touch-type, Read & Spell, Recite Me, and The Writers Studio.**



We're happy to announce that our partner **NEUROLEARNING** has launched their iPad-based Dyslexia app for adults and ages 7 & up! The app provides a dyslexia score as well as a report with weak areas and strengths. 3% of profits are donated to Dyslexic Advantage.

Thank you to volunteers Trish Seres, Dayna Russell Freudenthal, Michelle Williams, and Shelley Wear for their tireless proofing and feedback. Thank you Lady Grace Belarmino for her beautiful design work and admin support by Sarah Macapobre.

**GO PREMIUM**

Editors' Note: to ensure that our dyslexic members are able to read our publication without difficulty, our editorial policy is to avoid the use of fonts or typefaces, such as italics, that can impede readability.

If you're reading a print copy of this issue, you can find the digital copy with all the interactive features here: <https://joom.ag/0q4C>



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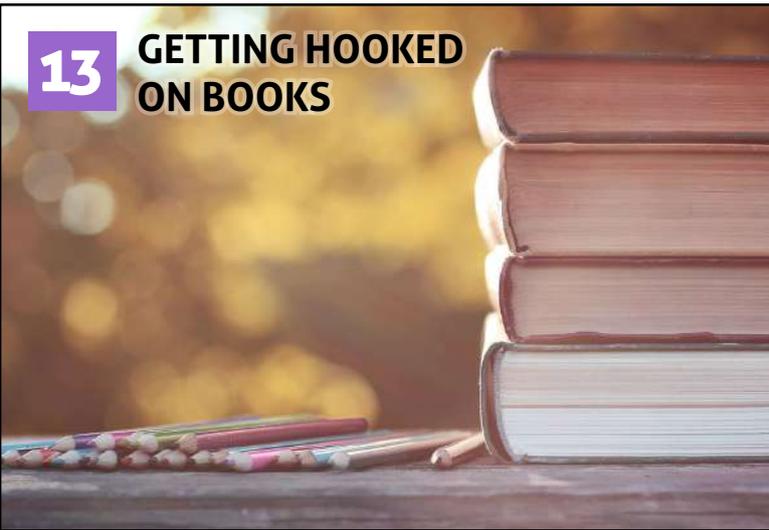
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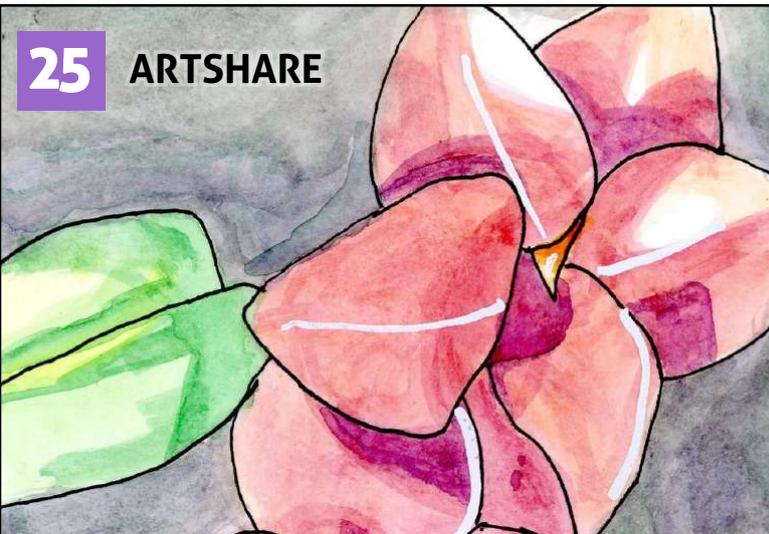
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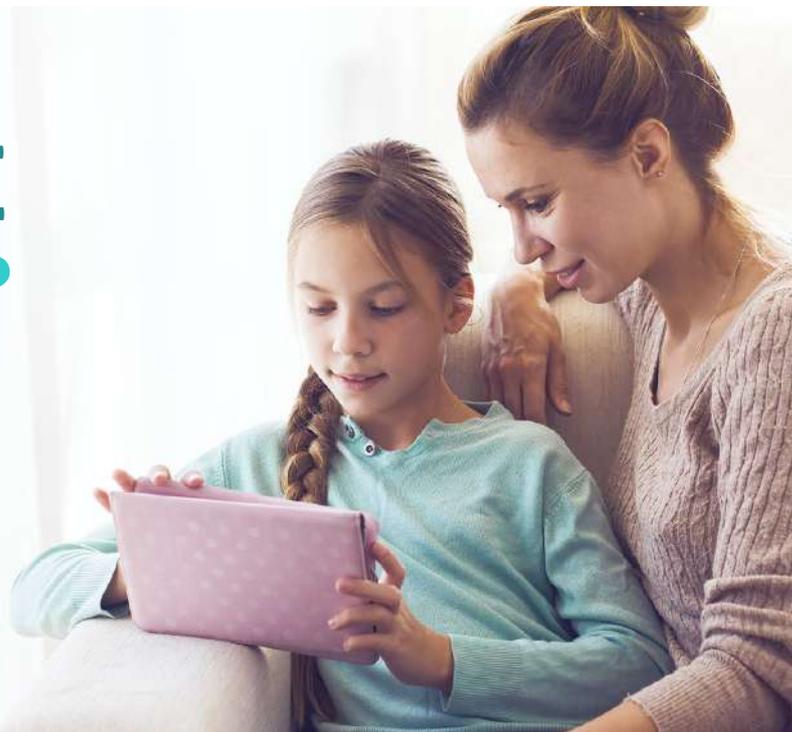


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## DYSLEXIA NEWS



# SCHOOLING FROM HOME CAN YOU DO IT? ...YES!



Like it or not, when Fall rolls around, many of us may need to school from home whether it's our first choice or not.

What if your student is dyslexic? Can it possibly work?

There are a lot of people who can't see schooling from home working for their student, but what I can tell you is that over the years, Brock and I have seen every type of schooling for every type of student and when there's a will, there's a way.

## **THERE IS NO ONE-SIZE FITS ALL**

Schooling from home doesn't have to mean mom and dad at the kitchen table with a little chalkboard.

Parents can work from home and also have their children fully educated. You don't have to replicate an entire school day at home. Many parents are surprised how much shorter the direct education time takes for students at home. What school looks like can differ dramatically between students, but almost every homeschooling parent we ever talked to said they were surprised how little time it took to school them - and also with so much less stress.

If school was a stressful experience for your student, you may see their old selves return again.

How many hours did it take? That depends. My recall was that it was usually a few hours a day - with the time broken up into smaller parts and a mix of online activities as well as one-on-one time.

One upside of homeschooling is the ability to tailor the time of certain subjects to the student rather than the other way round.

You also don't need to cover every subject every day. I think we did math 2-3 times per week and we did online math for both kids, although we tried a variety of programs until we found a good match for our kids.

## DIFFERENT GOALS FOR DIFFERENT STUDENTS

Even if you decided to homeschool for the coming year, you can have very different goals for each child. Would you like to homeschool one child to allow him to intensively remediate in reading? Or do you have plans to remote school just until the pandemic and pandemic policies seem to be under better control?

If you plan to school from home only one year, you might want to be in touch with your local school to see if they might share their curriculum so that rejoining (if you want to) would be a smoother process in a year.

If you're opening to homeschooling for more than a year, you have more flexibility for school planning. Some parents choose interest-based unschooling with the idea that reading, writing, and math will somehow be worked in. Others may instead put the focus on reading, writing, and math, and work interests and perhaps documentary watching into time left over.

Many public schools have distance learning programs that allow parents access to a teacher who will supervise your student's plan, but also free resources, including books, curricula, software, and extracurriculars free to families and paid for by federal student funds. Many private schools (including those specifically for dyslexia) may also have homeschool programs in which students receive specialist teacher time once or several times per week.



---

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## EDUCATION

### WHAT ABOUT MOM, DAD, OR ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER BECOMING AN ORTON-GILLINGHAM TUTOR?

As almost anyone in this field knows, some of the most talented tutors and curriculum creators in this field have a personal connection to dyslexia, whether it was their child, grandchild, niece, or nephew...and the field is much richer for it.

If your student needs intensive remediation through a comprehensive structured literacy program, a few months or year of focused remediation could significantly improve their decoding abilities and set them on a better path whenever they return to school.

Because of the pandemic, all of the curriculum providers have had to provide more resources and support for parents, teachers, and tutors who are adopting their curricula. Some programs (like [Sunday All About Learning](#) or [Barton](#)) have extensive support resources like videos to help parents or other non-professionals know how to present lessons. Other programs, like [LIPS](#) or [Wilson](#) require more teacher prep, but remote tutors can be arranged from private schools for dyslexia like [Churchill Center and School](#) or the curriculum providers themselves.

Sometimes parents may want to try and tackle the remediation process themselves, especially if sessions are short and instructions straightforward. Most curricula have introductory lessons on line so that families can tryout different programs and see how easy or hard they may be to work for them.

Because students know all routines have been upset because of the pandemic, pivoting students to a new plan also doesn't have the associated baggage such as being taken out of school or held back because of "failure."



## WHAT ABOUT THE OLDER GRADES OR PRE-COLLEGE YEARS?

In many respects, homeschooling older students can be easier, not harder. Older students can be more independent with their studies and now it's possible to have a great more flexibility in what classes get scheduled and over what period of time.

Dyslexic students often have higher conceptual abilities than output speed. The gaps narrow over time, but through much of K-12, a large gap exists. As a result, for some students - letting them pursue more advanced classes in area of interest - especially if there are fewer other classes at the same time or lower output demands (written work, papers) can give students more confidence in their intellectual abilities at a time that is some important for them thinking about what their career future holds for them.

In junior high, we know of many students who homeschooled by taking 1-2 online advanced classes at one time. They could immerse themselves in one subject, learn academic writing at the same time, gaining confidence in their abilities without becoming overloaded. Taking the classes for credit can also help them if they choose to later rejoin a traditional in-class school.

For the high school years, parents and students may become more anxious that they should return to traditional schooling, but often those who resist the pull find things better outside of traditional K-12 rather than worse. Middle school can become a torture for some students, as an impossible amount of work assigned, social pressures and bullying take their toll. This is also a period were teen brains reorganize and many systems may be in flux; having more time and grace to 'get things together' can be a gift. Many students do get things together in upper middle school, so that if they want return to brick and mortar schools in high school, the timing may be ripe.

Many homeschooling students choose to return in high school with the intention of transitioning back to traditional brick and mortar schools for sports, extracurricular and social reasons, and even the idea that high school may be "pre-college." Some transition smoothly, while others may not. If problems with the transition happen, often difficulties arise with over-ambitious courseloads, inconsistent or denied accommodations, and unrealistic course expectations.

Some students find a better match taking some community college classes instead of high school. At the community college level, there are more student supports, often a designated LD support office and free or low cost tutors. Students can also take advantage of the high school years to acquire college credits - through community college classes, CLEP multiple choice exams, or AP exams.

There were so many variations on everything that we saw in education over the years we were in practice; not everything worked that was tried, but with time, all of the families we worked with found a plan that really worked for their students, and today its a beautiful thing to see them happy and successful in paths that they chose for themselves.



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**Q: We would like to homeschool our son for the coming school year, but I would have to be the teaching parent and I'm dyslexic. Is this unrealistic or a bad idea? What advice do you have?**

**A. Yes, it's still possible to homeschool, but as you might have anticipated, you can have additional challenges.**

Have we known parents who have successfully homeschooled their children even though they shared dyslexia? Yes. In fact we even know parents who pursued advanced degrees in higher education and developed their own curricula while also teaching their children. If there's a will, there's a way.

If you are now a fluent or semi-fluent reader, you can become your child's teacher, but it would be best to choose a curriculum with good teacher supports, including video or phone resources.

In some instances, you may have an advantage in understanding what your child or children find difficult; but there may also be added challenges depending on whether you have persisting perceptual difficulties - like hearing certain quick sounds.

That said, over the years, we have known so many adult dyslexics who learned to become great teachers of their children - and then when their children were out and grown - developed successful practices tutoring others.

Many parents think they couldn't possibly school their kids, but then are pleasantly surprised when lessons are short (for instance 20 minutes at a time) and well-planned out, the demands are not so impossible. Multisensory learning also involves a significant amount of student activity, so it's not as if you have to figure out what to teach and be at a chalkboard several hours a day.

There may be other reasons why you don't want to be the primary teaching

parent for your children; sometimes it can introduce tension between you and your child, for instance, or some other reason. Often there is more worry about that happening, than the problem itself, though. Especially if students struggled at school, the work assigned at home is not nearly as bad.

Now when I think of all the obstacles confronting homeschooling your kids, I'm reminded of former neurosurgeon Ben Carson and the story he told about his mom. When she decided she wanted to "afterschool" her kids so that they would get better reading, she insisted that they write a book report every week and then give it to her for her approval. She would check off sections and nod her head in approval. He credited having to do all that extra work (and also going to the library) with helping improve his reading and eventually his grades in school. Only years later after he had graduated college and medical school did he discover his mother couldn't read!

If you feel as if you won't be able to lead the teaching of your kids in reading or writing, you can hire outside tutors or teachers in these areas. Many public and private schools which may have remote tutoring by trained teachers and tutors plan to offer these options given all the upcoming uncertainty with COVID in the fall. The public school system may do this as part of their homeschool programs that allow them to offer some services and also collect public funding for that student. You can **contact us** to see if we have a listing for a tutor in your area or listings of tutors who work remotely, or call your school or dyslexia specialist school.

Over the years, we also know of many parents who contacted teachers who had worked with their child in a previous grade, and asked if they might be willing to tutor their child.

Also keep in mind, it is perfectly fine to make the focus of a homeschool year reading or writing or study skills and assistive technology in general. It would be helpful if you could include some math because learning in that area is incremental; but don't worry about content for one school year.

Most content is repeated again and can be more quickly mastered if reading and writing foundations are solid.

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

# BREAKTHROUGH BOOKS: GETTING **HOOKED** ON BOOKS

Do you remember the book or books that got you hooked on reading?

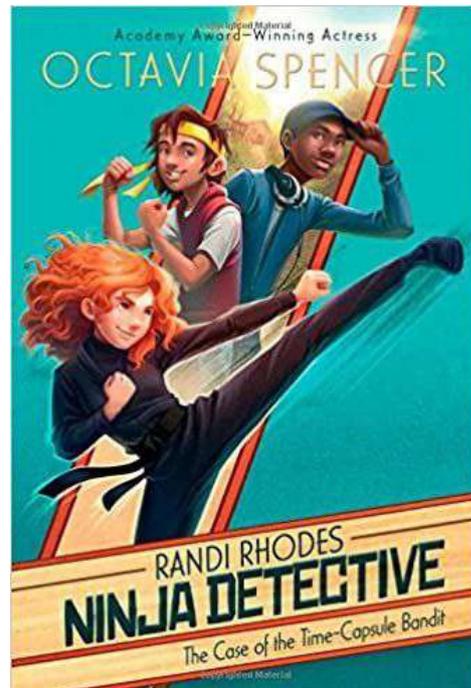
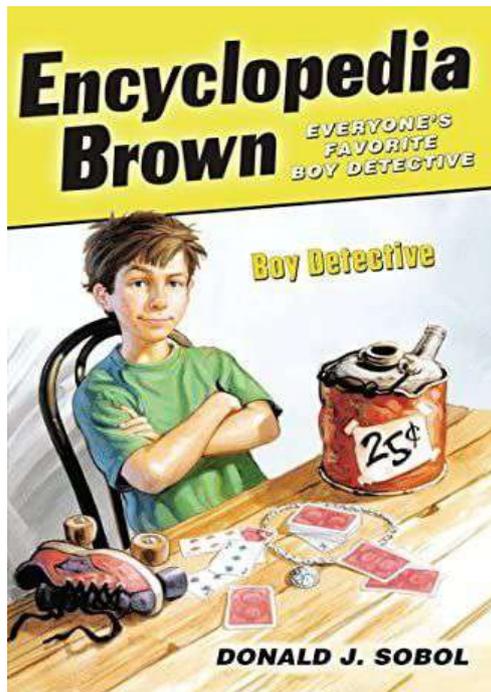
It's not always what you might expect.

Academy Award winning actress Octavia Spencer says the only reason why she's able to read today is that she got hooked on [Encyclopedia Brown](#) books. Those books were also a great in our house growing up. Each story is only a few pages long, and readers have to solve some mystery or minor crime based on the clues and evidence that the boy detective or a member of his team discovers.

Octavia has now written her own detective stories, [Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective!](#)



Octavia Spencer  
Photo by [Bart Ryker](#).



# Identify Learning Needs with Remote Assessments

assessment | consultation | counseling

Summit Center specializes in helping students with diverse learning profiles and differences -- including kids who are dyslexic, gifted or both -- also known as twice exceptional. We now offer virtual testing, so we can test your child through the computer in the comfort of your own home. We evaluate strengths and challenges, and offer specific strategies and recommendations to maximize potential. We also offer remote counseling and consultation for anyone who needs added support.



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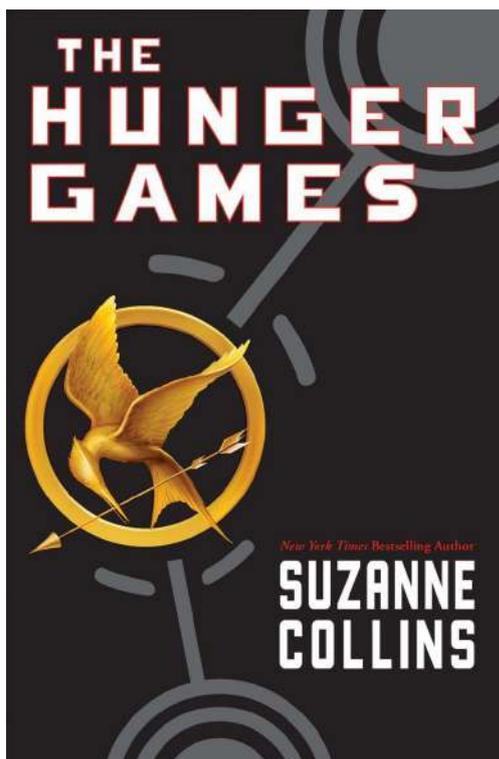
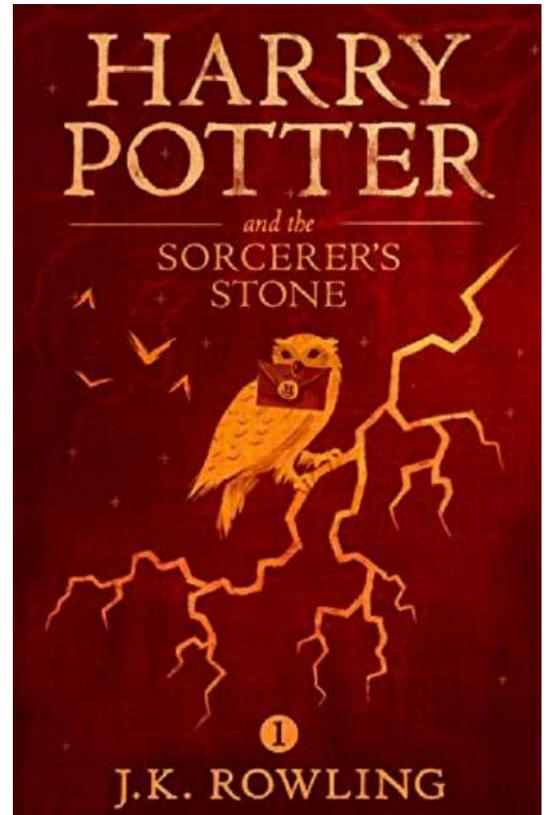
*"Once I read Summit Center's report, I finally understood why my son was so frustrated. We made the changes he needed, and everything is better now. Thank you!"*

## READING

For many, fantasy books like Harry Potter, Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief, or The Hunger Games are books that really got them reading for fun.

**Harry Potter** is free on the Kindle App, and readers can customize the reading (larger font, more character spacing, fewer words at a time etc.) for less strain on the eyes.

Of course the authors of these books have lots of subsequent works, but if you have an older student who hasn't yet gotten hooked on reading, it might be an idea to tap some of these very popular books.



## READING

Our daughter's breakthrough books were books in Geronimo Stilton series. These were first books she looked forward to reading on her own and I think the silly humor, playful fonts and pictures all hooked her. Our library always had loads of these books. They are up to book 77 now and even have several longer hardcovers. You won't run out.

Series books, comic books, and graphic novels with recurring characters are popular ways for hook kids (and yes grown ups) into reading.

Some other favorites that have stood the test of time.... **Magic Treehouse** books, **Nancy Drew** and **Hardy Boys**, **Calvin and Hobbes**, **Diary of a Wimpy Kid**, **Hank the Cow Dog**, **Freddy the Pig**, **Little House on a Prairie**.

Don't forget that the free Libby App from the public library can help you borrow kids books free that can be read on a mobile device.

For more hookable books:

[What Book Got You Hooked? \(GoodReads\)](#)

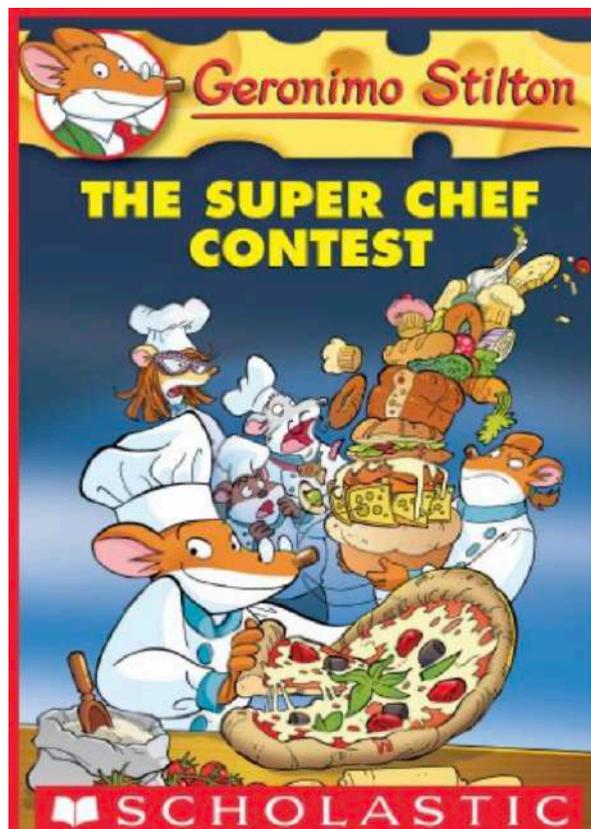
[Best Book Series for 5th Graders](#)

[11 Children's Book Authors with Dyslexia](#)

BANG, BANG,  
BANG . . . BANG!

It was a **BEAUTIFUL** morning. The first rays of the **SUN** peeked through my curtains, warming the blankets on my cozy bed. I was tucked in **peacefully**, the covers pulled up, snoring like a hibernating dormouse.

Oops! I always forget to introduce myself: My name is Stilton, *Geronimo Stilton*.



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# DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM MICHELLE OLLIE AND COCO FOX



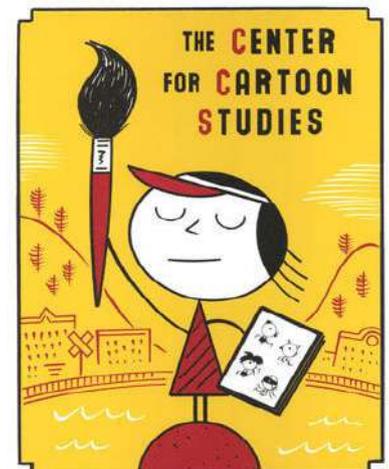
**"My dad noticed I was reading the comics with no trouble. Soon there were comic books in the house and I was writing and drawing stories of my own. Instead of shame, I felt empowered." - Michelle**

Michelle Ollie is a cartoonist and co-founder of **The Center for Cartoon Studies** in Vermont.

She shared her personal journey with dyslexia and comics [HERE](#) (excerpts on following pages). Today she runs an MFA and certificate program for cartooning. The program gives young artists to focus their work on drawing sequential art and working closely with professional mentors.

Today cartooning and animation are 250 billion dollar industries, and cartoonists find their jobs in areas such as comics, editorial work, advertising, sports, children's books, or animated movies.

I had a chance to talk with Michelle and learn more about her center and personal career:





*I was once a confident kid.  
Now my parents and teachers thought me  
a lost cause. I felt ashamed.*

*The only time reading was pleasurable was when my  
father and I read the paper together on Sunday mornings.*



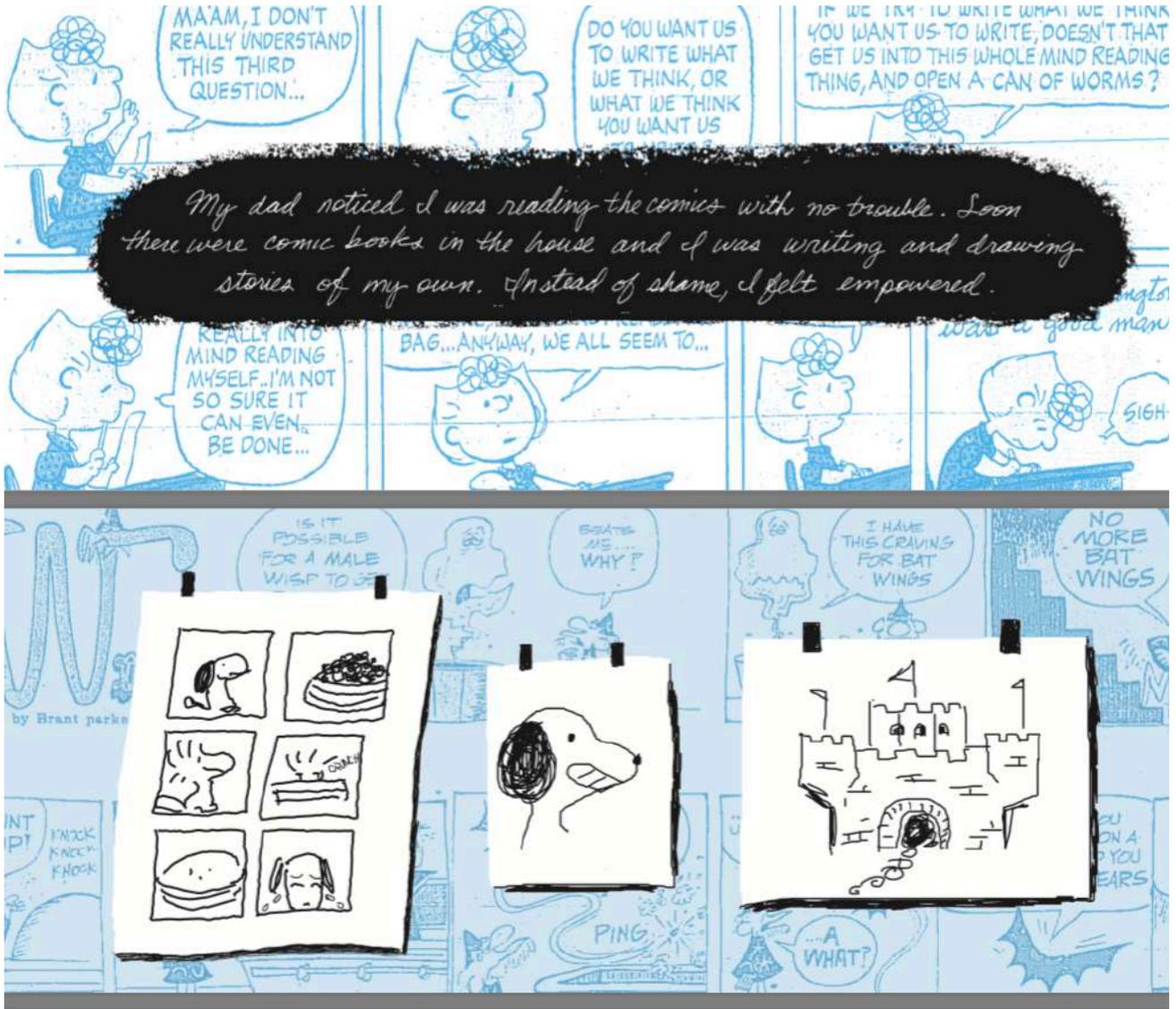
*He'd read the news.  
I'd read the comics.*



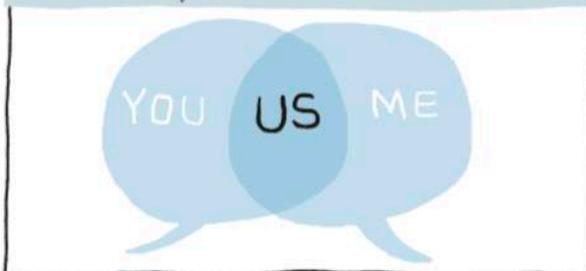
*I started connecting the drawings to words.*

Read Michelle's entire comic [HERE](#).

## INSPIRATION



For CCS students, cartooning is not only a vehicle for self-expression, but a sense-making tool that helps them deepen their understanding of themselves and the world.



Over the years, I've seen the profound impact reading and making comics can have on children in the classroom and veterans returning from combat —



Read Michelle's entire comic [HERE](#).

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## INSPIRATION



## Dogs WITH JOBS

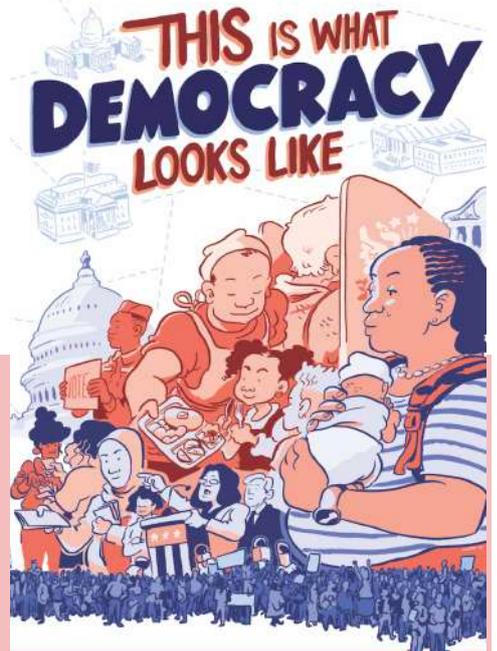


Coco Fox

Coco Fox is a second year student at Michelle's Center for Cartoon Studies. She shared Michelle's comic with her 14 year old niece who has having school challenges because of her dyslexia and she was moved by Michelle's comic.

She shared a graphic novel with her ([The Prince and the Dressmaker](#)) and she was amazed how easy it was to read. Unlike dense texts, she could "just read" and enjoy the story. From that moment on, she was hooked on reading.

Other projects Coco has been involved with includes Dog with Jobs and a group project, This is What Democracy Looks Like. You can see more of her work at [MediumWeird.com](#) and get a free (or donate) copy of the democracy comic on [Gumroad](#).



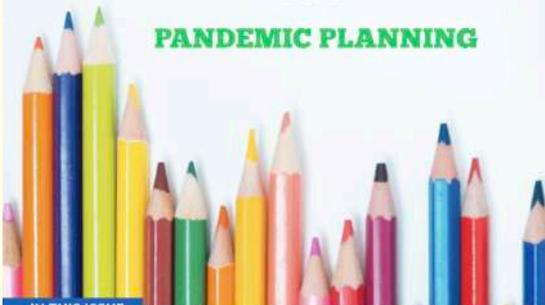
# PREMIUM



PREMIUM ISSUE FIFTY-FIVE JULY 2020  
**Dyslexic Advantage**  
PREMIUM MAGAZINE

## UPCOMING ISSUE

WHAT TO DO NEXT..  
**PANDEMIC PLANNING**



IN THIS ISSUE:

- THE WRITING PROCESS FROM A UNIVERSITY TUTOR
- TACKLING EMAIL
- EVERYONE A MAKER
- MULTISENSORY SCIENCE
- DYSLEXIA and MATH

- WHAT TO DO: PANDEMIC PLANNING
- THE WRITING PROCESS
- MULTISENSORY SCIENCE
- TACKLING EMAIL
- EVERYONE A MAKER
- DYSLEXIA AND MATH

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*"I am an Educational and Dyslexia Specialist, and most of my work is with struggling readers. I can't tell you how helpful Neurolearning's Dyslexia Screening Test App has been in providing me and parents with information on students. The app is simple to use, and the reports are filled with helpful information in areas of weakness or strength, recommended accommodations, and "next steps" to take in helping the student. I'm very excited this app is now available, and I have no doubt I will continue to use it in my work."*

Michelle Lucas, M.Ed., AT



**Neurolearning.com**

# DYSLEXIA FOR TEACHERS ONLINE



CLOCK HOURS &  
GRADUATE CREDITS

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CREDITS AT HOME!



## Identify Learning Needs with Remote Assessments

assessment | consultation | counseling

Summit Center specializes in helping students with diverse learning profiles and differences -- including kids who are gifted, dyslexic, or both -- also known as twice exceptional. We now offer virtual testing, so we can test your child through the computer in the comfort of your own home. We also offer remote counseling and consultation, for anyone who needs added support while schools and other services are disrupted.



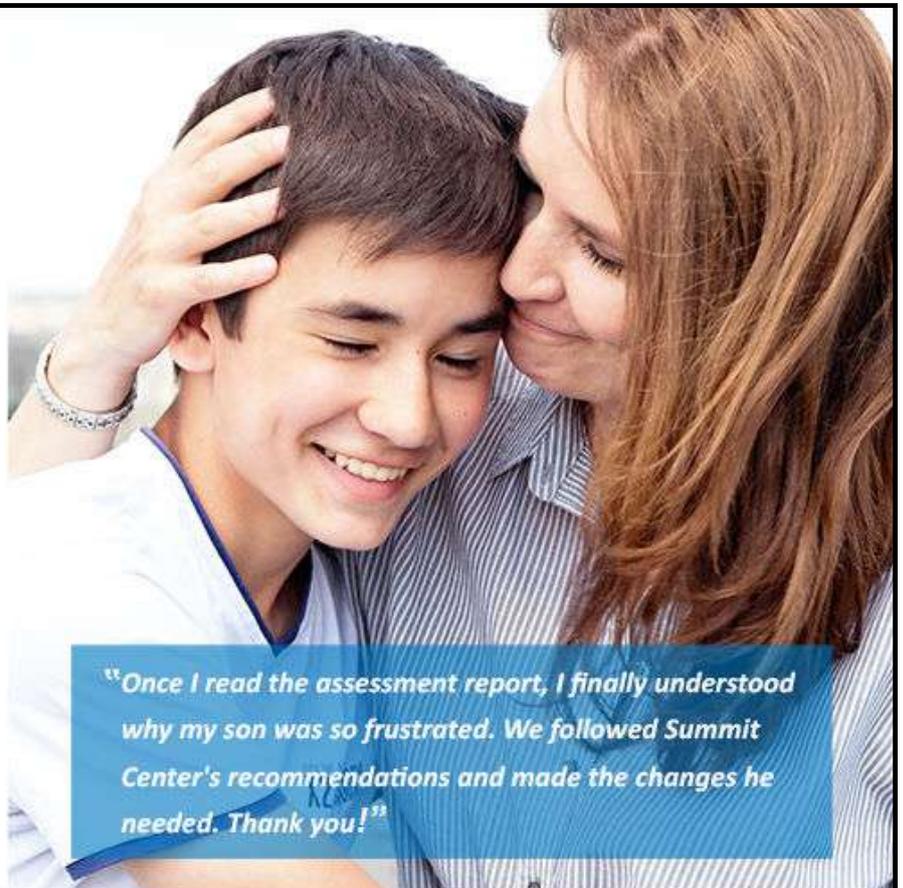
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*"Once I read the assessment report, I finally understood why my son was so frustrated. We followed Summit Center's recommendations and made the changes he needed. Thank you!"*

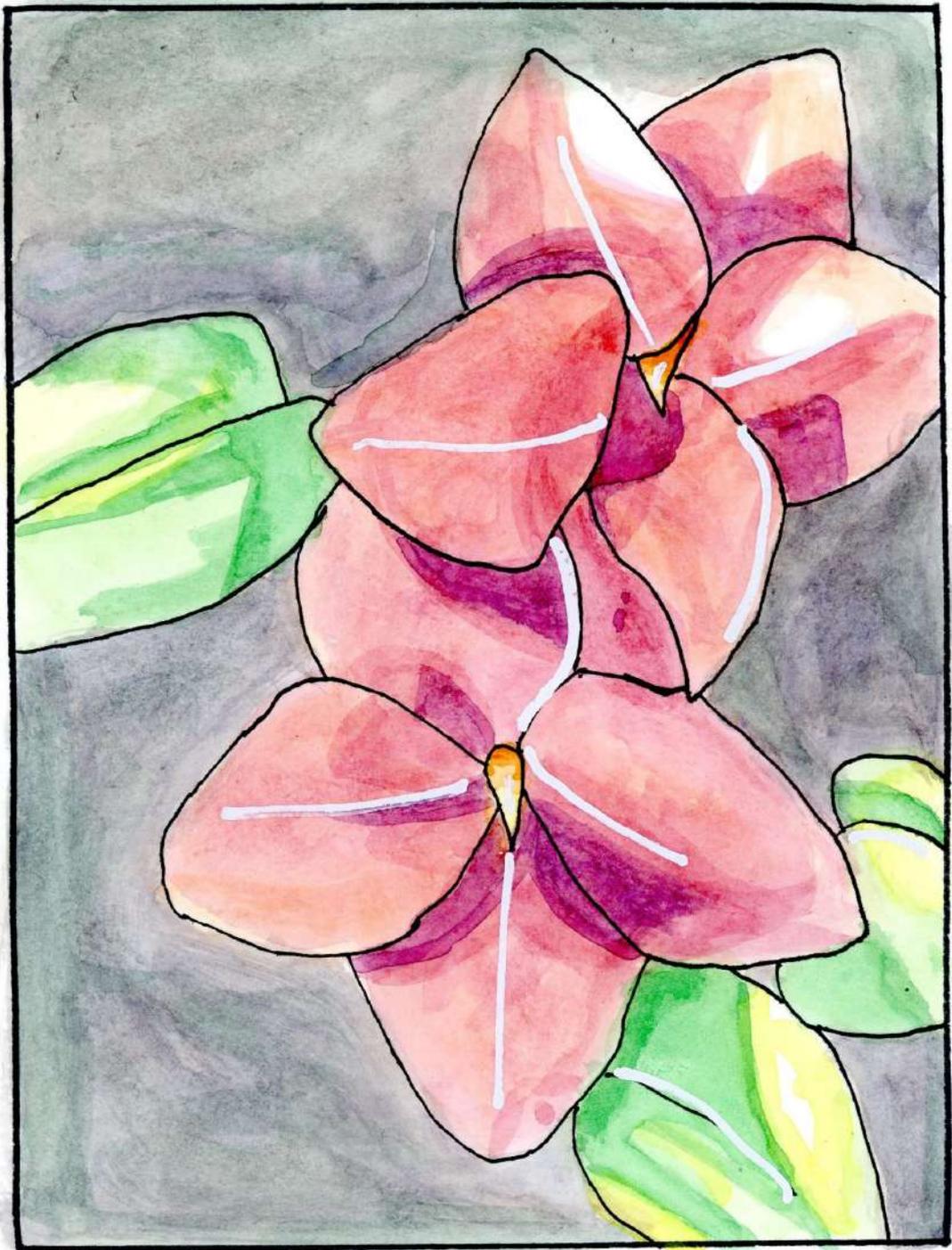


**Alexis, 13.**

Merrimack Middle  
School, New Hampshire.

Alexis created this artwork as a thank-you to the Dyslexia Center where she is tutored. The center put together a book of thank you letters from students and parents, and this was for the cover.

Alexis dreams of becoming a professional artist and has an Instagram page:  
[Art du Poisson](#)



**Nicky, 12.** Tierra Bonita Elementary.  
California. Plumeria.



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What Good Remediation Looks Like

- » Evidence-Based Strategies that Work
- » Ways to Support with Accommodations
- » Gifted, ELL, Social Emotional & more!

CLOCK HOURS & GRADUATE CREDITS



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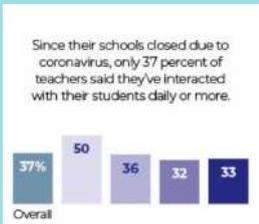


**Leila, 15.**

Australia.

Eyes are Widest  
at Midnight.

A woman unable  
to sleep because  
of a combination  
of all the worries  
and anxiety that  
come with  
dyslexia and all  
the ideas growing  
in her mind.

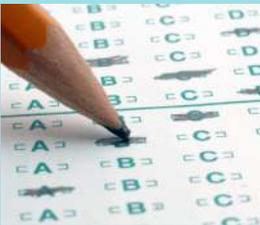


## Students are Getting Less Instruction During Coronavirus Education Week



## Experts Warn 'Quaranteams' May Be Risky Trend

CT Post



## SAT and ACT May Never Regain Role in College Admissions

Bloomberg

DYSLEXIA RESOURCES  
COVID-19



## Dyslexia and Covid-19 Resources

Dyslexic Advantage



## Back to School? 1 in 5 Teachers Unlikely to Return This Fall

USA Today



## Remote Learning for Students with Dyslexia

University of Michigan Help



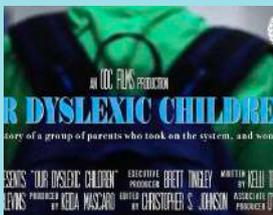
## We Turned Our Soul Crushing Struggles Into Super Powers

Daily Mail



## Remote Learning and Dyslexia - Certify Your Students for free Ebooks and Discounted Audiobooks

Dyslexic Advantage



## Our Dyslexic Children World Premiere

YouTube



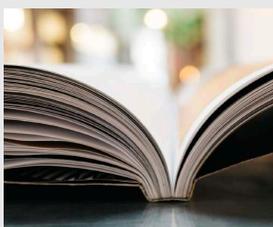
## For Some Students with Learning Disabilities, Distance Learning a Disappointment

Minnesota Post



## Charles Schwab on Comic Books Helping Him Overcome Dyslexia

YouTube Bloomberg Markets



## It was hard being a dyslexia mom before Coronavirus and Now it's even harder

Education Post



Share your suggestions  
for future issues.

Young artists, share  
your artwork for our  
Artshares  
[HERE..](#)

Young artists here in  
the US will receive a  
small gift made by a  
fellow dyslexic creator!



because they are lifelong learnings.



Princess Beatrice talks about her dyslexia.

