

# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

## Reading And Writing Solutions

### 1. TEXT AND SCREEN READERS

### 2. E-TEXT OPTIONS

**Digital Sources** The Internet is another resource for stories and books for elementary students. Some sites offer stories at various reading levels to download. Some of them are "classics" or well-known books; others can be found only online. These texts can be read aloud with a screen reader or by importing them (with copy and paste commands) into talking word processing programs.

- **Alex: A Catalog of Electronic Texts on the Internet**  
<http://www.infomotions.com/alex/>  
Catalogue with roughly 2,000 entries of e-texts, mostly on gopher servers
- **American Library Association Great Sites**  
<http://www.ala.org/parentspage/greatsites/litw.html> (black & white version)  
<http://www.ala.org/parentspage/greatsites/lit.html> (color version)  
Comprehensive list of links to literature and language Web sites for children
- **Bartleby Online**  
<http://www.bartleby.com/>  
Includes American heritage Reference Collection, encyclopedias, dictionaries, Roget Thesaurus, Quotations, etc.
- **Books-Online**  
<http://www.books-on-line.com/>
- **Children's Literature Web Guide (University of Calgary)**  
<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/>  
Internet resources related to books for children and young adults
- **Classics for Young People**  
<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/storclas.html>
- **Comic Books Online (Disney)**  
[http://www.go.com/Center/Kids/Literature/Comic books for kids](http://www.go.com/Center/Kids/Literature/Comic%20books%20for%20kids)
- **Electric Library**  
<http://www.elibrary.com>

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On-line research database containing: newspaper and magazine articles; works of literature; television, radio, and government transcripts; and reference materials such as an encyclopedia, a dictionary, and a thesaurus

- **The Electronic Text Center**  
<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/english.html>  
An extensive listing of prose and poetry e-text available for downloading
- **Electronic Texts Journals Newsletters Magazines and Collections**  
<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/eresources>  
On-line listings of sources of e-text of collected works, magazines, newsletters, and scholarly journals
- **Etext Archive**  
<http://www.etext.org/>  
Eclectic subject matter available to download as e-text
- **Great Literature Online**  
<http://www.underthesun.cc/Classics/>
- **Internet Public Library**  
<http://www.ipl.org/>  
Links to picture books, short stories, poetry, myths, fables, magazines, and information about authors
- **Kids Domain**  
<http://www.kidsdomain.com/down/>
- **KidPub WWW Publishing**  
<http://www.kidpub.org/kidpub/>  
Thousands of stories written by children all around the world
- **Literature Online from Chadwyck**  
<http://lion.chadwyck.com/>  
A fully searchable library of over 250,000 works of English and American literature
- **On-Line Books Page**  
<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/books/>  
Directory of sources for over 6000 on-line books
- **Project Gutenberg**  
<http://www.promo.net/pg/>  
<http://www.gutenberg.net/>  
Light literature (such as Alice in Wonderland, Peter Pan, or Aesop's Fables), heavy literature (such as Moby Dick or Paradise Lost), and

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references (such as almanacs, encyclopedias, or dictionaries) in downloadable formats

- **Traditional Stories Online**

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/tradelec.htm>

- **Weller Media Products**

<http://dlcwest.com/~wmp/Books.html>

Directory of electronic books

### **CURRICULAR PUBLISHERS (CDs)**

- **McGraw-Hill**

<http://www.mmhschool.com/teach/reading/read1.html>

- **Houghton-Mifflin**

<http://www.eduplace.com>

### **REFERENCES**

- **Library Spot:** <http://www.libraryspot.com/>

### **ENCYCLOPEDIAS**

- **Britannica:** <http://www.britannica.com/>

- **Encarta:** <http://www.encarta.msn.com>

## **3. HIGH INTEREST - LOW READING LEVEL BOOKS**

### **Recorded Books:**

#### **SteadyReaders**

<http://recordedbooks.com/>

These books are recorded at 10-15% slower reading pace than standard readings.

The Homework Pack includes the audiobook and print book so that students can follow along in the print version while they listen to the narration.

#### **SmartReader**

<http://recordedbooks.com/>

The British SmartReader is a controlled reading level text written to interest middle school students through adults. Topics include biography, adventure, mystery, nonfiction and mythology. Recorded by British actors SmartReaders are written for those older students who read at a 3rd to 4th

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year primary school level. Packs include print text, audiotapes and a teacher's guide.

## **Software:**

### **Start to Finish Books**

**Don Johnston, Inc.**

Each book is published in CD-ROM and paperback format and written to exacting standards to control vocabulary, sentence complexity and phonetic regularity. Words are highlighted as they are read on each page. Clicking on a word causes it to be read again. Teacher Materials include blackline masters for writing activities, pre-reading vocabulary lists, multiple-choice questions and other support materials.

### **Classic Adventures**

Treasure Island  
Red Badge of Courage  
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

### **Nick Ford Mysteries 2**

The Night of the Loch Ness Monster  
Big Ben is Dead  
The Secret of Old Mexico

### **Famous Short Stories**

Edgar Allan Poe Collection  
Jack London Collection  
Mark Twain Collection

### **Overcoming the Odds: Sports**

**Biographies**  
Home Run Heroes  
Flo-Jo: The Story of Florence Griffith Joyner  
Ali: The Greatest

### **Nick Ford Mysteries**

Grave Robber: Mystery in Missouri  
Crossbow Killer: Mystery at Yellowstone  
Alcatraz, The Rock

### **A Step Into History**

Rosa Parks: Freedom Fighter  
Frederick Douglass: A Hero for All Times  
Harriet Tubman: The Moses of Her People

### **Catalogs of Text Versions:**

<http://www.kidsinbetween.com/readlow.html>  
<http://www.kidsinbetween.com/readlow.html>  
<http://www.resourceroom.net/Products/literacy.asp>  
<http://www.resourceroom.net/Products/literacy.asp>  
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/read180/discover/components/paperbacks.htm>  
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/read180/discover/components/paperbacks.htm>

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#### **4. ONLINE EDUCATION RESOURCES**

**Project Assist** (<http://www.edc.org/FSC/ASSIST/>)

This project uses technology tools for integrated into challenging science curriculum and instruction to ensure access for students with disabilities.

##### **Classroom Connect**

<http://www.classroom.net/home.asp>

Classroom connect develops original web-based curriculum products and professional development programs for K-12 educators. Site includes access to Classroom Today, Connected University and Quest interactive adventures for learning.

##### **Dyslexic.com**

<http://www.dyslexic.com/rational.htm>

This site provides information needed to choose appropriate assistive technology to help persons with dyslexia. Also includes 10 steps to self-help in writing and reading.

##### **Educational Web Sites For Students, Parents And Teachers**

<http://www.havasu.k12.az.us/nautilus/edweb.html>

Links to great educational resources on the web.

**ePALS:** <http://www.epals.com>

Teachers and students can connect with more than 6,000 classrooms in 80+ countries

##### **Filamentality**

<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil>

Filamentality (Pacific Bell) is a fill-in-the-blank interactive Web site that guides you through picking a topic, searching the Web, gathering good Internet sites, and turning Web resources into activities appropriate for learners.

##### **Learning Disabilities (LD)**

<http://www.ldresources.com/writingtips.html>

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This site contains excellent information on AT supports for persons with learning disabilities. Several contributions by Richard Wandeman offer creative solutions for writing and everyday activities. Great Site!

### **Literacy Technology Project**

(<http://www.ets.uidaho.edu/cdhd/littech/about.htm>)

This project looked into integrating computer assistive technology into the educational curriculum for the purpose of assisting students in the writing process. The three types of assistive-writing technologies examined were Alternative Keyboards, Word Prediction Software, and Voice Recognition Software.

### **Ontario Science Centre Interactive Zone**

<http://www.osc.on.ca/JustFun/InteractiveZone/izonepages/menu.htm>

These science and technology programs for school groups are fun, engaging, interactive and educational.

### **Education Planet**

<http://educationplanet.com/>

This internet gateway provides a host of education related features including: lesson plans and curriculum materials, on-line resources, education news, feature articles, reference materials, professional development, educational shopping, and an interactive community for the exchange of advice and information.

### **SRC\*TEC's (<http://www.scrtec.org/>)**

This site's mission is to help educators create, share and find solutions to integrate technology into education. The site includes a variety of tools and resources.

- **www4teachers**, a carefully indexed collection of online resources made by teachers for teachers!
- **Trackstar, QuizStar, Problem Based Learning and Web Worksheet Wizard** are tools available to make technology integration easy. They include lesson plans, and tools to develop plans that incorporate relevant websites into student learning plans.

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**Teacher Resources** <http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/>

Loads of teacher resources and interactive lesson plans for all grades and disciplines. Some references to PBS programs.

**Web Toolboxes for Educators** <http://www.ed.sc.edu/caw/toolbox.html>

A collection of "tool boxes" to increase the learning of students with disabilities with technology-based applications.

<http://www.ed.sc.edu/caw/toolbox.html>

### **WebQuest**

<http://edweb.sdsu.edu/webquest/webquest.html>

This site offers the opportunity to look for quality web sites on particular subjects, for specific age groups. Students are guided in learning by following web links for information. Training materials are available as well as other resources. This site is a "must" for web-active learning!

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