

Dyslexia – friendly books.

Dyslexia Action has selected books as dyslexia-friendly when they meet most of the following criteria:-

- Are of interest to the reader and relevant to his/her age - reluctant and slow readers need to have their imaginations engaged and their efforts rewarded.
- Are well structured and easy to follow – simplicity of information and syntax make it easier to follow the story.
- Use vocabulary familiar to the reader - dyslexic readers often have a limited sight vocabulary.
- Have short sentences and paragraphs – these help to maintain interest and encourage a feeling of progress.
- Are well laid out on the page with wide margins and plenty of white space – these encourage the reader to maintain a good reading flow and pace.
- Have the right margins unjustified – justified text may look neat but with an unjustified text it is easier to distinguish between lines read and those yet to read.
- Have headings, bullets and other signposting where appropriate - these help the reader navigate the content more easily.
- Have pictures with captions, callouts and boxed text where relevant - these act as signposts and help to break up the main text into manageable chunks.
- Are printed on tinted paper – this helps to reduce the resonance of black text on bright white paper. Avoid light text on a dark background. Matt paper is preferable to glossy paper, as this reduces glare. Ensure the paper is heavy enough to prevent text glaring through from the back.
- Are printed in a clear sans serif font that is kerned so that the letters are easily distinguishable - some fonts are very ornate and some have letters that join together to form another (such as an r and n that join to look like m) which can be very confusing.
- Have a minimum print size of 11 pt - but also not insultingly large for the intended age range.
- Above all they should look like books that anyone would enjoy reading - well written, well designed and interesting.

How to find Dyslexia Friendly Books

- **Barrington Stoke books** are for children and young people with dyslexia and other reading difficulties. The books have cream paper, well-spaced text and an easy to read font. There are books for 8 to 13 year olds and others aimed at 13 to 16 year olds. The website also holds a complete listing which can be checked against Kent Libraries and Archives catalogue for locations of titles. They also produce a very useful information pack for parents, teachers and librarians which can be downloaded. <http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk>
- Guide to choosing Dyslexia-Friendly Books for Kids. Waterstones and Dyslexia Action- are working together to make reading enjoyable for everyone. They have produced a guide which includes signs of dyslexia, how to support children with their reading, and how to choose dyslexia friendly books. There is also a suggested reading list. This leaflet can be downloaded. www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk/uploads/DyslexiaGuide.pdf
- RIF's recommended book list for less confident and less keen readers ages 5-13+ <http://www.rif.org.uk/projectzone/resourcesBooks.htm>
- Young Calibre is a free postal library bringing all the fun of audio books to anyone under 16 who has a visual impairment, or has dyslexia or a physical disability which makes it difficult to read ordinary print. There are lots of fantastic audio books to choose from. The audio books are on MP3 format disks and those with sight problems have the additional option of audio cassettes. <http://www.calibre.org.uk/modResourcesLibrary/HtmlRenderer/aboutyoungcalibre.html>
- Listening Books, a charity which provides a postal audio book service to anyone who has a disability that makes it difficult to read in the usual way: www.listening-books.org.uk (subscription)
- Keeping Informed of Dyslexia Services (The kids)-write books for children with Dyslexia. The Sword of Avalon is the first book by Tom Jolleys published by The Kids Press .Its layout has been specially designed to make it dyslexia friendly. Aimed at children in the age range of 8 to 12 the layout should also make it easier to read for all children including those with poor eyesight. Very simply, they have tried to make the printed word just easier to see and therefore read. <http://www.dyslexiakids.co.uk/>

Book Suggestions

Ten dyslexia friendly books (From WikiREADia- Specially selected by Dyslexia Action)

- Framed by Frank Cottrell Boyce £5.99 Macmillan

- Candyfloss by Jacqueline Wilson £12.99 Doubleday
- Alone on a Wide Wide Sea by Michael Morpurgo £10.99 HarperCollins
- The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne £10.99 David Fickling
- Cirque Du Freak by Darren Shan £4.99 HarperCollins
- The Legend of Spud Murphy by Eoin Colfer £3.99 Puffin
- The Twits by Roald Dahl £4.99 Puffin
- The Temple of the Ruby of Fire by Geronimo Stilton £3.99 Scholastic
- Judy Moody by Megan McDonald £3.99 Walker
- The Sheep-Pig, Dick King-Smith £4.99 Puffin

Children with dyslexia in fiction. (Based on booklist produced by Birmingham City Libraries)

- Breslin, T - Whispers in the Graveyard
- Childs, Rob - Moving the Goalposts
- Fine, Anne - How to Write Really Badly
- Goodhart, Pippa – Flow
- Jarman, Julia - Ghost Writer
- Riordan, Rob - Battle of the Labyrinth
- Wilson, Jacqueline - The Illustrated Mum

Non-fiction –exploring ways of coping with dyslexia

- Condon, Judith - When It's Hard to Learn
- Edwards, Nicola - My Friend Has Dyslexia
- Ryden, Michael - Dyslexia: How would I cope?
- Sanders, Pete - What Do You Know About Dyslexia and Associated Difficulties
- Spillsbury, Louise - What Does it Mean to Have Dyslexia?
- Wiltshire, Paula - Dyslexia

Biographies of Famous People with Dyslexia

- Alcraft, Rob - Anita Roddick
- Alcraft, Rob - Richard Branson
- Brown, Paul - Anita Roddick and the Body Shop
- Connolly, Sean - Leonardo da Vinci
- Ganeri, Anita - Thomas Edison
- Langley, Andrew - Hans Christian Anderson
- Lynch, Wendy - Walt Disney
- Mason, Antony - Leonardo da Vinci
- Middleton, Haydn - Thomas Edison: The Wizard Inventor
- Reid, Struan - Albert Einstein
- Twist, Clint - Charles Darwin, On the Trail of Evolution
- Wilkins, Verna - Benjamin Zephaniah: A Profile

