

4 Common Literacy MYTHS

1. *Children will eventually learn to read if given enough time...*

FACT

At the early grades, the literacy gap is relatively easy to cross, and with diagnostic, focused instruction, effective teachers can help children with poor literacy skills to become children with rich literacy skills. However, if literacy instruction needs are not met early, then the gap widens – the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer – until the gap gets so wide that bridging it requires extensive, intensive, expensive and frustrating remedial instruction.



2. *"I don't know anyone with a reading problem."*

FACT

There are 36 million adults in the United States who can not read above a third-grade level. That means that 1 in 7 people have literacy issues. If you're surprised, you're not alone. 79% of adults said they don't know an adult with this issue.



FACT:
1 in 7 people
in the US has a
literacy issue

3. *Adults who attend literacy programs misbehaved in school, were lazy, & just didn't care about their education.*

FACT

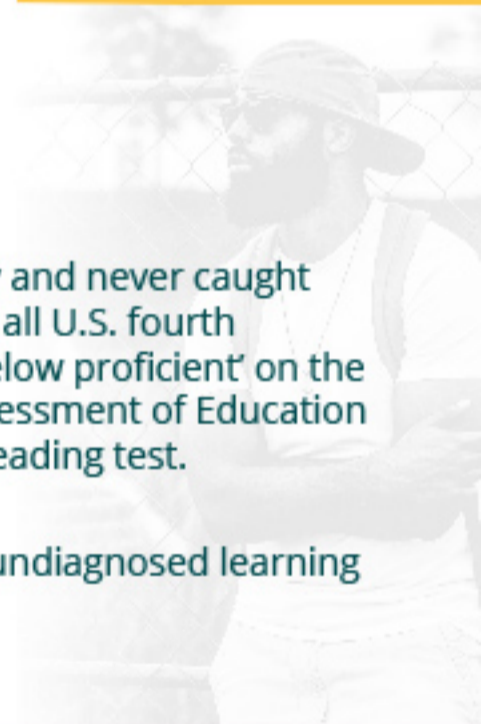
There are countless reasons why people attend literacy programs.

... attended low-quality schools/poorly funded schools.

... had to drop out of school due to events out of their control (such as needing to become the primary earner for the family).

... fell behind early and never caught up. In fact, 66% of all U.S. fourth graders scored 'below proficient' on the 2013 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) reading test.

... struggled with undiagnosed learning impairments.



4. *We have more important issues to worry about, like health care, unemployment, the economy, or who our next president will be.*

FACT

People with low literacy skills are four times more likely to have poor health (two times higher than the national average). Those adults have a higher chance of having to go to the emergency room and that costs U.S. taxpayers between \$106 billion and \$238 billion each year!

4x

MORE LIKELY TO
HAVE POOR HEALTH

FACT

Fact: Adults with low literacy levels are twice as likely to be unemployed. How do you fix it? If half of the dropouts from the class of 2008 had graduated, there would be an additional 30,000 new jobs! Imagine if that happened every year.

2x

MORE LIKELY TO
BE UNEMPLOYED

FACT

Fact: Americans with low literacy levels are less likely to be politically engaged or understand what is going on in politics. You want to get things done? Give people the tools to really understand the importance of the political process and we all might be a little less frustrated after every fourth November.



LESS LIKELY
TO VOTE

FACT

LITERACY
MATTERS

CONTACT US FOR MORE HELP!

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