

APEL Summer School Reading Program

Assistive Technology for Struggling Readers

You are invited to take part in the **APEL Summer School Reading Program**, a pilot project for middle and high school students who have a difficult time with reading. Any student who is unable to keep up with the pace or content of required reading in secondary school is eligible to participate in this summer “crash course”. Students will use computer assistive technology to read classic novels.

In 1996 APEL Education Consultancy LLC secured a patent for a technology-based “method of teaching learning disabled students”. The method uses screen readers to replicate the “Neurological Impress Method” of teaching reading. Recent research indicates the effectiveness of this particular technology for helping disabled readers improve in fluency, comprehension and vocabulary skills. APEL's research, conducted primarily with Native American students with special needs in reading, consistently demonstrated that students who used the program 15 minutes per day, 5 days per week, for 10 weeks, gained an average of 1.7 grades in reading.

The current **Summer School Reading Project** will investigate the potency of using this patented, researched method with struggling readers who don't qualify for special education. The program will be delivered FREE during June, 2004 to five (minimum) students of your choice. The selected students will "check out" novels from our internet library and use screen reading software to hear the book being read aloud to them through personal headphones. Students will read one hour per day (four 15 minutes sessions) for 20 days.

Any new school participating in the Summer Reading Program may receive a discount on any of the following

**The SLICE Reading Program
The APEL Reading Program
AND
The Impresto! Reading Program**

What to expect from The APEL Summer Reading Program

- Improved reading skills (see report from Center for Research in Educational Policy)
- AYP for struggling readers
- Student driven program, monitored by staff
- Easy to use curriculum prepared by text book companies to meet state standards.
- Quality literature chosen by teachers to meet state standards.
- Online tracking of student activity with reports for student portfolios
- A reading program that can be accessed from school and home.
- Instant feed back on reading improvement through regular testing (for those schools using AR)
- Ongoing support for continued programming at a discount price.
- Participation in a nationwide pilot study.

APEL will provide your school with:

- Access to [quality literature](#) specifically prepared for use with assistive technology. The books are available over the internet at <http://www.apelslice.com>
- Assistance in downloading free [reading software](#), or discount on purchase of [CAST eReader](#).
- Online [Student Activity Reports](#) for student portfolios.
- Links to online study material for at least 10 [novels](#).
- Web hosting for YOUR test questions (Sorry we must limit this to questions from one teacher from each school for one novel. Your questions will be made available to all students)

The school agrees to:

- Provide each student with [access to a computer](#) that has internet, sound and headphones.
- Download, install and learn to use [free reading software](#) or CAST eReader.
- Choose students that meet [the criteria](#) for this project.
- Provide accurate [Pre and Post testing](#) results for all students.
- Review online [Student Activity Reports](#) and give students regular feedback on their reading progress.
- Use the program at least 15 minutes [per session](#) and 1 hour per day with no fewer than 5 students.
- Collect [surveys](#) from students, teachers and possibly parents about the reading program.
- Allow APEL to use the school's name in [research papers](#) and presentations. (No other names will be used without prior permission.)

Register NOW for APEL's **FREE Summer Reading Program**

HOW?

*Fill out and fax the Summer Reading Program Registration
Download free software or order the CAST eReader
Prepare your test questions (optional)*

FAQs

Which novels and study guides will be available to my students?

Call of the Wild by Jack London

[Study Guide](#)

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

[Study Guide](#)

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

[Study Guide](#)

The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin by Benjamin Franklin

[Study Guide](#)

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

[Study Guide](#)

The Heart of Darkness and The Secret Sharer by Joseph Conrad

[Study Guide](#)

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

[Study Guide](#)

Frankenstein by Mary Shelly

[Study Guide](#)

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

[Study Guide](#)

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

[Study Guide](#)

White Fang by Jack London

Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

National Velvet and more...

Which students qualify for the APEL Summer Reading Program?

Any student who is struggling with reading, and scores below the 50th percentile in reading and has an average or above average IQ. Students do not have to qualify as special education, 504, Title 1 or be served under an IEP or ESL program.

What is a session?

It is the recorded time that a student is logged on to reading material. The student is expected to engage in a minimum of 15 minutes of sustained reading during each session and no less than one hour per day. Students must “log in” and “log out” of each session in order to record their time.

What reading software do we need?

The school may use any reading software that will read from the internet. We recommend CAST eReader, however, free software is available on the internet and will work for the short term during this program. If your school does not have the CAST eReader, we recommend using AT&T's ReadPlease. You can download it at <http://readplease.com/rpfree.php>.

What is CAST eReader?

Screen Reading software for students with visual and learning disabilities. Your school may purchase CAST eReader from APEL at a discount price. For more information about eReader, visit www.cast.org.

Pricing: eReader 3.0 for Windows

- Single seat ~~\$229~~ **\$185** plus \$8 Shipping and handling
- 5-20 seats ~~\$109/seat~~ **\$90/seat** plus \$10 Shipping and handling
- 21-30 seats ~~\$85/seat~~ **\$75/seat** plus \$10 Shipping and handling

What surveys will be used?

Students, teachers and parents will be asked to rate their impressions of this assistive technology program and its effect on reading achievement, self esteem and social interactions.

What research is being done?

Data analysis will be conducted by The *Center for Research in Educational Policy* at the University of Memphis. Presentations will be used to document effective assistive technology with struggling readers, outcomes of individual and school AYP and student self esteem.

How do I pre and post test?

Pre and Post test scores must be taken from the same instrument. Post testing must be within 1 month of the termination of the program. Most school find it convenient to use the Accelerated Reader Program's “STAR” test for pre and post reading evaluation. Other acceptable tstws would be, Woodcock Johnson R, WISC, etc.

What are *Student Activity Reports*?

Student Activity Reports document for the student and teacher/parent, what the student has been reading and the duration of each session.

An example would look like...

Welcome to Billy Harrison's statistics page.

**My last reading session on April 15, 2004 lasted: 19:48 minutes
My average for the past 30 days is 20:15 minutes**

I am reading these selections:

Call of the Wild	Chapter 14
Call of the Wild	Chapter 13
Call of the Wild	Chapter 12
Call of the Wild	Chapter 11
Call of the Wild	Chapter 10