

# Dyslexics can reach the stars and shine!

Written by  
Tiffany James



**WHAT  
I  
NEED**

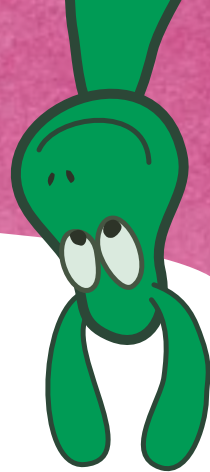
Illustrated by  
Leah Heming



[nessy.com](http://nessy.com)

**For ROSS**

# WHO IS NESSY?



**Nessy Learning** is a dynamic ed-tech company run by two dyslexic people: Tiffany James and her husband Mike Jones.

**Nessy** has a small team of dedicated people with a passion to change educational outcomes for children with dyslexia. We believe in the importance of early intervention following the Science of Reading, and that children should use programs that provide structured literacy.

The goal of the company is to make effective instruction available to all children at an affordable, low-cost, and to help educators to identify and support children with dyslexia.

# THE ILLUSTRATOR'S STORY

Leah Heming is an illustrator, art director, curator and nature guide. She has collaborated with **Nessy Learning** on books, illustrations and animations since 2014.

Leah has illustrated a dozen children's picture books that have been published around the world. She has also art-directed part of popular children's TV series 'Driver Dan's Story Train' and worked as a concept designer on the series 'Numtums'.

In her spare time, Leah studies permaculture, plants, animals, ecology and ancestral skills. She is starting to combine her love of nature and illustration by creating fun and interactive nature-guided walks for all ages, with the hope to inspire new generations to protect the planet.



# THE AUTHOR'S STORY

Tiffany James has dyslexia and dysgraphia and is the mother of children with dyslexia. She is the founder of The Reading Center in Texas, and Director of Educational Development for **Nessy Learning**.

Tiffany has been an educator for more than 25 years. Inspired by the love of teaching and early literacy by her grandmother Charlene Gnagy, Ms. James founded a tutoring practice in Texas in 2003 to help struggling readers.

She is a former kindergarten teacher and reading specialist, as well as a certified reading tutor, qualified dyslexia screener, and a dyslexia specialist. She now devotes her time to raising dyslexia awareness, advocacy for children through charitable endeavors, and to her work at **Nessy Learning**.



# CHAPTER 1

**What is it Like  
to have dyslexia?**

I have **DYSLEXIA**



Dyslexics have a different way of thinking.

seeing  
the **big**  
picture

recognizing  
patterns

thinking  
**creatively**

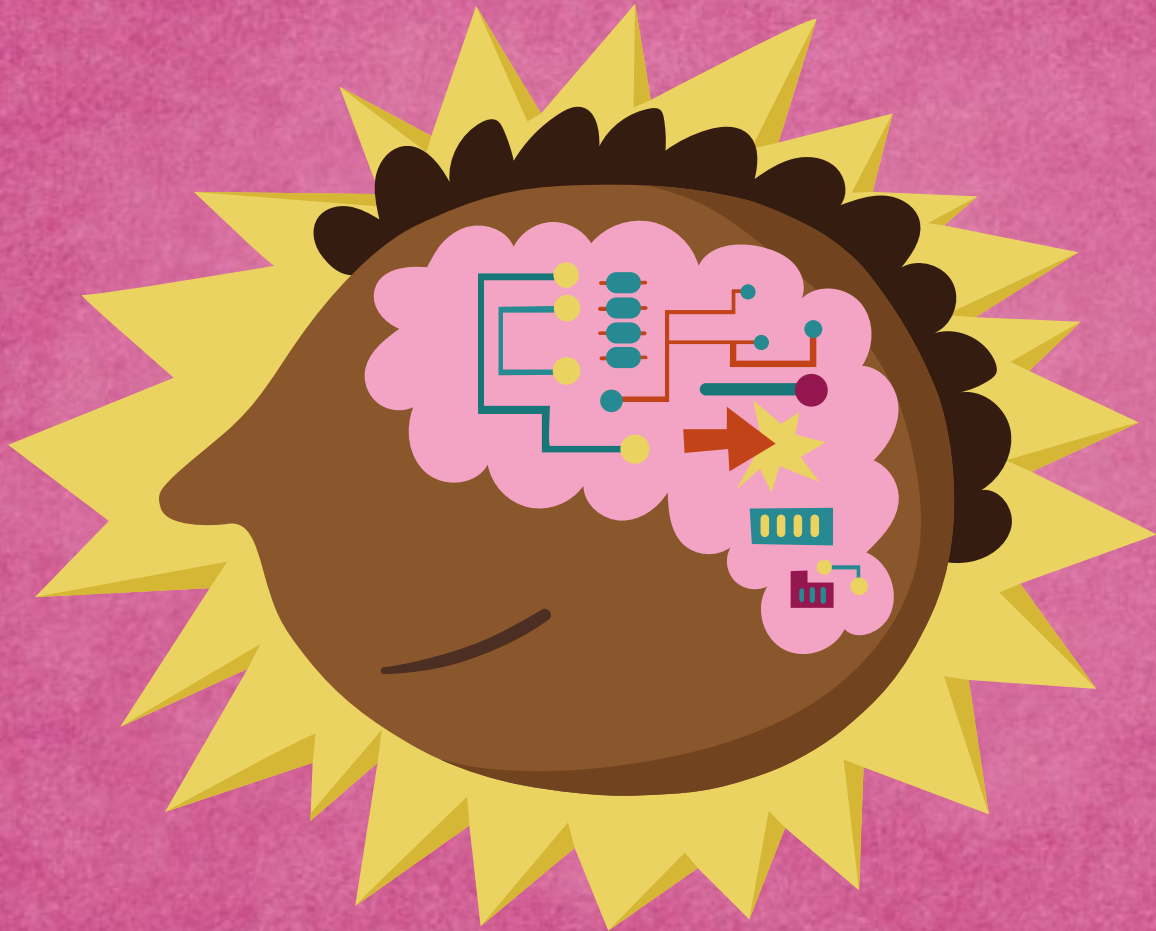
thinking  
in  
pictures

**problem**  
solving





Our brains are wired in a different way.



We like learning in different ways.

playing



making



moving



This can make school very hard.



Most schools are not set up  
to teach dyslexic kids very well.



Reading and spelling can be hard,



especially if you are not being taught  
in the way you learn.



Having dyslexia does not mean  
that you are dumb,



or that you are lazy.





In fact dyslexics have to work very hard to complete the same amount of work.



Sometimes people in school say I am

**dumb**

**stupid**

**Lazy**



and teachers say...

try  
harder



and **pay**  
more  
**attention!**



What they don't understand is



~~I am  
not  
stupid~~

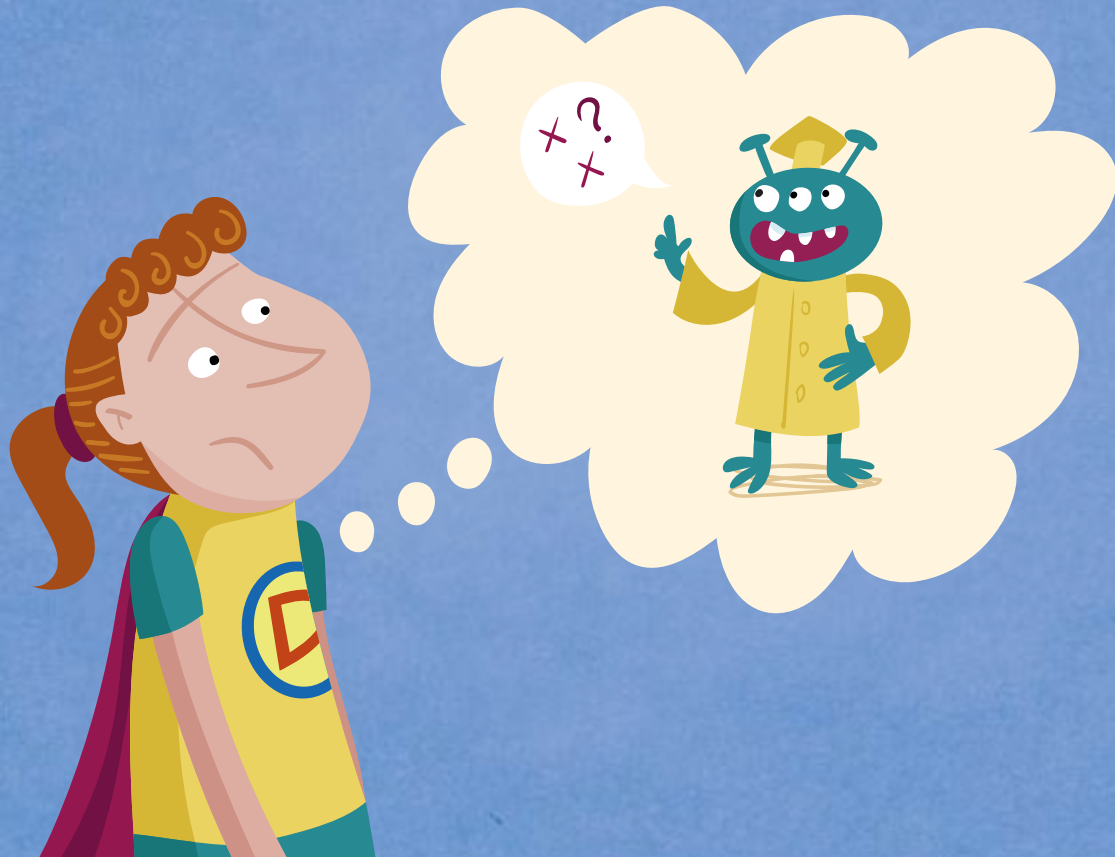


~~I am  
not  
Lazy~~

I am already working very hard.



Sometimes it's hard for me to understand  
what you are asking me to do.





Sometimes it's hard for me to remember things in my working memory without jumbling them up.



Sometimes it's hard for me to process what you are saying because you are speaking too fast.

blah  
blah  
blah

blah  
blah

blah  
blah

blah  
blah  
blah



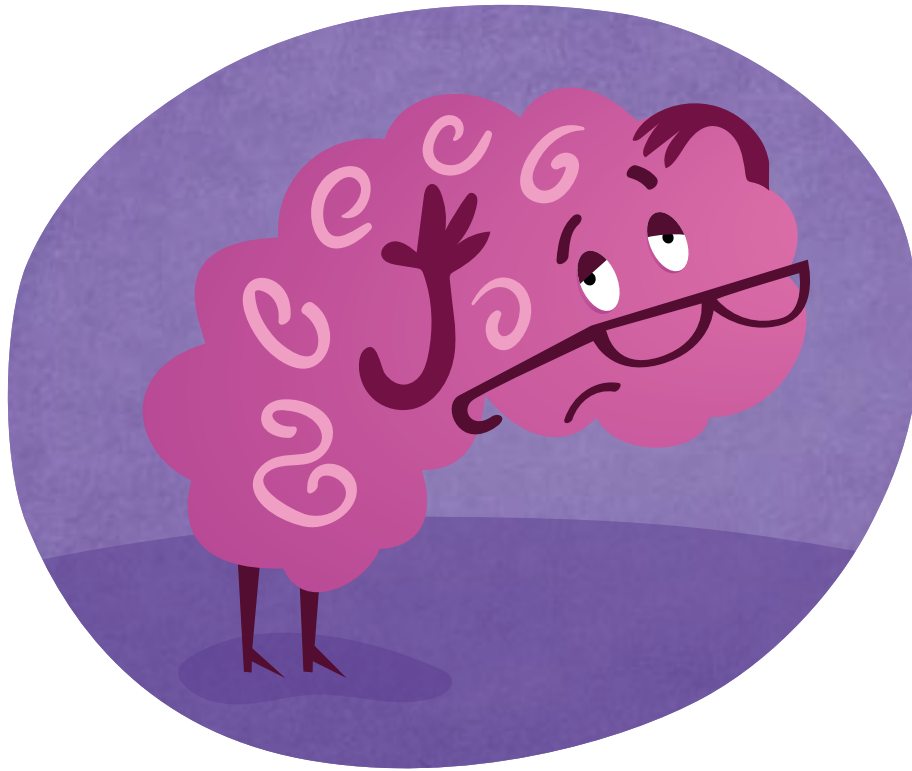
Sometimes it's hard for me to spell the words  
because I am not aware of the sounds  
that make them up.



I just can't remember what order  
the letters should go in for tricky words,  
or even which letters to use.



All of this makes my brain work very hard.



It is exhausting!



At the end of a lesson,  
I have no more energy to spare.



So please don't tell me to stop being lazy,  
work harder or to just remember it.

Lazy

work  
harder

Just  
remember  
it





After I have tried so hard,  
this just hurts my self-esteem.



It makes me feel dumb.

It can crush my spirit.



# CHAPTER 2

What we are  
good at

Our brains are uniquely wired.



Research has found that dyslexics have bigger brains.

right hemisphere is bigger



We can be



great

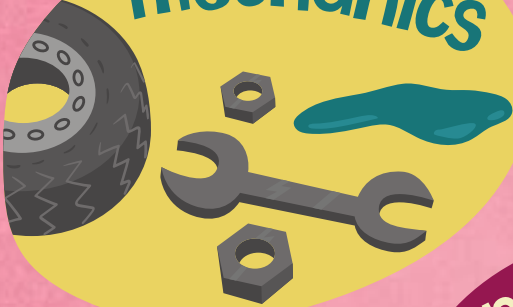
or even

"super"



at lots of things.

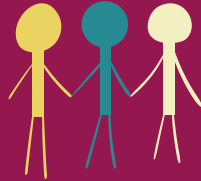
mechanics



art



people skills



3D visual



athletics



That's why so many of us have become

artists



engineers





designers



craftsmen



Some of us are great at ideas  
and getting things done,  
and have become

entrepreneurs



and

business owners



Some of us are great with people,  
and have grown up to be

teachers



doctors



vets



counselors

and



Some of us have a good kinesthetic sense,  
and have become

dancers



athletes



gymnasts





But **DO**  
DYSLEXICS  
have



**⚡ SUPER POWERS ?**

When **DYSLEXICS**  
are **given**  
the opportunity  
to **USE** their **TALENTS**

they can turn their **SKILLS**  
into

**⚡ SUPERPOWERS**



Karate



building

with

tools



Singing



Soccer



pottery



painting



twirling



being kind to  
people or animals





baking



biking



sculpting



Swimming

playing



guitar



drawing

It's important to think about this question...  
What am I good at?



# CHAPTER 3

**Dyslexics  
who have found their  
superpower**

**successful**  
**DYSLEXIC**  
**Kids**  
**around**  
**the world**

**Your superpower  
is what you  
are good at.**

These dyslexic kids have found  
their superpowers.

They may have to work hard in school  
in reading, spelling, writing or math  
but they have found  
the things they are super at.

# ARCHIE

from the United Kingdom



rugby player

# GRAHAM

from Texas, USA

and his rescue dog **Henry**



chess player and animal welfare supporter



# HEIDI

from the United Kingdom



ADHD and dyslexia advocate and speaker

# KRISTA

# ZERAH

# RAYVYN



from  
Texas, USA



from  
Australia



from  
Louisiana, USA

## dancers

# LEWIS

from the United Kingdom



painter

# MILO & PEARL

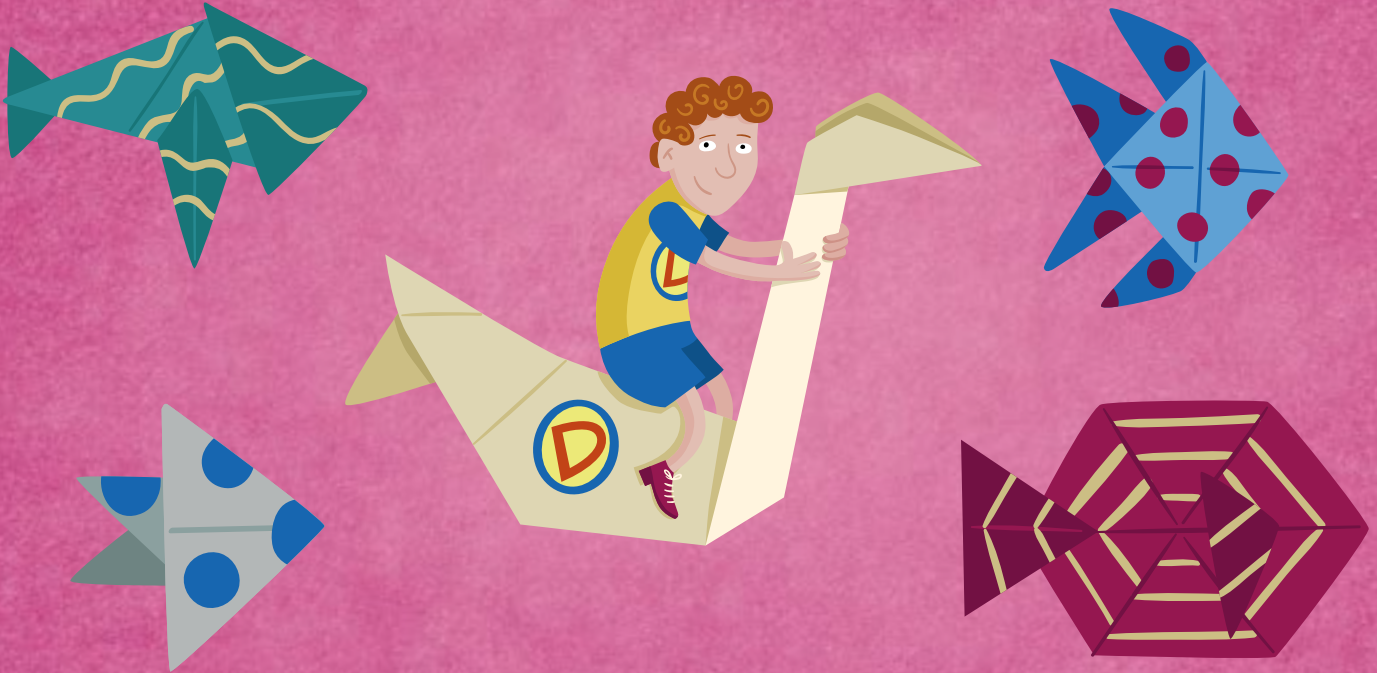
from the United Kingdom



comic book artist and animal welfare supporter

# NOAH

from New Zealand



entrepreneur and origami artist

# Dyslexic children turn into dyslexic adults.

There are successful dyslexics doing all kinds of jobs as grown-ups.

There are teachers and professors, doctors and nurses, builders and construction workers, electricians and engineers, artists and actors.

There are lots and lots of dyslexic entrepreneurs and business owners.

The 6 people on these next pages were chosen because they are dyslexic adults who through their work, are helping dyslexic kids.

**successful**  
**DYSLEXIC**  
**adults**

ay

# IÑAKI MUÑOZ

ow

federation president

oi

f

Founder of  
the  
**Spanish  
Federation  
of  
Dyslexia**



President of  
the  
**Organization  
of  
Specific Learning  
Difficulties  
(OIDEA)**

o

k

j

igh

ph

u

Iñaki has ADHD and dyslexia.

He helped his mother open centers for dyslexic children all over Spain.

He works with the European and South American governments to bring better  
dyslexia teaching to children who speak Spanish and Portuguese.

ea

v



# ENID WEBB

dyslexia specialist teacher

Presenter  
of the show  
and  
podcast  
'Dyslexia Coffee  
Talk'



Dyslexia  
Advocate  
and  
Autism  
Specialist

Enid is dyslexic and dysgraphic. She helps dyslexic children in California and Nevada get the teaching and support they need from their schools. She is also a host of the show called 'Dyslexia Coffee Talk'. The show teaches people about dyslexia. It is on every Saturday morning.

# LEDERICK HORNE

poet

Spoken word  
poet  
and  
published  
author

Advocate  
for  
children with  
dyslexia  
and  
ADHD



LeDerick was diagnosed with learning disabilities as a child. He is an inspirational speaker and a supporter of people with special needs. He has even spoken at the White House and the United Nations!

# HEIDI GREGORY

dyslexia activist

Founding Member  
of  
Light it Red  
for  
Dyslexia  
Awareness  
Australia



Founder  
of  
Dyslexia  
Victoria  
Support

Heidi is a dyscalculic mom of two teenage dyslexics. She works with families, politicians, and organizations in Australia to bring evidence-based teaching to schools in her country.

# OLADOYIN IDOWU

interior & set designer

**Founder  
of  
One Word  
Africa**

**Dyslexia  
Awareness  
Advocate  
and  
Speaker**

Oladoyin is dyslexic. She is the founder of One Word Africa, a NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) that works to teach people about dyslexia. One Word Africa also works with the government to help create dyslexia friendly schools for kids in Nigeria.

# TOM PLANT

comic book artist & animator

**Artist  
and  
Writer**



**Creative  
Director  
of  
Nessy  
Learning**

Tom is dyslexic. He works with the teachers at Nessy and creates fun videos and worksheets that help dyslexic kids all over the world learn to read and do math. He leads the whole team of artists, video makers, and animators at Nessy Learning.

# CHAPTER 4

*What do  
I need?*



I need these  
**THINGS**  
from my  
**TEACHERS.**



Please give me

**the opportunity**

**to show**

**what I**

**KNOW.**





Please don't ask me to guess at words.



Teach me how to read them.

I need to be explicitly taught the rules of English to learn to read.

phonology

phonics

syllables

grammar



**morphology**

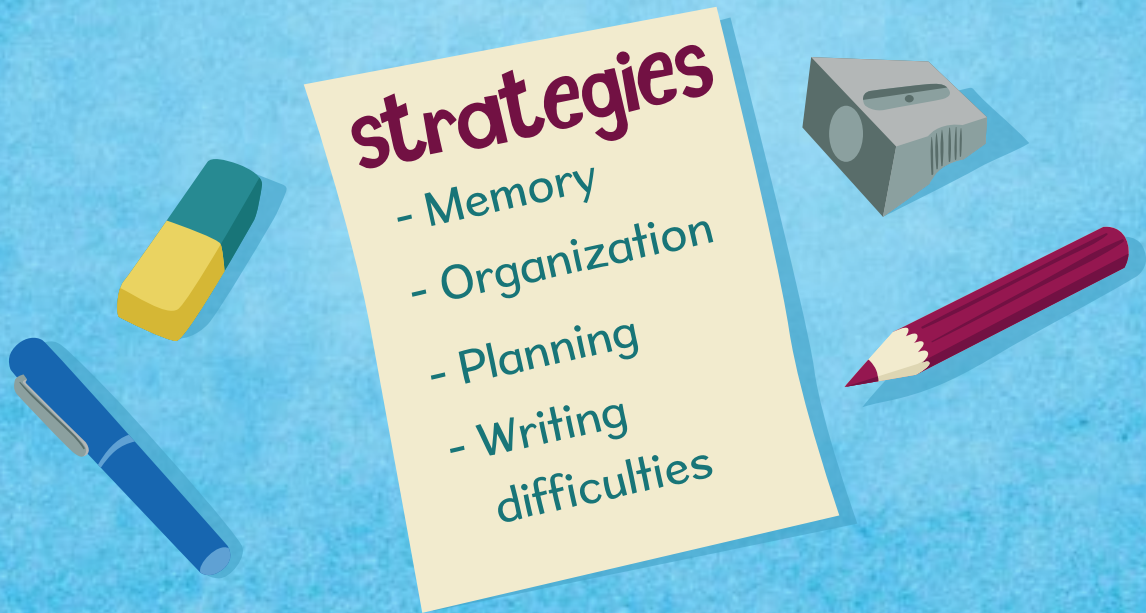
**vocabulary**

**spelling**

**comprehension**



I do need **to be taught** to read and spell.  
After that, I may need help to learn strategies to  
work with any memory, organization, planning,  
and writing difficulties.



While I love to be read to,  
just reading to me and giving me books  
will not teach me how to read.



I need you to show me how language works,  
to learn to read and spell.



Silent reading doesn't help me improve my reading skills and choosing "baby" books embarrasses me in front of my classmates.





Please do not count off for spelling incorrectly on work other than spelling tests.

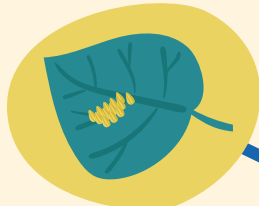
## SCIENCE

egg

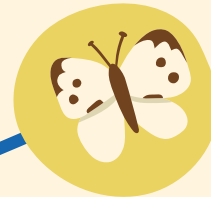
caterpillar

chrysalis

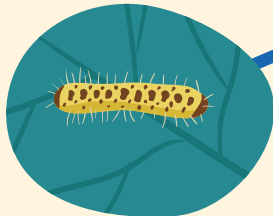
butterfly



~~EG~~



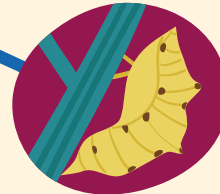
~~BUTERFLI~~



~~CATERPILER~~

Life  
cycle

0  
/  
10



~~CHRISALIS~~

I need my spelling lists to be short and to follow the rules of English that I am learning.



Please do not ask me to copy from the board.  
I lose my place from looking up and down.



I usually cannot remember



a whole word.

I have to try to remember one letter  
or two letters at a time,



then write them on the paper.



When I look up again I have lost my place!

This takes so much time and is so much work  
that I forget what I was trying to copy  
in the first place.

All of my energy  
has gone into **copying**  
instead of **Learning**  
the information.



I need what is on the board to be printed out onto a sheet of paper to keep next to me.



My working memory is not as strong as some of my friends. I cannot hold as much information in my head at one time.



Please do not ask me to read aloud to the class.





Someday, when I am feeling confident enough,  
I may volunteer.



I need extra time for tests and for classwork.



I can understand much more than I can read  
on my OWN.



I need audiobooks for ear reading.



Audiobooks are good for reading contests,  
silent reading or D.E.A.R. time.



Help me choose titles that highlight text on the  
screen as I ear read.

Please do not give me more homework  
than I can do in 30 minutes.



It takes me longer to complete  
the same amount of work.

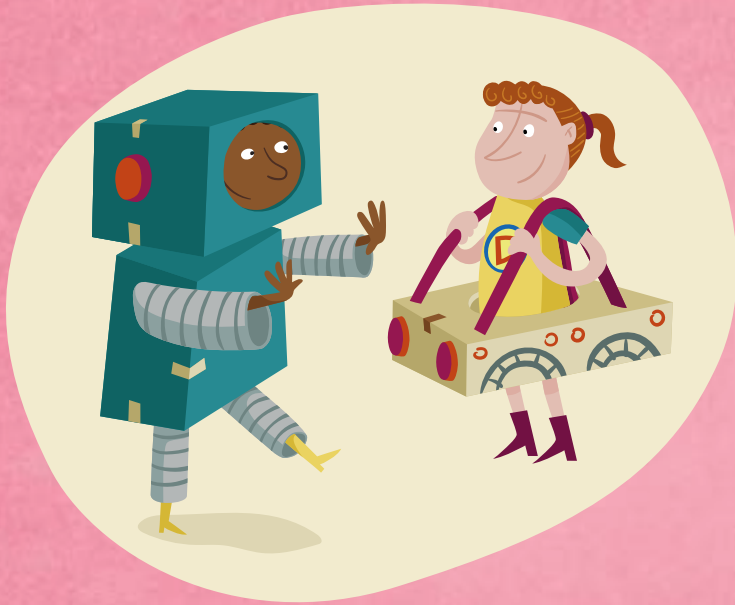


I need time to spend with my family and friends.





I need time to play and to just relax.



I need time to find out what I am good at  
and love to do.



# CHAPTER 5

What I  
don't need

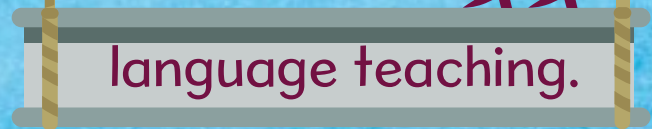
I do not need whole language  
or Balanced Literacy.



Dyslexic kids need



structured



language teaching.

I do not need ineffective treatments  
that do not follow the Science of Reading.

cranial manipulation

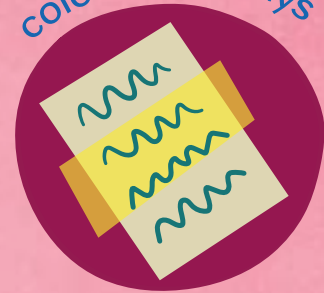


auditory or brain



“retraining”

colored overlays



behavioral optometry



flashing lights



or “dyslexia glasses”

There is no quick fix for dyslexia.



Dyslexia doesn't need to be fixed.



I do not need to be cured.  
Dyslexia is not a disease.

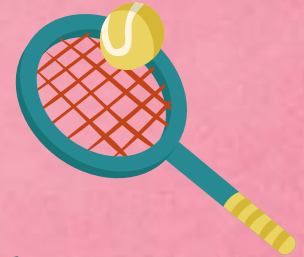




Dyslexia is part of who I am and I am wonderful!



I am dyslexic,  
I am smart,  
I am hard working.



# DYSLEXIA



I am discovering my superpowers.



**PRAISE**  
**for**  
**NESSY LEARNING**

# PRAISE FOR NESSY LEARNING by parents

“Nessy was the single most valuable product I could have come across to aid in my son’s reading success. It allowed Mikey to work independently after lessons to build self-esteem. It was responsible for 100% of our reading success.”

Gail Camenzind,  
homeschool parent



“I think you do an amazing job on so many levels ... increasing awareness and support with your various educational offerings. It has helped me so much with my 8 year old son and given me knowledge to both understand what he goes through every day and also to stand up for his education at school . Thank you to all at Nessy.”

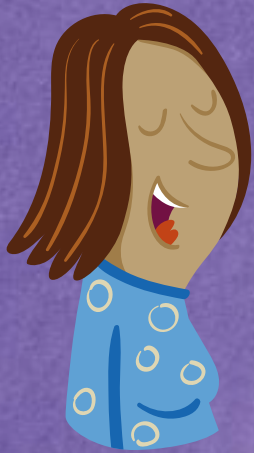
Sonia Hands



“My children both use Nessy for their homeschooling. I want to start by saying that this is one of the most outstanding pieces of software out there for homeschool children. My oldest son is dyslexic, and gets great benefit from it, as well as my youngest, who is not dyslexic.”

Eric Foote, homeschool parent





Crystal Lovato

“When starting your program, my daughter read at a beginning 2nd grade level, two years behind her actual grade level. In less than a year, my daughter is now reading at a 5th grade level, her current grade level. She was able to learn from your program what the OG Tutors at her public school had failed to teach in 3 years. I have a very happy and proud little girl.”

“Nessy. I found your page a couple of years ago, I live in Ireland. Your page has helped me so much in learning how to help our daughter over the years and I just wanted to say thank you so much for all your wonderful information.”

Glynis Croke



Pamela

“I can’t say enough about Nessy. Our son is in love with it! I actually have to pull him away from it because he would sit there for hours if I let him. If anyone is at all on the fence about purchasing Nessy, I wouldn’t hesitate to purchase it if your child is dyslexic or not.”



# PRAISE FOR NESSY LEARNING by teachers

“The children enjoyed Nessy! They are still chanting Nessy as they go down the hall. I can’t wait until Sept. when I can do projects with the entire First Grade!

Thank you again for all of your help. I am not very good with computers and you made it easy!”

Debbie Munn



“Nessy is a wonderful, fun resource for dyslexia or anyone who finds reading and spelling tricky. It has strategies to support short term memory and shows you how to read and spell words using a phonetic program. There are worksheets, assessments and target setting. I absolutely rate this program.”

Amanda Wright



Joan Case

“ I have just been assessing a quiet little girl with severe dyslexia. After the session using the Nessy Learning Program, she was smiling and giggling and asking what was next! So much so that the SENCo asked the Head Teacher “could I order a copy for her asap?” as they are desperate to help her.”

“Thank you so much for allowing us to use the program on a trial run to test out. The results have been no less than amazing and the students absolutely loved what you have created! Thank you tremendously as we could not have experienced these reading gains in such a short amount of time without your program!”

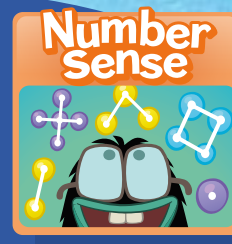
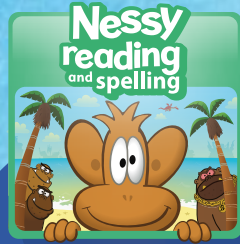
Shanara Hawkins,  
Dyslexia Specialist and IDA board member





# PLAY and LEARN

with **nessy.com** !

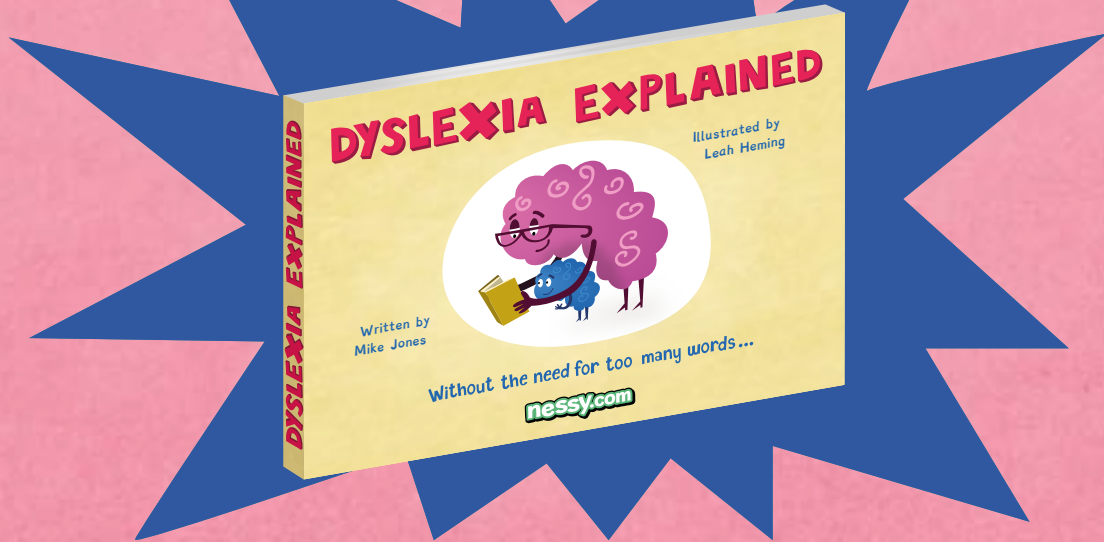


Learn at home or at school with Nessy.

For a free trial visit [nessy.com](https://nessy.com)

If you like this book  
you will **Love**

# DYSLEXIA EXPLAINED



# THANKS TO

**the many parent advocates  
in the world, improving the lives of  
dyslexic children everywhere.**

Written by Tiffany James and illustrated by Leah Heming

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ISBN: 978-1-8381110-0-7

Nessy Learning, 4519 Garfield Plaza, Suite 16B, Midland, TX 79705, USA

T: +1 432-704-1717 / E: [info@nessy.com](mailto:info@nessy.com)

Nessy Learning, 42 Baldwin Street, Bristol, BS1 1PN, UK

T: +44 (0)117 923 9777 / E: [info@nessy.co.uk](mailto:info@nessy.co.uk)

