

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

(submitted by Kate Quijano)

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month. Dyslexia is an unexpected difficulty in reading and writing that doesn't match the student's potential. Some great resources to help you learn more about dyslexia can be found at these websites:

Orton Gillingham Academy: www.ortonacademy.org

International Dyslexia Association: www.dyslexiaida.org

Literacy Nassau works every day to support students with dyslexia and other language based learning disabilities at our tutoring center. We also provide training for tutors who want to be certified in the Orton-Gillingham approach. We are so proud of the work our students and tutors have already done this year. October is a time for us to pause to remember why the work we do is so important.



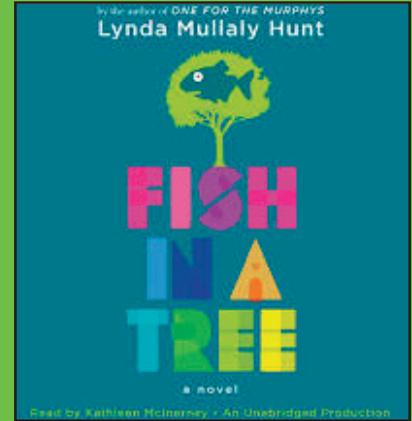
As a celebration this month, we are offering prizes for our students! After each tutoring session, OG students can spin the wheel to determine what prize they will receive. Some possible prizes are bubbles, Play-Doh, Pokémon Cards, Ring Pops, erasers, glow sticks, or mini-stuffed animals. A spin after every lesson means that students will get up to three prizes a week depending on how many sessions they have each week. That's a lot of celebrating! The wheel will only be available during the month of October. So, if you have to complete any make-up sessions, be sure to schedule them before the month ends.

Another great organization and another great way to celebrate is www.pqbd.org/ whose dyslexia symbol was created to empower the dyslexic community. The designer explains that "Formed with the letters p, q, b, and d the symbol is inspired by dyslexics and how they process information differently in ways that provide advantages in reasoning and understanding relationships." In print, those four letters look exactly the same except for directionality and placement on the line. They are a very common cause of confusion for people with dyslexia. The designer has taken the idea from this common struggle and turned it into a symbol of awareness, celebration, and empowerment. You can purchase jewelry and other merchandise from them to help raise awareness. I have a pair of earrings from them that I just love! I get frequent questions about them that allow me to talk about the great work that I am able to do every day at Literacy Nassau and to promote all the effort that our students and tutors put forth each day.



- October 2nd** - Tutoring Center is Closed for Tutor Seminar
- October 11th** - Tutoring Center is Closed for Columbus Day
- October 14th** - Virtual Office Hours with Kate for Parents 7:00-8:00pm; email for ZOOM link
- October 15th** - OG Cohort Only: Observation # 2 is due
- October 23rd** - Tutoring Center is Closed for Tutor Seminar
- November 1st** - OG Cohort Only: Observation # 3 is due

BOOK RECOMMENDATION



Fish in A Tree is a great book that really tells the struggles of students with dyslexia and the impact that a sympathetic and knowledgeable teacher can make in their lives. Many of our OG families have read the book and students have shared their enjoyment of it and how they can connect with the feelings of the main character, who struggles with undiagnosed dyslexia for much of the story, while trying to hide her struggles from her teachers and friends.

It impressed upon me the importance of the work we do with children in our tutoring as well as the work we do with adults who may not have had the opportunity for a teacher to really help them with literacy before. Our volunteers serve such an important role for learners of all ages. I would definitely recommend this book for teachers/tutors as well as students who would enjoy it as a read aloud or audiobook. It helps to know they are not alone and that they CAN learn to read with the appropriate instruction.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JAMES S.

(submitted by Michelle Drucker, OG Trainee)

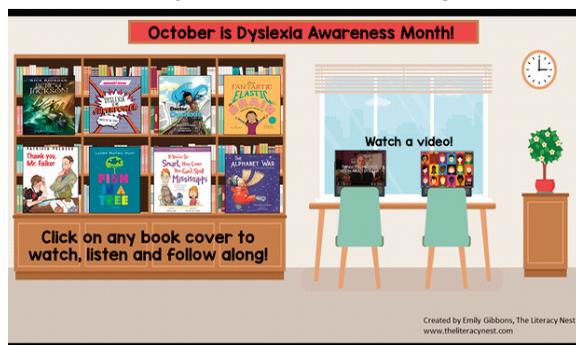
Student, James, and Orton-Gillingham trainee, Michelle Drucker, have gotten off to a great start working together this September. They got to know each other and bonded over their shared love of dogs. They even got to see each other's dogs during their virtual sessions. James has a small Shih tzu named Morty and Michelle has two large dogs, a rottweiler named Bella and a Boxer/ Pitbull rescue dog named Cooper. As they were getting to know each other, James shared that he likes WWF, Pokemon and biking around town with his friends. Michelle shared that she likes outdoor physical activities, especially horseback riding, paddleboarding and hiking.

Michelle and James have been working on reading and writing one syllable open and closed words that contain blends and digraphs, knowing when to spell the sound /k/ with a c, k, or ck and reading words with glued sounds. James attended the summer program at Literacy Nassau, so he had a lot of knowledge already which is allowing James and Michelle to go through new lessons and skills quickly. Michelle is particularly impressed with how many learned words James can already read. James had admitted that he did not initially want to attend tutoring with her because he had worked with tutors in the past that had not helped. Michelle assured James that the OG approach was going to help him and that she would not waste either of their time with something that was not going to work. She shared that her own 15-year-old son also struggles with reading and writing so she knows how frustrating it is for kids to have a tough time with reading and writing and that she was one hundred percent committed to helping James learn. That seemed to reassure him.

James is a very cooperative student who is focused during tutoring sessions. Michelle has teenaged children at home and is a kindergarten teacher so she is particularly enjoying working with James who is a 5th grader. She has worked with this age group in the past and enjoys the kind of relationship you can have with students this age and she is looking forward to working with James this year and to watching him grow!

RESOURCE CORNER

The Literacy Nest provides a wonderful interactive presentation of books and videos about dyslexia offering information on facts you may not know. If you would like to view the presentation, please email me for the link at: kquijano@literacynassau.org



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: REX ANDREW W.

(submitted by Stacey Popkin, OG Trainee)

Rex Wilder is a ten year old boy in fifth grade. He has been paired up for tutoring sessions three times a week with me. Upon meeting on September 13th, we automatically clicked. Below are some questions I asked Rex in order for us to get to know each other better.

Q: What is your favorite subject in school?

A: Math (plus, minus, times, division). I like to calculate stuff and really like money.

Q: What is your least favorite subject in school?

A: Social Studies. There is a lot of reading and I don't like reading. Words can be hard for me.

Q: What would you like to be when you grow up?

A: I want to be a train driver. I like road signs, and loading heavy objects. I like freight yards and train yards. Railroad crossings are cool.

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Pizza – from Taco Bell and pizza bites.

Q: What is your least favorite food?

A: Mac-n-cheese is because it sticks to the plate and I don't like to eat it.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: Knuffle Bunny books. They travel to cool places and I like to travel. I like Trixie. The books are epic and exciting.

Q: I know you just moved; tell me about your new house.

A: It is near my old house. I have a new room and I am going to paint it red. It has wooden floors and no carpet.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: Space Jam The New Legacy.

Q: What is your favorite sport and favorite player?

A: I like basketball and my favorite player is LeBron James. I watch him on TV.

Q: What did you do this past summer?

A: I moved and went to the pool a few times. There is a huge waterslide there. I played basketball and other sports.

Q: Tell me something you don't like to do.

A: I don't like to take my vitamins but I have to.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do?

A: Play with my trains, play Minecraft and Roblox. I like to play outside on the playground. The monkey bars are the best.

Q: What is the best thing we have done together during our tutoring sessions?

A: Eyes closed for learned words. I like the C/K rule too.

