

## **Kids and Young Adults Reading Program**

### **What is this and why is it effective?**

This is a phonetic reading decoding program which utilizes methods of learning to enable students to proficiently read complex multisyllable words, understand, and decode the English language. It is based on the 46 Speech Sounds in American English. This program is effective with students in grades 4-12.

This program gives students the phonetic foundation of how words are formed, giving a wide base of knowledge with which to decode printed material easily. It is not rote memorization but is, in fact, just the opposite. Rote memorization can be effective when first gaining knowledge in a language, but it is most essential to move beyond mere memorization to obtain greater proficiency in any language for higher level learning. It is necessary to read written ideas in contextual form smoothly and coherently. Students apply the phonetic sound patterns and ways to divide words to unfamiliar words they encounter which will allow this to happen.

This is accomplished with an emphasis on how the English language works, and by learning to identify sounds and associate the sounds with the printed image. The direct method of teaching the concepts of how words in the English language work is used, starting with the simplest concepts of isolating consonant and vowel sounds and proceeds to the most complex meaningful units of letter patterns that make those sounds. Students learn to match pronunciation with this sound/symbol recognition while understanding the seven kinds of syllables and the ways to divide words between sounded vowels. Proper modeling of sounds is emphasized during instruction time as students need to hear and see all parts of words for reading, spelling, and speaking.

In order to comprehend written ideas, they move away from reading individual words by mastering the speech sounds and images in print. Using the most complex phonetic influences from the Greek, Latin, and Anglo-Saxon phonetic origins of words helps the process of understanding higher level reading. In addition, students learn unusual consonant sounds, word forms, patterns, affixes, root words, and useful techniques of dividing words (between sounded vowels) into syllables for attacking new vocabulary. They begin to read entire passages smoothly and coherently without getting "stuck" on new, complex words that they would have to read around in hopes of getting the meaning of that word.

Complex word choices are used, not just short, every day common words. The words are carefully selected to advance the students' interest level and develop overall vocabulary.