

# LARGE PRINT: A PROVEN SOLUTION FOR STRIVING READERS





# STRENGTHEN LITERACY SKILLS WITH LARGE PRINT

At Thorndike Press, we want to help you and your readers realize the benefits of large print. Over the years, we've collected independent research demonstrating the many ways large print supports leisure reading and learning for all ages and abilities.

**63%**  
OF EIGHTH  
GRADERS

ARE NOT READING AT GRADE  
LEVEL ACCORDING TO THE US  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
2017 NATIONAL REPORT CARD.

## ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING, ENGAGEMENT, AND COMPREHENSION

Large print improves reading experiences, academic outcomes, and cognitive health by increasing:

- Reading fluency: decoding speed and tracking ease
- Reading comprehension
- Sensory satisfaction
- Academic achievement
- Sustained reading

The result is an increase in reader vocabulary and independence because the reader is not limited to lower-level reading materials.

## THE PHYSICAL BENEFITS OF LARGE PRINT

Without legibility, reading is a laborious process, leading to disengagement among discouraged, reluctant, or striving readers.

- Larger fonts and increased spacing force the eye to move more slowly, allowing students to track more easily.<sup>1</sup>
- Print size impacts the maximum speed at which text may be read.<sup>2</sup>
- Serif fonts aid struggling readers by making the words easier to read.<sup>3</sup>
- Children are aided by greater leading, eliminating their tendency to double or skip lines when reading.<sup>4</sup>
- Reading comprehension and memory hinge on legibility.<sup>5</sup>

## PRINT IS STILL THE GOLD STANDARD

Technological advances have resulted in more affordable electronic and audio books; however, not everyone with reading difficulties is interested in consuming books digitally.

Large print font and style selections reduce reader eye fatigue.<sup>6</sup> Reading print supports more complete eye blinks than reading on a computer, thus minimizing dry eye.<sup>7</sup> When it comes to intensively reading long pieces of plain text, paper and ink may still have the advantage.<sup>8</sup>

A growing body of research suggests student readers comprehend what they read in print books at much greater rates than they do when consuming content digitally.<sup>9</sup> Children comprehend what they read in traditional print books at much higher levels than the same material read on an iPad.<sup>10</sup>

## SUPPORTING STRIVING READERS

Students may be unmotivated, see reading as of little value, or be enticed by alternate endeavors and have limited time to read. They may lack visual acuity, vocabulary or comprehension skills, or be ESL learners. They may be diagnosed with ADD/ADHD or have a learning disability, such as dyslexia. No matter the cause, they share the common denominator of reading less than their peers.

In a survey conducted by Thorndike Press, teachers reported that comprehension, motivation and confidence building, vocabulary, tracking, and reading enjoyment were addressed when using large print books. More than half of the participating teachers reported students were reading better at the same level or reading at the next level after only five months' exposure to large print books. These results endorse the importance of making large print available to young readers.

Research consistently shows large print books are necessary ingredients in successful reading programs for students of all ages and learning stages, enabling striving readers to make substantial progress with comprehension, tracking, and fluency:

- Typographical factors such as font size, font style, leading, and color aid in the development of reading.<sup>12</sup>
- Reading speed and accuracy are aided when texts have larger and more widely spaced fonts. This is particularly true for emerging readers of any age, thus eliminating an intimidation factor associated with small font sizes.<sup>13</sup>
- Students using large print books for one year improved between 41% and 70% on their SRA reading scores.<sup>14</sup>

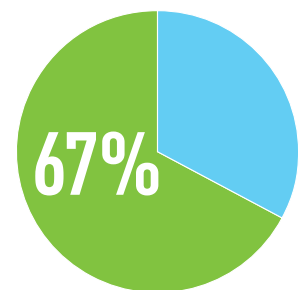


# 41%–70%

**STUDENTS USING LARGE PRINT BOOKS FOR ONE YEAR IMPROVED BETWEEN 41% AND 70% ON THEIR SRA READING SCORES.<sup>14</sup>**

# 7.5 HOURS

**AVERAGE AMOUNT OF TIME EIGHT-TO-EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLDS SPEND IN FRONT OF A SCREEN ACCORDING TO THE KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION.<sup>11</sup>**



**OF THE TEACHERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN A NATIONWIDE STUDY INVOLVING LARGE PRINT CONSUMPTION IN THE CLASSROOM, 67% SAID LARGE PRINT DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED THEIR STUDENTS' READING SKILLS.**



## Sources:

- <sup>1,2</sup> Legge, G. & Bigelow, C. Does Print Size Matter for Reading? (2014, August). Retrieved December 16, 2014 from <http://www.journalofvision.org/content/11/5/8.full>
- <sup>2,4</sup> Worden, E (1991). Ergonomics and literacy: more common than you think (Report N. CS-010-451). East Lansing, MI: National Center for Research on Teacher Learning. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED329901).
- <sup>3,5,6,7</sup> Bloodsworth, J.G. (1993). Legibility of print (Report No. CS-011-244). East Lansing, MI: National Center for Research on Teacher Learning. (ERIC Document Reproduction Services No. ED355497)/
- <sup>8</sup> Tanner, M.J. (2014) Digital vs. Print: Reading Comprehension and the Future of the Book. SLIS Student Research Journal, 4(2). Retrieved 8-12-16. <http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/slissrj/vol4/iss2/6>
- <sup>9</sup> Jabr, F., (2013). The Reading Brain in the Digital Age: The Science of Paper versus Screens. Scientific American. April 11, 2013. Web. Retrieved 8-14-16. <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/reading-paper-screens/>
- <sup>10</sup> Herold, B. Researchers Voice Concern Over E-Books' Effect on Reading Comprehension. (2014, April). Retrieved December 16, 2014 from [http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/DigitalEducation/2014/04/early\\_concerns\\_about\\_e-books\\_e\\_1.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/DigitalEducation/2014/04/early_concerns_about_e-books_e_1.html)
- <sup>11</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation. (2010) Generation M': Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year Old's. Retrieved 8.20.2018. <https://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/8010.pdf>
- <sup>12,13</sup> Mathes, P. (2016). Curing Dyslexia: What is Possible. Webinar from the International Dyslexia Association. Retrieved August 8, 2016 from <https://dyslexiaida.org/curing-dyslexia-what-is-possible/>
- <sup>14</sup> Lowe, E (2003, May). Large print books: the missing link for speed and fluency for all students – Struggling, proficient, in between. Paper presented at the meeting of The International Reading Association, Orlando, FL.

## MAKE READING MORE ACCESSIBLE

Thorndike Press books feature a 16-point font, printed in high-contrast black ink on thinner, but still opaque, paper. Expanded character spacing in leading and one-third more line spacing helps increase readability.

Large print books are comparable in size and weight to traditional print. Large print editions for students do not usually include the words “large print” on the cover, are unabridged and are presented with identical cover designs to the original print editions. This prevents striving readers from feeling self-conscious.

Self-selection of material is a key component to active and meaningful literary learning. Thorndike Press publishes bestselling, popular, and classic books. Importantly, educators say the content in these books is more apt to hold a striving reader’s attention.

*“Large print books are the missing component for accelerating literacy comprehension and reading fluency for all students, whether they are struggling, proficient, or in between.”*

**Elizabeth Lowe**  
Literacy and Neuroscience  
Researcher



Thorndike Press large print editions are complete, unabridged, feature the same cover art and are comparable in size to standard print editions.

## ABOUT THORNDIKE PRESS

As the world’s leading large print publisher, Thorndike Press, a Gale company, helps readers of all ages enjoy books. In 1999, we started publishing unabridged reprints of books in large print for middle grade and young adult readers, our catalogue now features over 300 award winning, bestselling, popular, and classic titles from more bestselling authors than any other publisher. Our commitment to producing high quality, 100% guaranteed large print books supports young readers as they develop the skills necessary to become successful, confident, lifelong readers.

**THORNDIKE PRESS®**

### LEARN MORE

#### DIRECT



800.223.1244, ext. 4



[gale.com/thorndikepress/ya](http://gale.com/thorndikepress/ya)

#### WHOLESALE

Baker & Taylor  
Follett  
Ingram

Mackin  
Perma-Bound  
and more