

Free Reading Resources

E-Text (Electronic Text) free books online - Electronic text provides access to digital materials for students with learning, sensory and physical disabilities. The Internet provides many sites for gathering e-text. Here are just a few:

The Online Books Page - <http://digital.library.upenn.edu/books/index.html> - a website that facilitates access to books that are freely readable over the Internet. It also aims to encourage the development of such online books, for the benefit and edification of all.

Children's Literature Resources - <http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/%7Edkbrown/rteacher.html> - This is a collection of literature resources and includes lesson plans and activities.

Giggle Poetry - <http://www.gigglepoetry.com/> - This site provides [eleven poetry categories](#) and hundreds of poems to read. Students can grade all the poems and see what others think of them, too. Many poems include comments from the author.

Children's Story - <http://www.childrenstory.com/tales/index.html> - All types of fairy tales are available on this site.

International Children's Digital Library - <http://www.icdlbooks.org/> - this site is full of children's books available in many languages. New books are frequently added to the collection.

Electronic Text Center at UVa Library – <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu>

Project Gutenberg - www.gutenberg.org – one of the most recognized sites for digital text

The Internet Public Library - <http://www.ipl.org/div/books/>

Arthur's Classic Novels - www.arthursclassicnovels.com - Free ebooks and no registration! This site has a collection of 4000 children's books, novels, classics, history, educational books and many more all in an html format. This site has a link to LibriVox. LibriVox provides free audiobooks from the [public domain](#). There are several options for listening with directions included.

Digital Book Index – www.digitalbookindex.org - provides links to more than 133,000 titles from more than 1800 commercial and non-commercial publishers, universities, and various private sites. Most of these books are free, while others are a nominal fee. This site also has magazines, such as **Rolling Stones, Harpers, and Popular Science**.

Free text readers – These are a variety of free text to speech software that can be downloaded and used to read digital or electronic text (e-text).

Natural Reader - www.naturalreaders.com - This is also a full functioning text to speech software program. It has an easy to use interface that easily converts any written text to speech. You do not have to import text into this program. This program can also read WebPages and email. It also has a "mini" toolbar option, which allows the reading function to be available at any time. It "floats" above any document or website and can easily accessed when needed. The paid version supports Natural voices, while the free version only contains Microsoft voices. Any amount of text can be pasted into the full sized window to be read. The program also has a Miniboard (minimized control panel) that allows the user to highlight up to 1000 characters directly on a website or in their e-mail and then click on the read button.

ReadPlease2003 - <http://www.readplease.com/> - This is free software for Windows that can read text copied from text in any window. The ReadPlease display allows customization of background color, font style and color, and a slider bar to control text size. ReadPlease 2003 is a **free** version that never

expires. ReadPlease Plus 2003 has a free trial period of 30-days after which you may **purchase** a registration code to unlock the software. This site download includes both versions of ReadPlease. If you have no intention of buying the Plus program, deselect ReadPlease Plus 2003 upon installation

Free reader that reads a Microsoft Powerpoint upon opening – This program will read a powerpoint presentation when it is opened.

PowerTalk – www.oatsoft.org – Type PowerTalk in the Search box. PowerTalk is a free program developed for use with all versions of Microsoft PowerPoint for Windows. It automatically speaks any presentation or slide show running in PowerPoint. You just download and install PowerTalk and while you open and run the presentation as usual it speaks the text on your slides. The advantage over other generic 'Text To Speech' programs is that PowerTalk is able to speak text as it appears and can also speak hidden text attached to images. Speech is provided by the standard synthesized computer voices that are provided with Windows.

Free text reader that inserts a toolbar into MS Word – This add-in toolbar enables the user to have text in Word read by word, sentence, or paragraph. Students can use this add-in to read what they have written or to read digital or electronic text (e-text) that has been copied or opened in Word.

WordTalk – www.wordtalk.org.uk - WordTalk is a free program developed for use with all versions of Microsoft Word (from Word 97 upwards). It will speak the text of the document and will highlight it as it reads. It contains a talking dictionary to help decide which word spelling is most appropriate. It sits in the Word toolbar and is configurable, allowing the user to adjust the highlight colors, the voice and the speed of the speech. This program is easy to use, available in the word processing document and does not require the user to open a separate window. Download the **WTConfigure.exe** file along with the **WordTalk.exe** file as it enables the user to configure WordTalk so that the WordTalk toolbar opens in Word. It is suggested that the documentation at the website be downloaded before installing the program. It has troubleshooting help in case the toolbar does not show up in Word. To see a demonstration of the program and how to download it, go to the free video tutorial is available at: http://www.teachertube.com/view_video.php?viewkey=4700cbf03cdc55e2daae

Free text reader that requires the text to be converted to its format before it can be opened in the reader – These are free programs that displays text and one gives the user the capability to change the presentation of the text (font, text size, and background) while the other provides text-to-speech. Both have converters that can change a text file to its format.

eReader – www.ereader.com – eReader.com is an electronic book publisher that offers contemporary fiction and non-fiction books, newspapers, and magazines for reading on handheld computers as well as Windows and Macintosh computers. If you want to convert text files to eReader format, then also download **DropBook for Windows**. DropBook for Windows allows you to convert a text file formatted using the Palm Markup Language (PML) into a Palm OS .pdb file which can be read with the eReader application.

Microsoft Reader – www.microsoftreader.com – Size of text may be customized. This program has bookmark and note taking capabilities. The user can choose to have the text read with highlighting word by word. The user can also highlight an unknown word and right click on it to get the definition of the word. (**Be sure to download the free Encarta dictionary to have the definition capability.**) After downloading the program, type '**Microsoft Reader add-in for Word**' into the search box to find the **free add-in software**. With this add-in, the user can use Microsoft Word 2000/XP/2003 to create their own Microsoft Reader eBooks.

Free dictionary/thesaurus – This is a free program that provides pronunciation of the word, plus definition and synonyms.

WordWeb - <http://wordweb.info/free/> - A free English thesaurus and dictionary for Windows. It can be used to look up words from within almost any program in just one click. It also works off-line, but can also look up words in web references such as the Wikipedia encyclopedia.

Websites with exceptional resources – These websites offer numerous resources in reading, writing, and math.

Free Technology Toolkit for UDL in All Classrooms -

<http://teachingeverystudent.blogspot.com/2007/06/free-technology-toolkit-for-udl-in-all.html>

4Teachers.org - <http://www.4teachers.org/>

Karen Janowski's Delicious Graphic Organizer page - <http://del.icio.us/KJanowski/graphicorganizer>

Judy Schaad's Links Page - <http://learn.shorelineschools.org/tech/jschaad/index.php?section=links>

Jenny Eather's Writing Fun - <http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jeather/writingfun/writingfun.html>

Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative - <http://www.t2tweb.us/default.asp>

Additional resources from Georgia Tools for Life, Martha Rust – These resources were included in the **Navigating the Funding Stream** presentation at the 2009 GPAT Summer Institute

Adobe Acrobat Reader with Speech (v.7.x): It allows most Acrobat docs to be read out loud with variable speed and pitch. <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

Firefox Browser v2 with FireVox Text-To-Speech: When linked to the FireVox TTS engine, it reads. Can also instal one-click dictionaries and right-click translations. www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/ (Install Firefox) www.firevox.clcworld.net/clc-4tts_bundle_v2.8_release.xpi (Install Firevox) <https://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/918/> (Install gTranslate) www.m-w.com/downloads/firefox/index.htm (Dictionary Installs)

Google Notebook: Allows students to grab online data, organize it, and share it- from Google Labs <http://labs.google.com>

Google Docs and Spreadsheets: Sharable (within the room or worldwide), free, word-processing and spreadsheets. www.google.com/google-d-s/tour1.html (a tour with get started links)

Google Calendar: This calendar can even send reminder text-messages to mobile phone www.google.com/calendar

Google Maps: In lots of different languages <http://maps.google.com> (US) <http://maps.google.co.uk/> (Britain/Ireland) <http://maps.google.de/> (German) <http://maps.google.fr/> (French) <http://maps.google.es/> (Spanish)

Wayfaring- map-making software: Build simple geography and history projects www.wayfaring.com (Sign In) www.wayfaring.com/maps/show/13492

Click-N-Type- the on-screen, programmable keyboard: Shows upper and lower case letter to struggling writers and runs in many languages www.lakefolks.org/cnt/

SENSwitcher-the simplest switch program: Great support for students with high-needs www.northerngrid.org/sen/Menu-L.htm