Dyslexics can reach the stars and shine!

WHAT I NEED

Written by Tiffany James

Illustrated by Leah Heming

nessy.com
For Ross
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
That’s why so many of us have become artists and 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, and gymnasts.
But DO dyslexics have superpowers?
When dyslexics are given the opportunity to use their talents, they can turn their skills into superpowers.
building with tools

Karate

Singing

soccer

pottery
painting

being kind to
people or animals

twirling
baking

biking

sculpting
playing guitar
Swimming
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
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.

Your superpower is what you are good 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
from Texas, USA

ZERAH
from Australia

RAYVYN
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
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 teaching to children who speak Spanish and Portuguese.
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

**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 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 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 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.
The horse jumped.

The pony jumped.

Teach me how to read them.
I need to be explicitly taught the rules of English to learn to read.
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

Life cycle

- Egg
- Caterpillar
- Chrysalis
- Butterfly
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.

The market is very busy
I usually cannot remember a whole word.

The market is very busy

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
Dyslexic kids need structured language teaching.
I do not need ineffective treatments that do not follow the Science of Reading.
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.
I am discovering my superpowers.
PRAISE
for
NESSY LEARNING
“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
“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.”

Crystal Lovato

“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

“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.”

Pamela
“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
“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.”

Joan Case

“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
If you like this book you will love

DYSLEXIA EXPLAINED

Without the need for too many words...
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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