

RESEARCH SUMMARY: Large Print and Reading Achievement

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.



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
- Academic achievement
- Sensory satisfaction
- Sustained reading

The Physical Benefits of Large Print

- Larger fonts and increased spacing force the eye to move more slowly, allowing students to track more easily.¹
- Print size impacts the maximum speed at which text may be read.^{2≠}

“Although I bought Large Print books to help the students with vision problems, all the students want them. It took me a moment to understand what was going on when I had so many requests for ‘books with big words.’”

Sandy Runions, Librarian,
Clinton Middle School
Clinton, TN

10-11 hours

Average amount of time the average American spends on digital devices. Eye Fatigue sets in after just 2 hours.

- Serif fonts aid struggling readers by making the words easier to read.³
- Children are aided by greater leading, eliminating their tendency to double or skip lines when reading.⁴
- Reading comprehension and memory hinge on legibility.⁵

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

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.⁶ Reading print supports more complete eye blinks than reading on a computer, thus minimizing dry eye.⁷ **“When it comes to intensively reading long pieces of plain text, paper and ink may still have the advantage.”⁸**

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.⁹ Children comprehend what they read in traditional print books at much higher levels than the same material read on an iPad.¹⁰

Supporting Reluctant and Struggling 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 also have a learning disability,

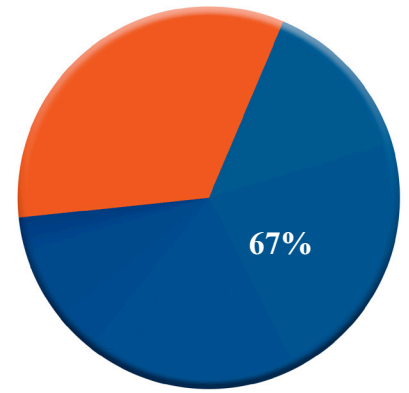
such as dyslexia. No matter the cause, they share the common denominator of reading less than their peers.

Reading difficulties can also result from neurological causes, **educationally sound and early interventions can actually normalize how these students process print.**¹¹

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 struggling 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.¹²
- 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.¹³
- Students using Large Print books for one year improved between 41% and 70% on their SRA reading scores.¹⁴



Of the teachers who participated in a nationwide research study on Large Print Consumption in the Classroom, 67% said Large Print dramatically improved their students' reading skills.

“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, and comparable in size to the regular print, featuring the same cover art.

“We have both students and seniors who ask for our most popular titles in Large Print.”

Bryan Summers
Collection Development Mgr.,
Yuma County Library District

About Large Print

Thorndike Press Large Print is formatted in a 16-point serif font, like this paper, with one-third more line spacing, and expanded character spacing to increase readability. Large Print books create high-contrast reading by employing dark type on thin but high-opacity paper.



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

Most Large Print books published today are reprints of bestselling, popular, and classic books. Importantly, educators say the content in these books is more apt to hold a reluctant reader’s attention. The result is an increase in reader vocabulary and independence because the reader is not limited to lower-level reading materials. Self-selection of material is a key component to active and meaningful literary learning.

For the complete Research Paper and References, visit:
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