

# Reading and their future

Cinthia Valdez



**CORNERS**

---

OUTREACH

# The power of reading

## Why is 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading so important?

### How much does reading effect our lives?

Right now, only 35% of public-school students can read proficiently by 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Students learn to read from K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade and after 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, they are reading to learn. If a student can not read proficiently by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, they will struggle to preform academically year after year, and many times leads them to drop out in frustration. Every 26 seconds in America, a student decides to drops out of school. Each drop out, over his or her lifetime, costs taxpayers \$260,000. Dropping out of high school also effects crime and drug use. 78% of juvenile crime is committed by high school dropouts. Prisons use 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading levels to determine how many cells will be needed in the future. Did you know that 50% of adolescents that have struggled with substance abuse have reading problems? If students are not reading on grade level, they have less than a 12% chance to graduate high school. Reading is such a powerful thing that determines if our students will be successful or will fall into poverty and crime.

### Graduate vs Drop out

- A high school drop out will earn an annual income of \$20,241. That is \$10,386 less that high school graduate.
- For dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24, incarceration is 63 times higher than among college graduates.
- High school graduates have better health and longer life expectancy than dropouts.
- 25% of high school freshman fail to graduate high school in the four-year span.
- A high school dropout will earn \$200,000 less than a high school graduate over his lifetime and almost a million dollars less than a college student.
- African Americans and Hispanics are 60% more likely to drop compared to Caucasians and Asians.

## John's Story

John started coming to Corners Academy when he was in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. One of the sweetest traits that John expressed was his willingness to help at every turn. At first, we rewarded him for being such an enthusiastic helper, but we soon figured out that he was helping so he wouldn't have to do his work because he did not know how to read.

So we started teaching John all the letter and sounds, and then moved to sight words. Soon John was excited to do his work, even though he still needed some assistance, and was willing to put the effort and time into learning how to read.

All it took was a little push to give him the confidence that he needed to learn to read. Now John is prepared to be on grade level by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, which is a strong indicator of him graduating high school.

## How is Corners changing reading?

Corners Academy recently partnered with a Gwinnet County retired teacher of 30 years to develop a reading curriculum that focuses on our students that are English as a Second language learners and supports their needs to overcome the challenges to be read on grade level. Learning to read is like cracking a code and takes tremendous amount of practice and time to read and understand new words. Our reading curriculum is constructed around the following:

1. **I do, We do, You do:** We want our students to be able to understand the correlation between letters and sounds in order to identify, read and write using the listening, speaking, reading and writing approach.
2. **Phonics First:** Phonics helps students in word recognition, ability to work out the sounds of new words, efficiency in word pronunciation, accuracy in oral reading and ability to recognize above grade level vocabulary words.
3. **Spelling:** Teaching spelling with an emphasis of letters sounds and spelling patterns help students in word pronunciation and recognition.

## At Corners Academy, students:

- Receive academic support with their homework daily.
- Spend 30-60 dedicated minutes four times a week using Corners Academy curriculum.
- Receive a reading composition book to use for all Corners Academy work including word bank, journal prompts, spelling, etc. Students keep these composition books throughout their time at Corners Academy.
- Receive individualized tutoring, especially for those students who are significantly behind grade level.
- Are rewarded for their reading proficiency, growth, and effort.
- Have access to leveled books and hands on activities.

## What can you do?

There are 3 paths of investment:

1. **Volunteer**- We need tutors, mentors and parent workshop volunteers. [Sign up today.](#)
2. **Become a client** – Landscaping covers normal yard maintenance plus projects like new shrubs, flowers, pine straw, sod, sprinklers, retaining walls, drainage, etc. [Request a quote here.](#)
3. **Become an investor** - Join our [931 Club of recurring donors](#). Commit to donating one penny for each student we tutored last year (or more if you're willing). Can't donate monthly? [Make a one-time donation.](#)

Through education and improved job options, together we can break the cycle of poverty and improve lives in our community today and for generations to come. Please join us!

### Sources:

<https://www.readingfoundation.org/the-impact>

<https://education.cu-portland.edu/blog/education-news-roundup/illiteracy-in-america/>

<https://www.bookspring.org/literacy-statistics/>

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/by-the-numbers-dropping-out-of-high-school/>

<https://www.childtrends.org/indicators/high-school-dropout-rates>