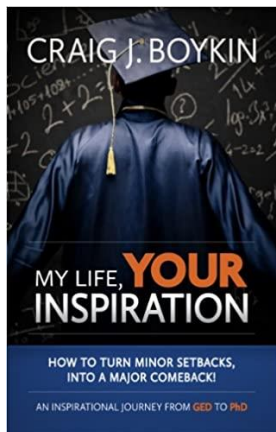


## An Annotated Bibliography of Books about Adult Learners



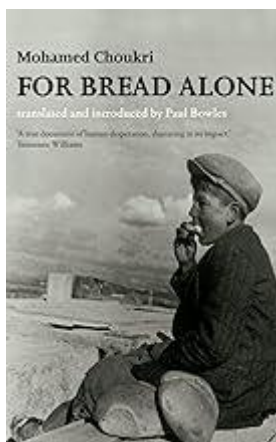
Bauer, Joan. 2011. **Close to famous**. New York: Penguin Books. ISBN 9780142420171.

A realistic young adult novel about a young girl who could not read, but had aspirations so big no one could hold her down. With the help of a friend and through her determination and hard work, using her abilities to listen and memorize, she learns to read and realize her dreams of becoming a chef.



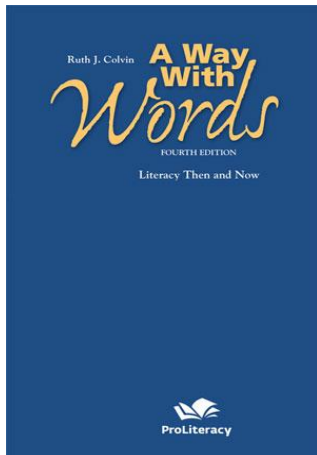
Boykin, Craig J. 2013. **My life, your inspiration: How to turn minor setbacks into a major comeback!** ([www.mylifeyourinspiration.com](http://www.mylifeyourinspiration.com)). ISBN: 9780615868608.

An inspirational story of a young man who survives emotional and physical abuse from his family, leaving school behind and becoming a teenage father. After being imprisoned, he made a conscious decision to put in the incredibly difficult work to get his education, and to save his life and the life of his child in the process.



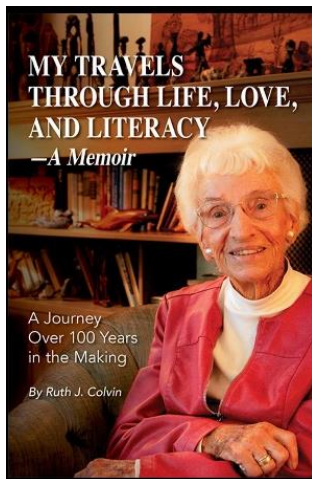
Choukri, Mohamed. Translated by Paul Bowles. 2010. **For bread alone**. London: Telegram. ISBN 9781846590108.

Set in Morocco during the 1950s. After a childhood of poverty and petty crime, Choukri learned how to read and write at the age of twenty. He then became a teacher and writer, finally being awarded the chair of Arabic Literature at Ibn Batuta College in Tangier.



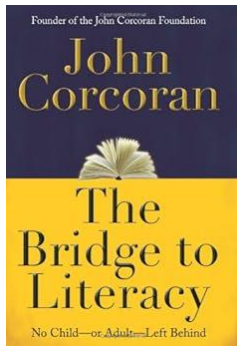
Colvin, Ruth J. 2005. **A way with words: Literacy then and now.** Syracuse, NY: New Readers Press. ISBN: 9781564205094.

This memoir takes the reader on a journey through Ruth Colvin's fight to end illiteracy. Her life as a volunteer has been tireless and has spanned more than 50 years. As a reader, you will learn about the birth of Literacy Volunteers of America, the people and influences in Ruth's life that have brought us to the present day, and the merger between Literacy Volunteers of America and Laubach Literacy International to become ProLiteracy.



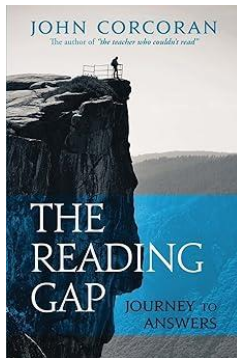
Colvin, Ruth J. 2021. **My Travels Through Life, Love and Literacy: A Memoir, A Journey Over 100 Years in the Making.** New Readers Press. ISBN: 9780883360538.

From adapting to loss and grief at an early age, to starting a national literacy organization in service of others, Ruth's journey has taken her around the world and to meetings with prominent world leaders. Her dedication to spreading literacy wasn't always easy in remote parts of the world or even in her hometown of Syracuse, New York, but her struggles led to success and recognition she could have never imagined, including two presidential awards.



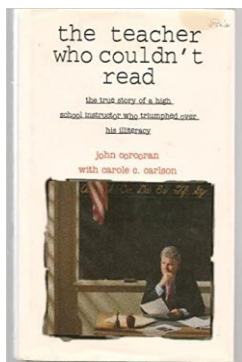
Corcoran, John. 2009. **Bridge to literacy: No child – or adult – left behind.** New York: Kaplan Publishing. ISBN 9781427798299.

The author's passionate outlook encompasses the views of experts, field professionals, and laypeople, and confronts our nation's most divisive educational issue: accountability for literacy.



Corcoran, John. 2017. **The reading gap: Journey to answers.** Oceanside, CA: Brehon Publishing. ISBN 9781938620508.

This book interweaves the author's personal story with the current state of research, teacher training, and instruction. It also addresses the uncomfortable truth about the scope of illiteracy and sub-literacy in the U.S., as well as the far-reaching consequences and devastating effects on our society.



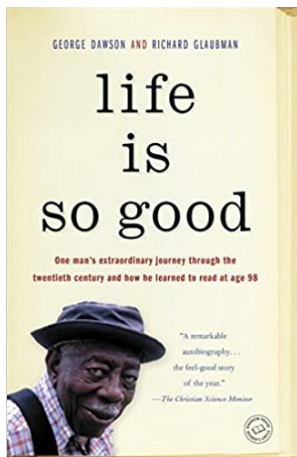
Corcoran, John. 1994. **The teacher who couldn't read: One man's triumph over illiteracy: A memoir.** New York: Kaplan. ISBN: 9781427798305.

John Corcoran's life story of how he struggled through school without the basic skills of how to read or write and went on to become a college graduate and a high school teacher, still without these basic skills. He emerges as an adult reader after realizing he needs help.



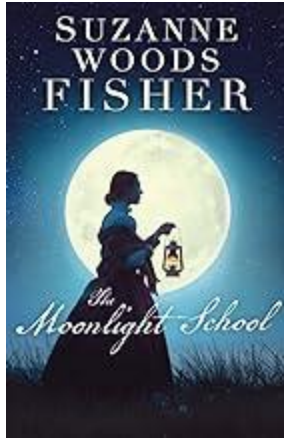
Cox, Robert. 2020. **If only I could read.** Allen, TX: KeithWalkerBooks.com. ISBN 9781732062467.

This is the story of a man who, try as he might, simply could not figure out what was wrong with him. Constantly asking himself if he was simply too dumb or stupid to "get it," he overcame obstacles and experienced a colorful life. Despite his success, he can't help but wonder how much better life would've been, if only he could read.



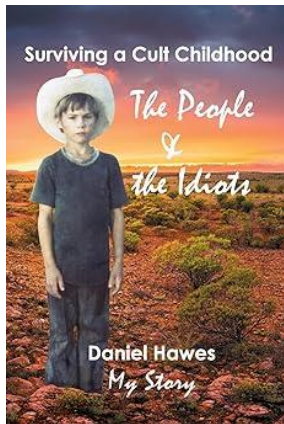
Dawson, George and Richard Glaubman. 2013. **Life is good: One man's extraordinary journey through the twentieth century and how he learned to read at age 98.** New York: Random House. ISBN: 9780812984873.

A slave's grandson who learned to read at age 98 and lived to the age of 103, reflects on his life and shares valuable lessons in living, as well as a fresh, firsthand view of America during the entire sweep of the twentieth century.



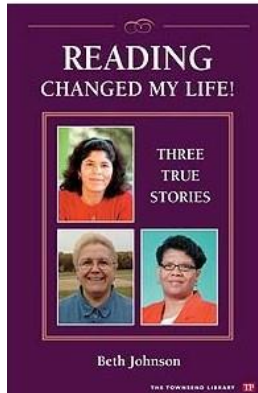
Fisher, Suzanne Woods. 2021. **The moonlight school.** Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. ISBN: 9780800735012.

It is a captivating story of the beauty of the land and people of Appalachia. In bringing to light Cora Wilson Stewart's life work, the author has continued the gift of storytelling that was so meaningful in the hollers of Kentucky, although the stories were verbally passed from the old to the young. The author's storytelling is written and shares Cora's wish to bring the opportunity to learn to read and write not only to young children but opened opportunity for learning to adults and to those who had dropped out of school or were never able to attend due to needs at home.



Hawes, Daniel. 2023. **The people & the idiots: Surviving a cult childhood.** Portland, ME: Daniel Hawes. ISBN 9781088204443.

Daniel Hawes grew up in a cult, separated from his parents, brother, and sister, and prevented from receiving an education. This is a story of abuse, anguish, and resilience. Today, Hawes focuses on his survival and all good things in his world.

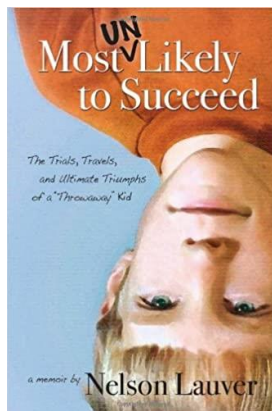


Johnson, Beth. 2003. **Reading changed my life!: Three true stories.** Townsend Press. ISBN: 1591940125.

After a lifetime of abuse, Maria Cardenas was finally living in peace with her daughter. But soon, that little girl would be able to read better than her mother. What could Maria do?

School was a nightmare for Daisy Russell. She couldn't wait to get away from a place where she felt stupid and worthless. But once she dropped out, she discovered a burning desire to learn to read. Was it too late?

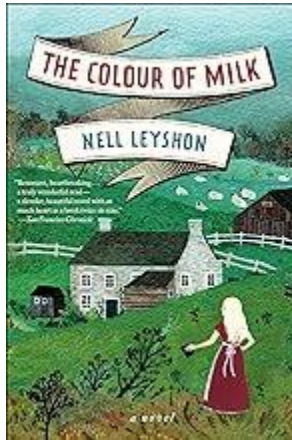
As a child, Julia Burney escaped from the poverty and violence of her home into a world of books. As an adult, she saw children growing up without that escape available to them. How could she help?



Lauver, Nelson. 2011. **Most unlikely to succeed: The trials, travels, and ultimate triumphs of a "throwaway" kid: a memoir.** New York: Five City Media. ISBN: 9780983040309.

At age 29, a chance encounter leads to a diagnosis of dyslexia and a profound rebirth. Ironically, the boy who was afraid to have anyone hear him try to read launches a new career as a writer, broadcaster and speaker.





Leyshon, Nell. 2012. **The colour of milk**. New York: Harper Collins. ISBN 9780062192066.

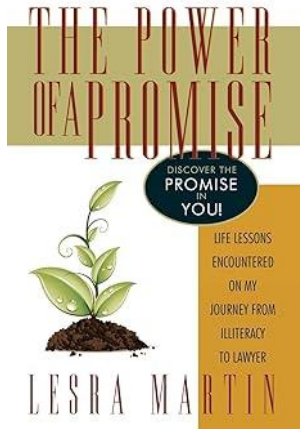
Her name is Mary. Her hair is the color of milk. And this is her story, told in a compelling voice as British writer Leyshon brings her narrator brilliantly to life. Mary begins her account in 1830, when she is 14 and forced to leave the only world she has known, her abusive father's farm, where she slaves from sunup to sundown alongside her three sisters. Against her will, Mary's father sends her to live as housemaid for the ailing vicar's wife so that he can collect the money. It is in her new life at the vicarage that this illiterate girl realizes her greatest dream, to learn to read and write. But the learning comes at a tragic cost.



MacGregor, Roy and Christine MacGregor Cation and Mathilde Cinq-Mars. 2020. **Clarence's big secret**. Berkeley, CA: Owl Kids Books. ISBN 9781771473316.

Clarence was a smart and BIG young boy. When he got to school, the teacher thought he was older than he was and asked him to do things that he had not yet learned. He fled school and never returned.

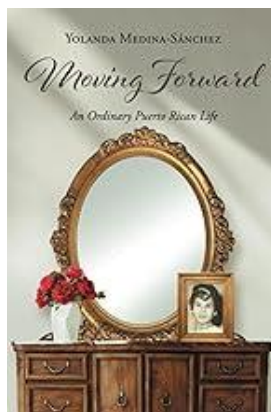
Clarence was clever and talented. He went on to have a very productive life while keeping his big secret. Find out what it was in this charming story which clearly shows that one is never too old to learn or overcome.



Martin, Lesra with Tashon Ziara. 2009. **The power of a promise: Life lessons encountered on my journey from illiteracy to lawyer.**

Bloomington, IN: iUniverse. ISBN 97814401590804.

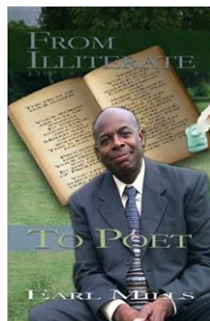
Lesra Martin's secret is that he believes that neither your intellect nor your circumstances will ultimately determine your success in life; that the real key to success lies in our ability to make a commitment to ourselves and then to fulfill that promise, whatever it is!



Medina-Sanchez, Yolanda. 2023. **Moving Forward: An Ordinary Puerto Rican Life.**

Atlanta, GA: Westwood Books Publishing. ISBN 9798888875957.

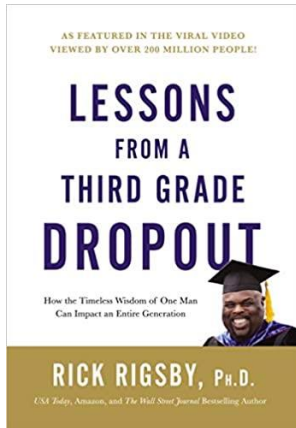
When Josefina's mother drops her out of school at 9 years old to become a live-in maid, she never imagined that after abuse, infidelity, and poverty would someday guide her to finish her education with a lot of hard work and faith. She will finally learn to find happiness.



Mills, Earl. 2011. **From illiterate to poet.** New Bern, NC: Jasper Press. ISBN: 9780615513539.

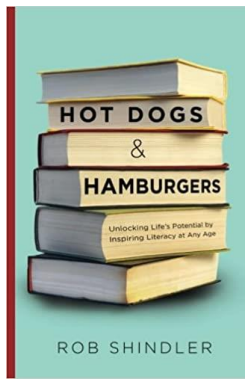
Earl joined an adult literacy program and learned to read in his 40s. He read his first book when he was 48. He is now an accomplished poet.





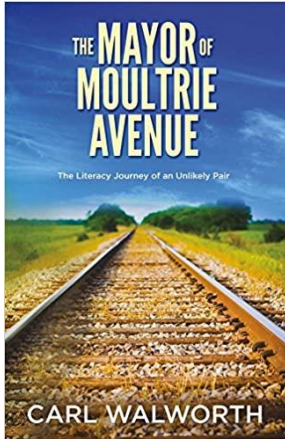
Rigsby, Rick. 2006. **Lessons from a third grade dropout: How the timeless wisdom of one man can impact and entire generation.** Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson. ISBN: 9781599510002.

While Rick Rigsby's father was a third-grade dropout, he was a man who never hid behind any excuse. A man who never allowed his problems or lack of a formal education to determine his present or affect his future. A man who realized that destiny was a choice and not a chance.



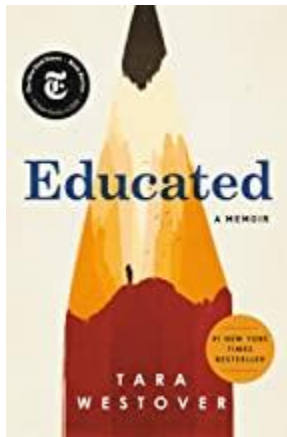
Schindler, Rob. 2012. **Hot dogs and hamburgers: Unlocking life's potential by inspiring literacy at any age.** Austin, TX: River Grove. ISBN: 9781938416095.

Hot Dogs & Hamburgers demonstrates that literacy issues reside in all neighborhoods and that its victims are committed to finding dignity and life's possibilities through learning to read.



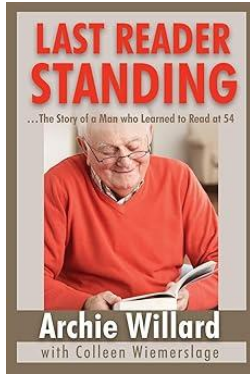
Walworth, Carl. 2016. **The Mayor of Moultrie Avenue: A literacy journey of an unlikely pair.** ISBN: 9781483579580.

When long-time reporter Carl Walworth volunteers for a local literacy program, he never imagines his weekly lesson with Eldo Ealy will turn into a twenty-four-year friendship. Nor does he anticipate what he learns in return: innovation, endurance, and the art of giving. Questioning assumptions and putting a human face on nonreaders, *The Mayor of Moultrie Avenue* explores education, health care, and poverty alongside the changing face of blue-collar work, newspaper publishing, and small-town America.



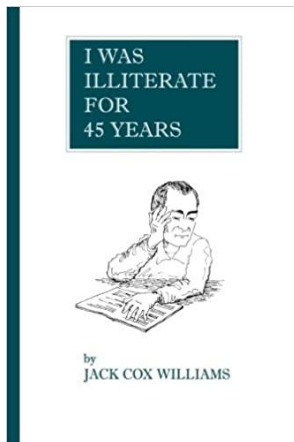
Westover, Tara. 2018. **Educated: A Memoir.** New York: Random House. ISBN: 9780399590504.

Tara's life growing up in a Mormon family in Idaho. Even by Mormon standards, her father especially, is an outsider in his own faith tradition. Eccentric might be another term that one would use. Tara and some of her other younger siblings are never sent to school and their so-called "homeschooling" is basically no schooling. Her father believes school will contaminate his children to the world- a world in which he sees himself as God's prophet. The story is a beautiful testament to the power of education to open eyes and change lives.



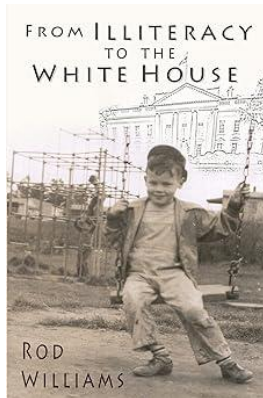
Willard, Archie with Colleen Wiemerslage. 2013. **Last reader standing: ...The story of a man who learned to read at 54.** USA: Bettie Young Book Publishers. ISBN 9781936332489.

The day Archie lost his job, he was forced to confront a secret he had hidden for most of his life: at the age of 54 he couldn't read. As a youngster he was labeled as "stupid" by his teachers but he took advantage of a second chance and improved his life.



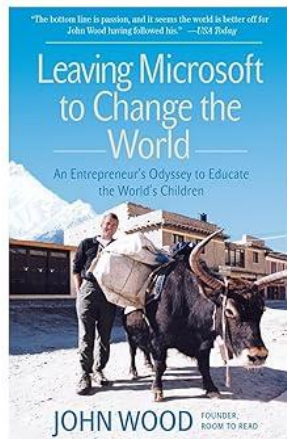
Williams, Jack Cox. 2011. **I was illiterate for 45 years.** ISBN: 9781460967072. ISBN 9781475282870.

Jeff Daeron is a functionally illiterate man living in constant fear that his illiteracy would be discovered by his boss, family, and friends with humiliating and otherwise disastrous results. Jeff lived on the edge, always prepared to run, dodge, and hide from his disability. Then by chance he meets John, an adult literacy tutor.



Williams, Rod. 2012. **From illiteracy to the White House.** USA: Rod Williams. ISBN 9781475282870.

For Williams, being unable to read wreaked havoc on his childhood, his relationships, and his future, but he vowed to overcome illiteracy and change his fate. Not only did he learn to read, but he earned a GED, graduated from two federal law enforcement academies, spent two years assigned to the White House, worked with the U.S. Border Patrol, learned to speak and read Spanish, published two books, and founded a successful business.



Wood, John. 2006. **Leaving Microsoft to change the world: An entrepreneur's odyssey to educate the world's children.** New York: Collins. ISBN 9780061121081.

John Wood discovered his passion, his greatest success, and his life's work not at business school or helping lead Microsoft's charge into Asia in the 1990s but on a soul-searching trip to the Himalayas. He made the difficult decision to walk away from his lucrative career to create Room to Read, a nonprofit organization that promotes education across the developing world.