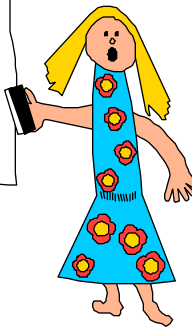


Kids' Newsletter

for, by, and about
kids with learning
disabilities



Vol. 3, Issue 3
Spring 2000
Inland Empire Branch,
International
Dyslexia Assoc.



In our own words . . .

MY STRUGGLE

By Blair D.

When I was about 13 or 14 years old, I was faced with the fact that I had a learning disability and was hyper active. Knowing this I tried to work harder so that I wouldn't be faced with this problem again. As time went on it made it worse on my family and me. I would cause trouble and throw things when peers and classmates tried to help me. So I realized that I was angry with myself and I was thought that it would never get better.

When I was 15 years old I was introduced to a man who was willing to help me no matter what happen. During this time I was put on a drug called Welburtren, to calm my nerves, which helped a little, but not enough. To help my

learning problem I was introduced into a group called "project read". This class helped me more than any other reading programs than I have ever been, and I have been in numerous amounts of programs.

Now that I am 16 years old, and have been in this program for 3 school years, it has helped me mentally and physically. The class is just what I needed to calm me down and learn in a physical matter. I have been off and on with the drug and with those two things it has made a big impact on my life and it made a clearer picture in my mind on what I want to do. I use to have trouble advancing into a higher grade, but now I have greater confidence into advancing into college.

Editor's note: The dyslexic student can write with great creativity when he or she is not hindered by concern for correct spelling. We hope you enjoy these inventive samplings of dyslexic writings.



Dysgraphia does not limit creativity, as indicated by the picture above, drawn by Antonious at age 17, and his writing sample below, composed when he was 12.

First draft:

the way I describe a bumby ride is like wothgan mowtsarts owsek. eshe bumby rowd is like a song. Eshe bump is the a note eche uncon at the sam time ste is. that was the mewstere to mowts mowsuk it was vare metereus and unperdekciabile. So the next time you drive down a bumby theak of mowtsart.

Story as read by Antonious using his draft:

"The way I describe a bumpy ride is like Wolfgang Mozart's music. Each bumpy road is like a song. Each bump in the road is a note. Each bump is uncontrolled at the same time it still is controlled. That was the magic to Mozart's music. It was very mysterious and unpredictable. So the next time you drive down a bumpy road think of Mozart."

Keep Trying

by Ellen, age 17

I first found out that I had a learning difference when I was seven years old and in second grade. My parents and teacher at school were the first to notice that I had problems learning. I was diagnosed as having dyslexia by Richards Educational Therapy Center.

The way things were different for me at school were; I was a lot slower than most kids, I had a hard time figuring out problems and working math. At that time I was okay with my learning difference I didn't really notice that much. I guess it didn't drag me down because I had a lot of support at home from my parents. They helped me a lot.

I got help with my learning difference when I went to Big Springs School and Richards Educational Center.

Dean, age 17

One thing I've learned about myself is that if I don't give up I will succeed with what lies ahead.

Continued on page 2

My Grandpa

by Chris B.

My Grandpa Cliff taught me how to build things. He's a carpenter so he likes to fiddle with wood. He showed me how to build a rabbit cage. He also helped

me build my workbench. He taught me how to use his tools. I feel good that I can build as well as I can.



Keep Trying, Cont'd from p.1

Having a learning difference really doesn't bug me, I feel comfortable with myself, and I have a good support system with my parents and I get help at school.

My future goal for myself is to become a designer for childrens cloths. After I graduate from high school I will be going to Riverside City College for a year and then I hope to transition to Landmark College which is a really nice school for people who have dyslexia. A lot of famous people have gone to Landmark; Tom Cruise and Patrick Swazye went there.

I would like to encourage other kids with learning differences to not let other people or kids distract you, or say that you are no good when you can be the best person in the world and not even know it. Always remember to keep trying and don't quit, but put your entire heart into what you do.

Bulls

Justin S.
Yucaipa High School
sophomore

I'm Justin and I ride bulls. I ride them because I love to have fun. It feels like you are on a roller coaster. You can let go of a bull when you want to end the ride. It is dangerous but it's a living.

Getting on the bull is easy. The bull is in the shoot and you climb on top. Next you wrap your hand with a bullrope with a butterfly rap. Then you yell, "Let's go!" You try to stay on for 8 seconds.

Jordan H.
Yucaipa High School sophomore

I like dirt bikes. Mni bikes are cool. I like the sound of engines revving and roaring down the dirt road. Rocks fly high as dirt bikes burn out and jump really high. I like to see them race around the track. The chain slacks off and the bike dies as you stop your bike and see all of the people happy. The crowd roars at you. You rev your engine, do a few donuts, and then you're done.

Invisible

by judy

If I was invisible people could not see me and no one would know Im there I wouldn't have to wash my bady, my hands, or face. I wouldn't have to pay the taxi driver money and I wouldn't be able to see where I'm going and when I go to school and raise my hand and the teacher calls on me could not see me and Julia could not see me. I wouldn't have to brush my teeth in the morning.

"My Love"

Brandon M., age 18

*Come and acknowledge me,
I will set you free. When you
walk up to my door, I will
open it and welcome you
in.*

*From that point on I will love
you for life.*

*I will be your Romeo; you will
be my Juliet.*

*I will follow you and when
you need something,
I will run and grab it and lay
it in your arms with uncon-
ditional love.*

*When you run, I will follow
you.*

*You can run up a mountain,
up a Creek, or up a road; I
will follow you*

*With my heart beating
faster.*

*When you get old, my love
will be there . . .*

Still, stronger than ever.

*When you die, my love will
still be there in death; that
is my love.*

An Analogy

by Antonious, age 17

"Love is like a pizza. You can order it, but nyou never know what you get till you get it home and openit."

The responses to these questions have come from Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors high school Special Day and Resource Specialist classes.

1 I have a hard time knowing what to study for tests. Any suggestions would help.

“Well, I used to have a hard time with and studying for a test. I just didn’t know what to prepare for. So one day I went to my teacher for some help and he told me to highlight what ever he says twice and what ever *you* think is important. Also make up proples or a test on your own and do it, and re-read eveything he hands out. That is the best thing I can say.”

2 I'm graduating from high school this June and was looking forward to college. Last night my father told me he would not help pay for college because I do not want to be a lawyer like him. What can I say to convince him to let me follow my own interests?

“Tell you father that you want to live your own life and not his, and your old enough to tell him to switch it around and put his self in your place. If he wanted to be a lawyer and his dad wanted him to be something else. Then ask him what he would do. This will at least make him think about what you want to be when your older. Then you can talk about money and if he want’s to pay for what you want. But at least work for his support in your career before you talk about money. Because I’m sure if you just ask for his support and not money and show him that you have you future planned out he will help you out. GOODLUCK.”

3 I have a difficult time remembering names and it embarrasses me. I would like some suggestions to help myself.

“I have a difficult time remembering names too but here are some stuff that I did and it might help you. One if write the name on a paper and just look at it intill you think you got it by your self. Anthor way is to keep on saying that name intill you can say it on your self.”

4 I have a problem knowing the directions left and right. I can't read a map and I get lost when I drive my car. Any suggestions?

“Put two arrows on the dashboard one blue showing right the other arrow orange showing left. Wear a friendship bracelet on your left arm. Have your parents mark a map with yellow to show your route.”

5 I get letters out of sequence when I spell. What can I do?

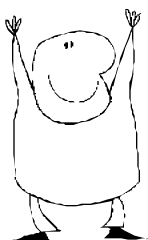
“Use an electronic speller to check your spelling. Have a friend check your spelling.”

6 My mother makes excuses for my brother's bad behavior. When I try to talk to her about it she gets very angry. How do I get her to understand I want to help my brother?

“Tell her she is not the only one having the same problem. But set down and come up with a answer. If one can’t solve the problem maybe two can.”



They say that I have something called dyslexia. I don't know what it is.



Dyslexia means a problem with words. *Dys* = poor or difficult; *lexia* = reading or words. Therefore, dyslexia means a problem learning how to read.

Cheer up and put a smile on your face!

You are not dumb because of your dyslexia.

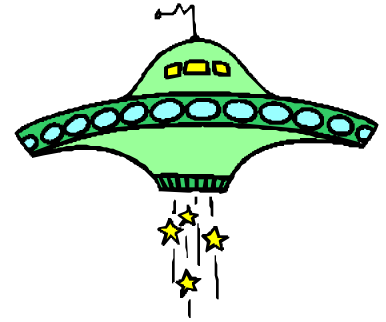
Sure, there are some people who know things that you do not know; however, you know some things other people do not know. So, there!

From *What's This Thing Called Dyslexia* by Ray Hamm, M.Ed.

UFO

by becky, age 10

About a year ago I saw two aliens and their spaceship. They looked like this: they had an oval head, 8 arms, 7 legs, and very sharp teeth. They asked if they could come in and have dinner with us. I said yes because I was nervous. It was time for dinner. They were very polite and kind. We became friends over dinner. After all of that they had to go. The good thing is that come and visit me now and then.



by Chris P.

February 10, 2000

Letter To Goldilocks

Dear Goldilocks,

I hope you liked the porridge because we are going to have a feast at our home. We will have porridge by the gallon and berries by bushel. We will have lots of Goldi, I mean chicken for dinner. It will be the best feast in the world. We made a big fire pit that is very, very big. It is going to be very, very, very, good.

From,

Papa Bear

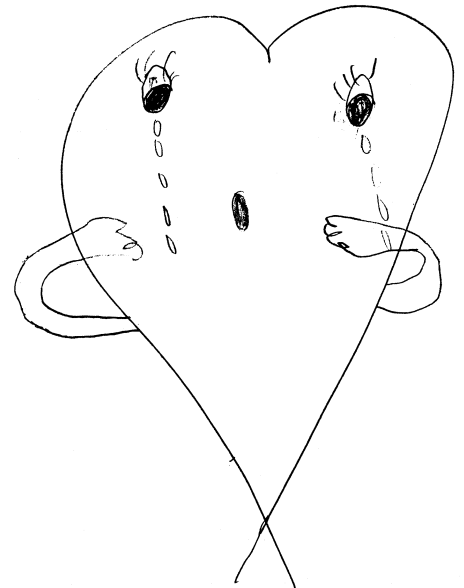


Look all around

by Christian A.

As I walk I see a woman flying in the sky. She said to me look up, look down, look all around and you will see that oh so special something.

Brenna's hart is sad.



Vacation Man

by bryan

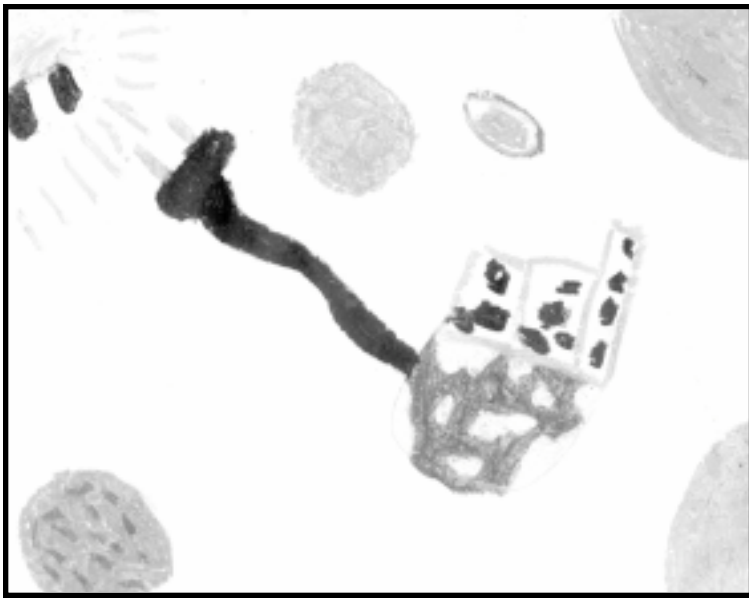
One day Vacation Man was relacing from—well, you know how it is. He was resting. For vacation he took his son to vacation vilige a man greeted him. He was called funny boy and boy, was he funny. Vacation son wanted to live here he slept in a hamic the people ate lots of chilly the nex morning he left the next morning he left and boy he ate lots of chilly.



My NightMare

by danielle

Hi my name is Oogabooga. I live in a cave and there are dinosaurs that roam in the land. But, one night I had a nightmare. It was about the dinosaurs they were mad and the T-Rex was the meanest one there. I Oogabooga jumped on the T-Rex so he could see me and I jumped off him and ran in to the jungle. My family didn't see me again. The next day it happened for real.



bynickm.

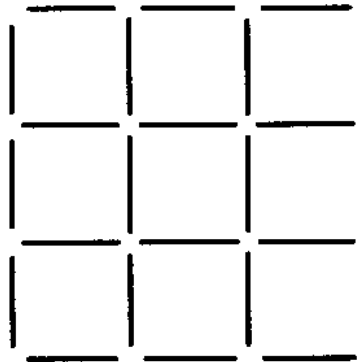
by Dathon S.

I would like to work at Hom Depot because it will help a lot of people to do some thing on there own house. When you know what your house needs you can buy a part or tools to repair on a house. The house is something you need because so you don't live out in the street or park. To have a home can help you have a family to take care of and food to buy. I think a job is good to have is you to have a house, car, food and other thing you need to buy. I think its the first thing is to stay in school because it will help you before you get in the real world.

Take 'em Away



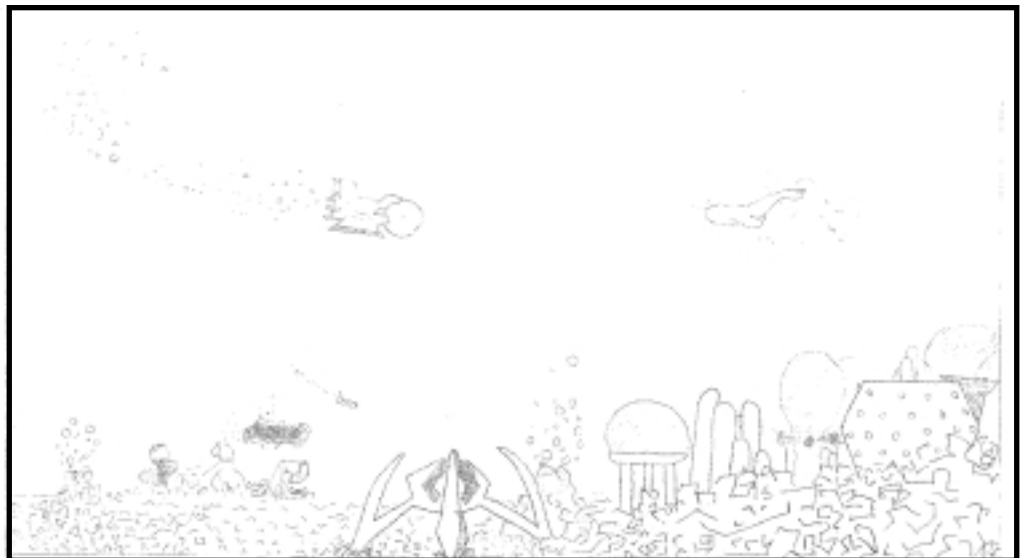
This arrangement of toothpicks forms fourteen different squares of various sizes. Can you remove six toothpicks and leave only three squares behind?



Friendship

by Ellen, age 17

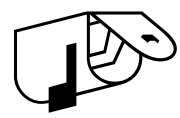
*I'll be there for you
Fast as you'll be there for
me
Friendship will last
your whole life
through
As a gift to you . . .
A friendship bond I bring
from a friendly heart
To a person like you.
As in the beginning
We'll be there for each other
throughout eternity.*



by gabe v., age 17

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A Non-Profit Scientific and Educational Organization for the
Study and Treatment of Children
with Specific Language Disability (Dyslexia)



Calling All Kids!

We will publish a new *newsletter for and about students who learn differently.*
Join us!

We are seeking original contributions:

- art work (no larger than 8 1/2 x 11", black and white)
- photographs of sculptures or models
- poems
- essays about your feelings about having a learning difference
- essays about how you cope with your learning struggles—what works, what is frustrating, what or who has helped you
- anything else about learning differently

Want to be involved? Send your entry to:

Inland Empire Branch, IDA
P.O. Box 6701
San Bernardino, CA 92412.

Let us hear from you! We welcome your comments and suggestions.



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