

## Did You Know?

Reading, Literacy, & Education Statistics, The Literacy Company, Scottsdale, AZ 85260. [www.readfaster.com/education\\_stats](http://www.readfaster.com/education_stats)

- Five to six year olds have a vocabulary of 2,500-5,000 words.
- 33% of children in California will not finish high school.
- The average student learns about 3,000 words per year in the early school years (8 words per day).
- It is estimated that the cost of illiteracy to business and the taxpayer is \$20 billion per year.
- Over one million children drop out of school each year, costing the nation over \$240 billion in lost earning, forgone tax revenues, and expenditures for social services.
- Dyslexia affects one out of every five children – 10 million in America alone.
- Children who have not developed some basic literacy skills by the time they enter school are 3-4 times more likely to drop out in later years.
- 15% of all 4<sup>th</sup> graders read no faster than 74 words per minute, a pace at which it would be difficult to keep track of ideas as they are developing within the sentence and across the page.
- In a class of 20 students, few if any teachers can find even five minutes of time in a day to devote to reading with each student.
- In 1999, only 53 percent of children aged 3-5 were read to daily by a family member.
- Good readers in 5<sup>th</sup> grade may read 10 times as many words as poor readers over a school year.
- Students who reported having all four types of reading materials (books, newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias) in their home scored, on average, higher than those who reported having fewer reading materials.