



 **SCHOLASTIC**

Read Every Day. Lead a Better Life.

THE READING BILL OF RIGHTS

Today we live in a world full of digital information. Yet reading has never been more important, for we know that for young people the ability to read is the door opener to the 21st century: to hold a job, to understand their world, and to know themselves. That is why we are asking you to join our Global Literacy Call to Action: We call this campaign: “Read Every Day. Lead a Better Life.” We are asking parents, teachers, school and business leaders, and the general public to support their children’s right to read for a better life in the digital world of the 21st century.

Here is what we believe about reading in the second decade of the 21st century.

We call this *The Reading Bill of Rights*:

WE BELIEVE that literacy – the ability to read, write and understand – is the birthright of every child in the world as well as the pathway to succeed in school and to realize a complete life. Young people need to read *nonfiction* for *information* to understand their world, and *literature* for *imagination* to understand themselves.

WE BELIEVE that the massive amounts of digital information and images now transmitted daily make it even more important for a young person to know how to analyze, interpret and understand information, to separate fact from opinion, and to have deep respect for logical thinking.

WE BELIEVE that literature and drama, whether on printed pages, screens, on stage or film, help young people experience the great stories of emotion and action, leading to a deeper understanding of what it means to be truly human. Without this literacy heritage, life lacks meaning, coherence and soul.

WE BELIEVE every child has a right to a “textual lineage” – a reading and writing autobiography which shows that who you are is in part developed through the stories and information you’ve experienced. This textual lineage will enable all young people to have a reading and writing identity which helps them understand who they are and how they can make their lives better. In short, “You Are What You Read.”

WE BELIEVE every child should have access to books, magazines, newspapers, computers, e-readers, and text on phones. Whatever way you read, you will need to figure out what the facts are or what the story tells you. No matter how and where you get access to ideas, you will need the skills of reading to understand yourself and your world.

WE BELIEVE that reading widely and reading fluently will give children the reading stamina to deal with more challenging texts they will meet in college, at work and in everyday life. Every child needs literacy confidence – the ability to read, write and speak about what they know, what they feel, and who they are. This will come from Reading Every Day. As you read more you will find it easier to read and to learn.

WE BELIEVE that every child has the right to a great teacher who will help them learn to read and love to read. Children need teachers who provide intentional, focused instruction to give young people the skills to read and interpret information or understand great stories they will encounter throughout life.

WE BELIEVE that in the 21st century, “literacy care,” including the right to read, is as essential to the developing child as the right to health care. The ability to read is necessary not only to *succeed* but to *survive*—for without the ability to understand information, young people cannot compete economically and may therefore be consigned to a life without purpose.



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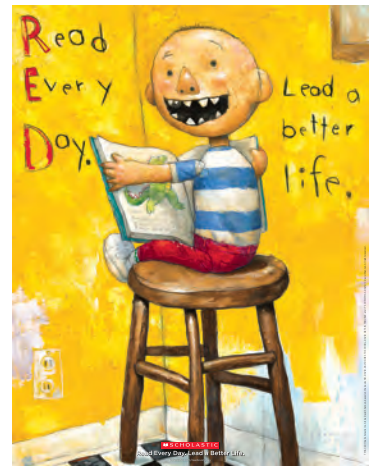
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As part of Scholastic's global literacy campaign, twelve outstanding children's illustrators were invited to create their artistic interpretations of the campaign message—*Read Every Day. Lead A Better Life*. The result is a spectacular collection of art, now available for purchase at scholastic.com/readeveryday. Net proceeds from the sale of posters and other items featuring the artwork will be donated to Reach Out and Read and Reading Is Fundamental. For more information on this project, the recipient organizations, and amounts to be donated, please visit scholastic.com/readeveryday. Scholastic extends its deepest gratitude to the artists for illustrating the important role of reading in the lives of all children.



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