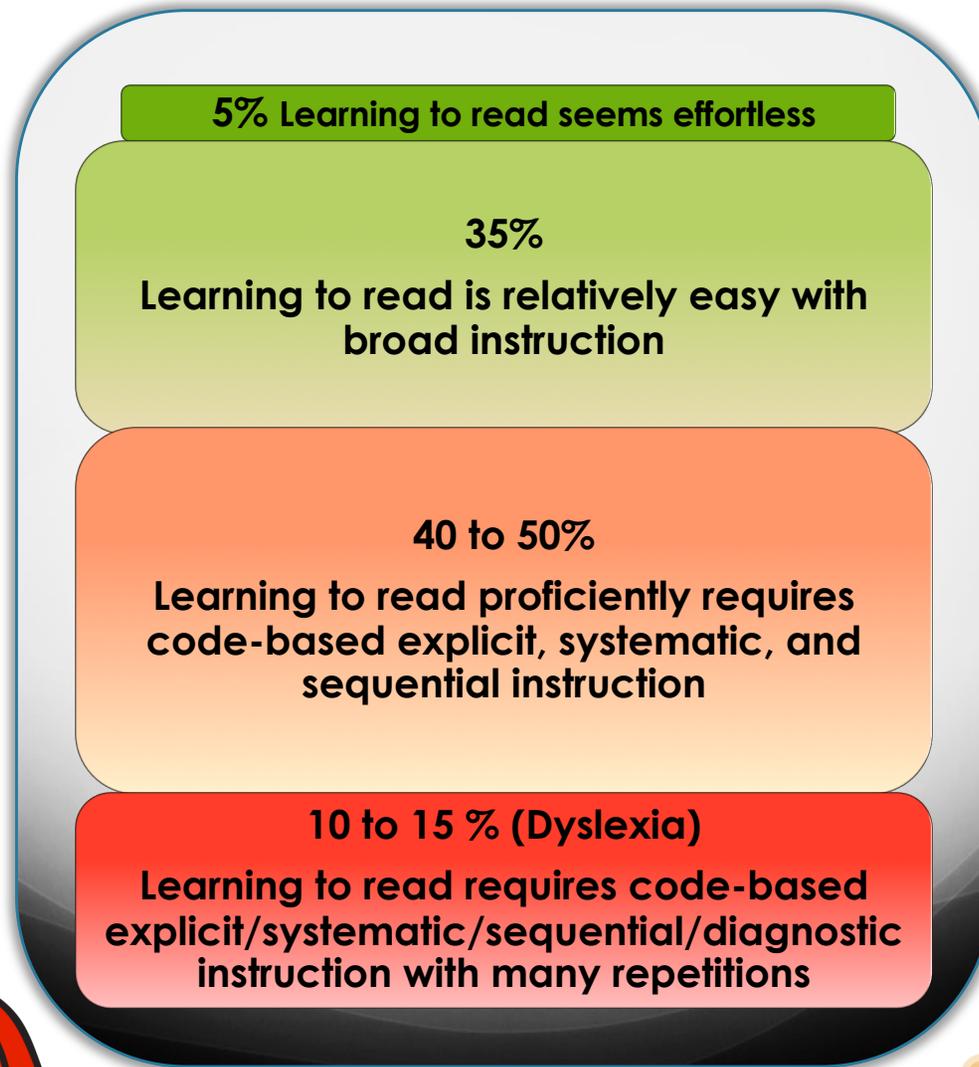


The Ladder of Reading



Advantaged
by a
structured
literacy
approach

Structured
literacy
approach
essential

www.nancyyoung.ca

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Artwork by Dean Stanton

(Lyon, 1998; NRP, 2000; IDA, 2015; Hempenstall, 2016)

What is structured literacy? A primer by Nancy Young (nancyyoung.ca)

A structured approach to teaching the structure of written text is **explicit, systematic & cumulative** and encompasses:

Phonology

Awareness of the sound structures within spoken words underlies reading and spelling mastery, from awareness of syllables to the individual speech sounds (phonemes) in words. Explicit instruction/practice builds **awareness of individual phonemes in words**, from identification and segmentation to the higher-level skill of phoneme manipulation.

Orthography

Reading (decoding) and spelling (encoding) require **knowledge of the written code**. The symbols (graphemes) which represent the phonemes in spoken words are taught in a sequence (read-aloud materials aligned as needed), addressing features such as allowable grapheme positions, syllable types, word origin, and the rationale for certain spellings.

Morphology

As well as learning about speech sounds and their written symbols, learning about **the units of meaning – morphemes – in words** underlies reading/spelling mastery. This includes understanding that words can be made up of just one unit of meaning or combined units of meaning (e.g. adding a prefix/suffix), possibly resulting in changed grapheme pronunciation.

Syntax

Reading and writing proficiently requires knowing that words are used in different ways. Instruction addresses the **parts of speech** (e.g. verb, noun) that make up language, how written **words are organized into sentences**, and the **mechanics** fundamental to sentence formation. Writing is a part of reading instruction from the foundational stages.

Semantics

Instruction expands **knowledge of words and their meanings** in various forms of text as reading and writing skills grow, building vocabulary and extending background knowledge while steadily developing and strengthening comprehension of spoken and written words. A **rich language learning environment** grounds all learning.

Nancy's book *Secret Code Actions™* contains Clues, Alerts and Detective Enrichment relating to the above skills, plus creative skill-related movements that can be woven into any program of instruction to make learning the secrets of the code more engaging and fun for all ages and stages!

Find out more, and see specific examples, at www.SecretCodeActions.com

Sources:

Wolf (2009), Kilpatrick (2015), IDA (2018)

These and additional supporting resources for educators and parents can be found at www.nancyyoung.ca

