



# HOW TO MOTIVATE

## Struggling Adolescent Readers

PRESENTED BY



By the time struggling readers reach middle and high school, they are profoundly discouraged about their abilities to catch up to their peers. Many have a history of failure and frustration and don't believe they are "smart" enough to change their situation. Struggling readers experience emotional consequences of their inability to decipher grade-appropriate texts. These range from poor grades to feelings of shame, embarrassment, and anger that can lead to helplessness and passivity as well as anxiety and depression.

### Why is closing the reading gap so difficult?

Even with improved reading instruction in the early grades, many students are not developing the complex reading skills they require to be successful in intermediate grades, middle school, and high school. In making the transition from learning to read to reading to learn, students must learn to recognize several thousand new words by sight and know their meanings. They must learn to navigate increasingly complex texts and develop deeper knowledge of topics they're reading about.

At the same time, these discouraged readers have a history of failure and frustration. Many have already given up on their schools and teachers and feel a sense of hopelessness and lack of belief in their own abilities to be successful.

## Shifting the environment

More than anything, struggling students need teachers who believe they can learn—teachers who understand that they aspire to be seen as more than just “behind” in their skill development. These students need teachers who want to help them realize their potential and to believe in their futures.

To do this, teachers require a comprehensive English language curriculum specifically designed for struggling readers and writers that leverages the best of teacher-led, direct instruction and digital instruction in a blended learning environment supported by ongoing assessment, data analytics and comprehensive literacy guidance for teachers.

## Keys to success

The optimal adolescent reading intervention program meets students where they are and focuses on foundational skills and the skills required for grade-level work. To achieve reading success, adolescent readers need:

- A personalized learning environment
- Age-appropriate, motivating content
- Motivational success benchmarks
- Technology-enhanced practice opportunities
- Positive peer interaction
- A sense of ownership in their learning

Reading programs with these components leverage the power of the teacher to guide students in the close reading of challenging, age-appropriate text, focusing on details essential to comprehension, critical thinking, and connecting reading and writing. Online digital Text Training provides additional instruction of these critical skills in a private environment as student practice and learn new skills.

Students need to feel motivated to be successful. Many of them have developed bad habits such as guessing answers or avoiding interactions. They need immediate, positive feedback to reward them for new learning. Just like all students, struggling readers need opportunities to collaborate with other students as schools transition to more student-focused and project-based learning.

Finally, struggling readers will benefit from choice and agency. Giving them choice in their material for independent reading, choice of the activities as they practice new skills, and the ability to determine how they move forward as their competency improves. As their vocabulary skills increase, students will learn grammar and syntax to understand more challenging texts but also to improve their writing. As students improve their reading skills, they produce increasingly sophisticated writing as well.



# LANGUAGE!® Live

## About LANGUAGE!® Live

**LANGUAGE! Live** is a comprehensive blended learning solution for struggling adolescents that inspires a new level of confidence and drive to help students become proficient readers. **LANGUAGE! Live** merges leading-edge research and data-driven assessment in a unique, motivational, classroom-tested approach. It's effective because it fosters foundational and advanced learning. Multiple entry points allow for students to receive instruction with the most impact on their learning.

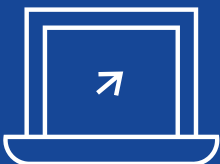
**LANGUAGE! Live** meets students where they are and gets them where they need to be with a blended instruction model.

The combination of powerful teacher-directed and online instruction, **LANGUAGE! Live** fills gaps students missed in earlier grades. It addresses foundational skills including phonics, spelling, sentence structure, and fluency. Mastering these skills lets students advance with more confidence and ease.

With consistent, interactive online lessons tailored to their individual needs, students can practice privately and independently. Teacher-led instruction helps them advance with better vocabulary, grammar, comprehension, and, unlike other programs, extensive writing practice.

Students feel more confident because they move in time from simple, direct language to more varied language and more complex text. Age-appropriate materials help build beginning learning skills used by their peers, like critical thinking, connecting reading and writing, and close reading of challenging, grade-level texts.

In **LANGUAGE! Live**, there is no childish oversimplification or dated content. It's today's best technology delivered with teacher-led instruction, age-appropriate programming, and engaging features designed to captivate adolescent learners. ■



LEARN HOW TO IMPROVE  
ADOLESCENT LITERACY IN YOUR SCHOOLS AT  
[www.voyagersopris.com/info/language-live](http://www.voyagersopris.com/info/language-live)