



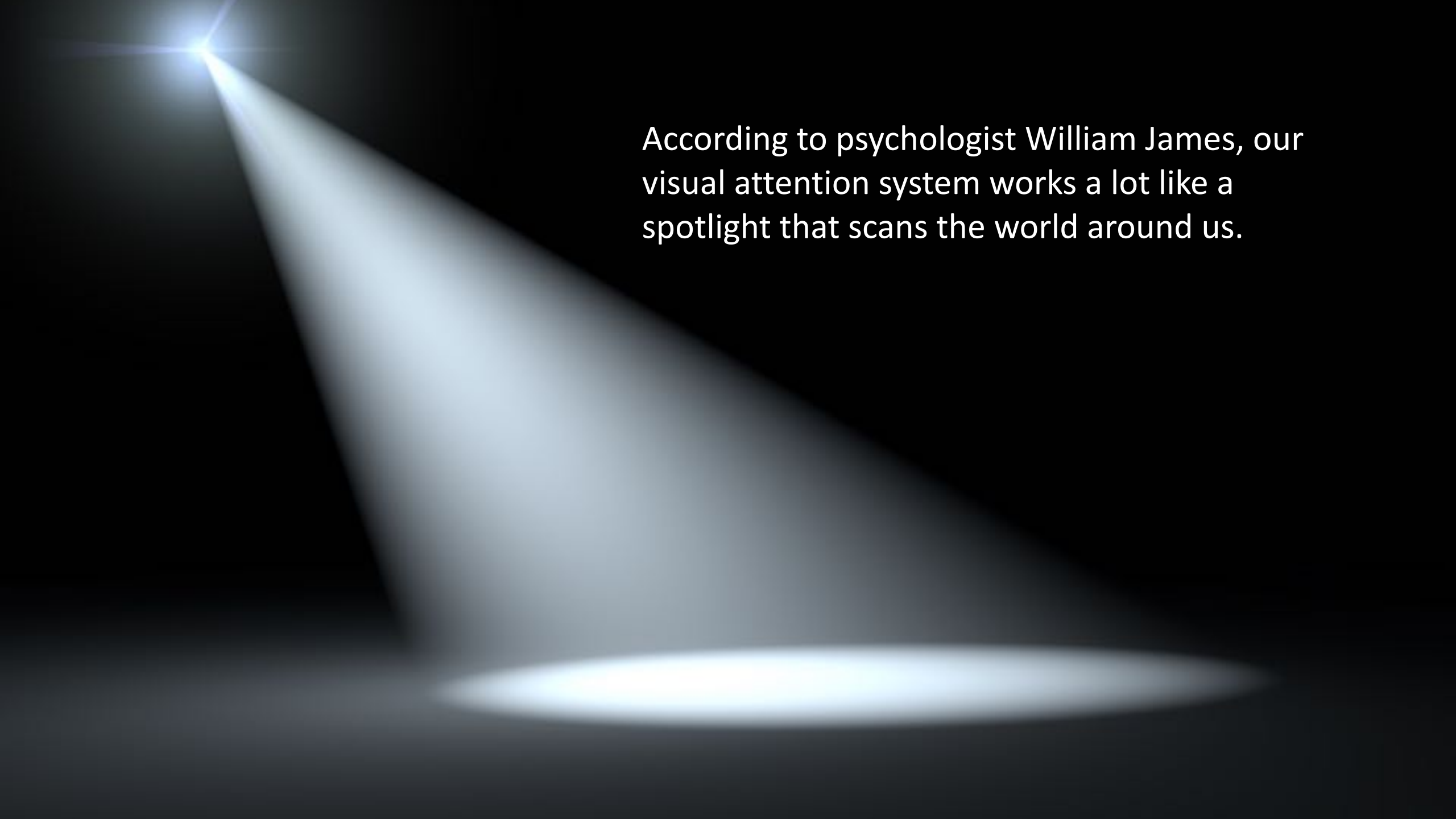
# Overcoming Reading Reluctance

Navigating the gap from learning loss to learning gain

Carol Jago

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A bright blue-white light source in the top-left corner emits a wide, soft-edged cone of light that tapers as it extends towards the bottom-right. The light creates a large, glowing oval pool on a dark, reflective surface at the bottom. The background is a deep, uniform black, making the light beam stand out prominently.

According to psychologist William James, our visual attention system works a lot like a spotlight that scans the world around us.

Technology

# Screen-based online learning will change kids' brains. Are we ready for that?

Maryanne Wolf

Mon 24 Aug 2020 10:37 EDT

1,406 261

We are starting to see technology's effect on child development and adult reading skills - and the research isn't optimistic



▲ 'With millions of students learning at home, developing a biliterate brain - one adapted to both digital and traditional print literacy - has never been more important.' Photograph: JGI/Jamie Grill/Getty Images/Blend Images

L iteracy literally changes the human brain. The process of learning to read changes our brain, but so does what we read, how we read and on what we read (print, e-reader, phone, laptop). This is especially important in our new reality, when many people are tethered to

Advertisement

ROCKET CAN

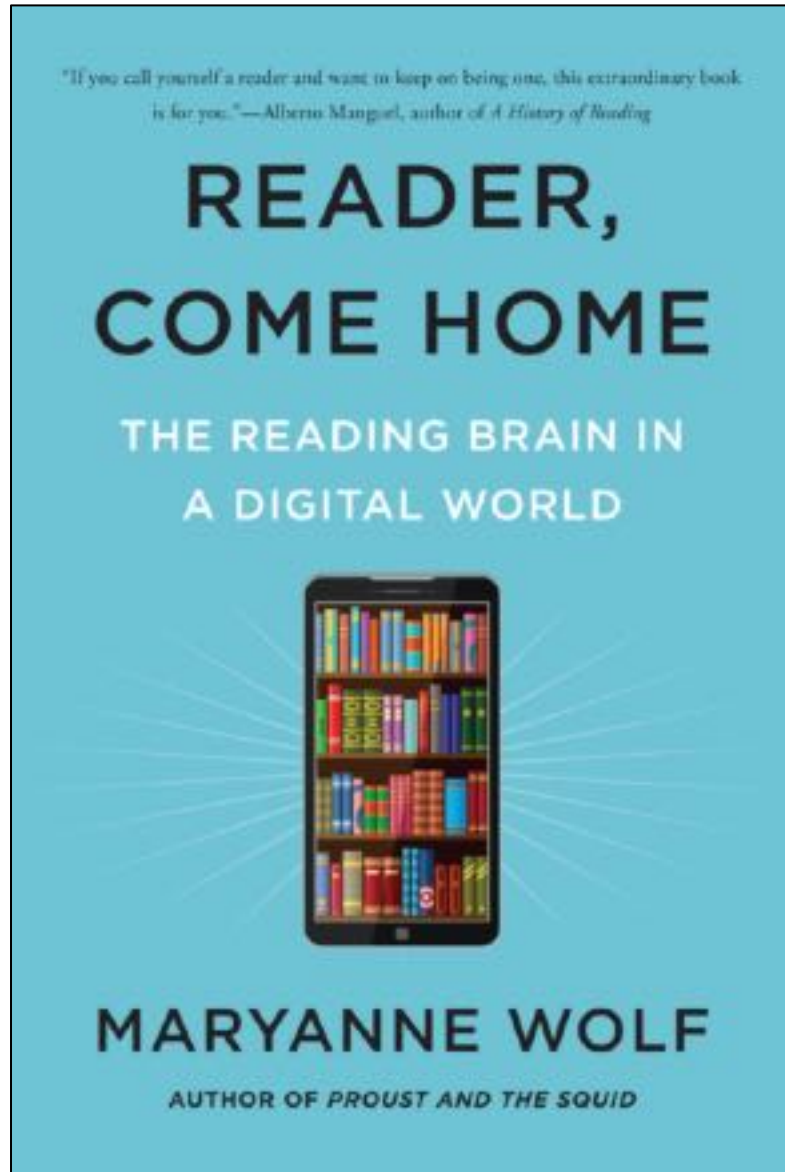
Congrats, you're approved!

Get Started

Images simulated and sequence shortened for example purposes only. Rate depends on day you lock your rate.

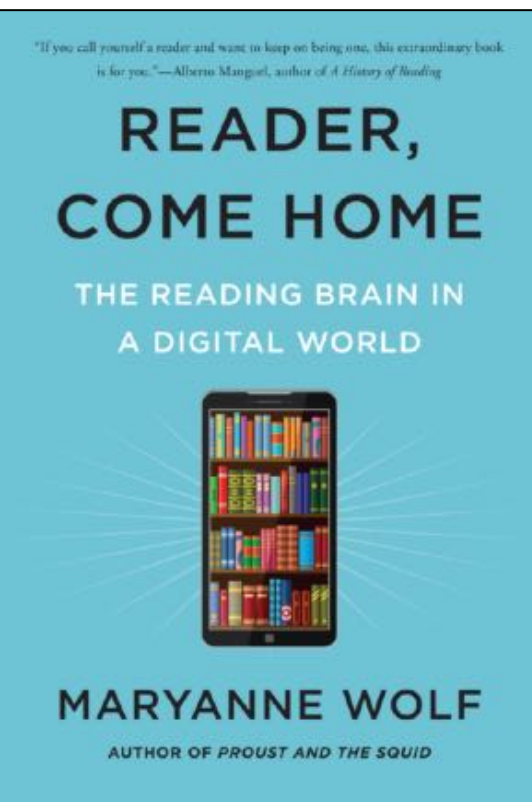
REPLAY

NMLS #3030



Students need to develop **bi-literate** reading brains.

They must be able to think clearly and deeply in **both** digital and print mediums.



***The Guardian***

**August 24, 2020**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/aug/24/deep-literacy-technology-child-development-reading-skills>

## Screen-based online learning will change kids' brains. Are we ready for that?

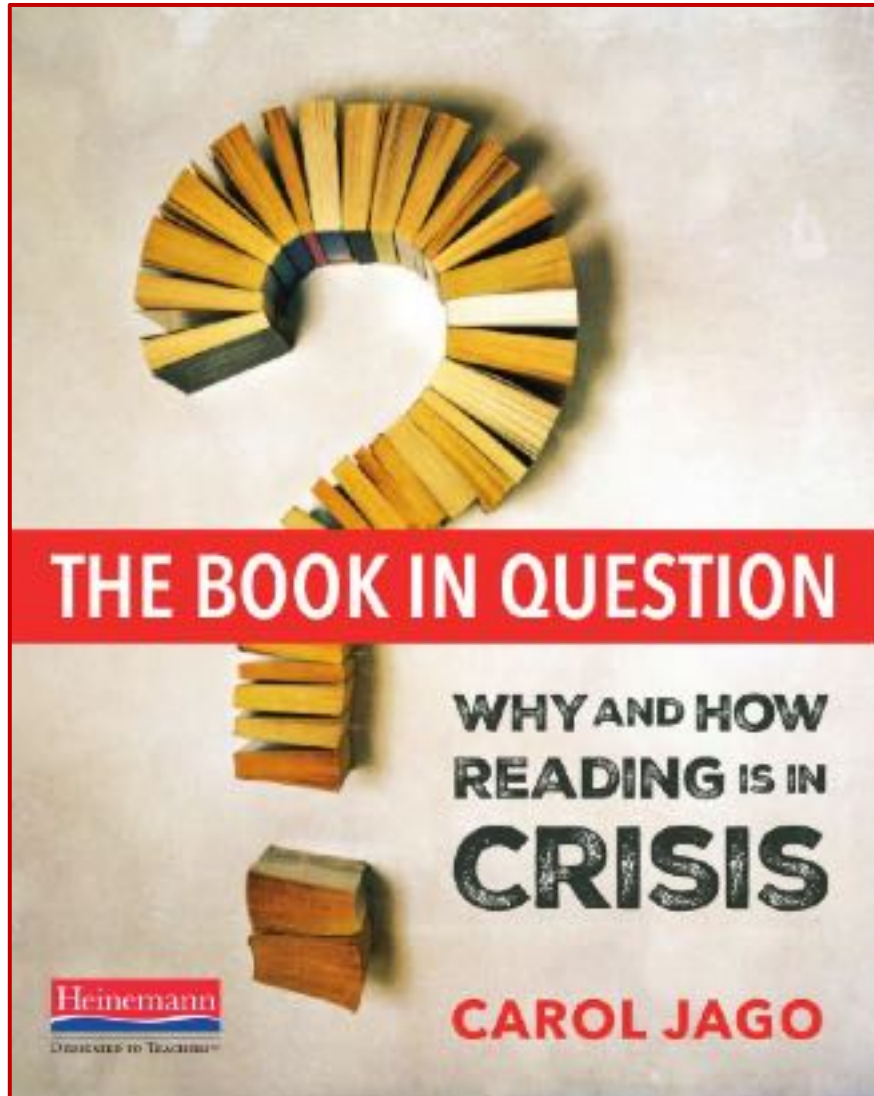
**We are starting to see technology's effect on child development and adult reading skills – and the research isn't optimistic**

Literacy literally changes the human brain. The process of learning to read changes our brain, but so does what we read, how we read and *on what* we read (print, e-reader, phone, laptop). This is especially important in our new reality, when many people are tethered to multiple screens at any given moment. With much of the world working from home, and millions of students learning at home, developing a biliterate brain – one adapted to both digital and traditional print literacy – has never been more important.

Transforming new information into consolidated knowledge in the brain's circuitry requires multiple connections to abstract reasoning skills, each of which requires the kind of time and attention often absent in digital reading.

When we skim, we literally, physiologically, *don't have time to think*. Or feel. The difference between skimming and reading with all our intelligence is the difference between fully activated reading brains and their short-circuited, screen-dulled versions.





## There is urgency

- Students are reading less than any previous generation.
- They enjoy reading less than young people have in the past.

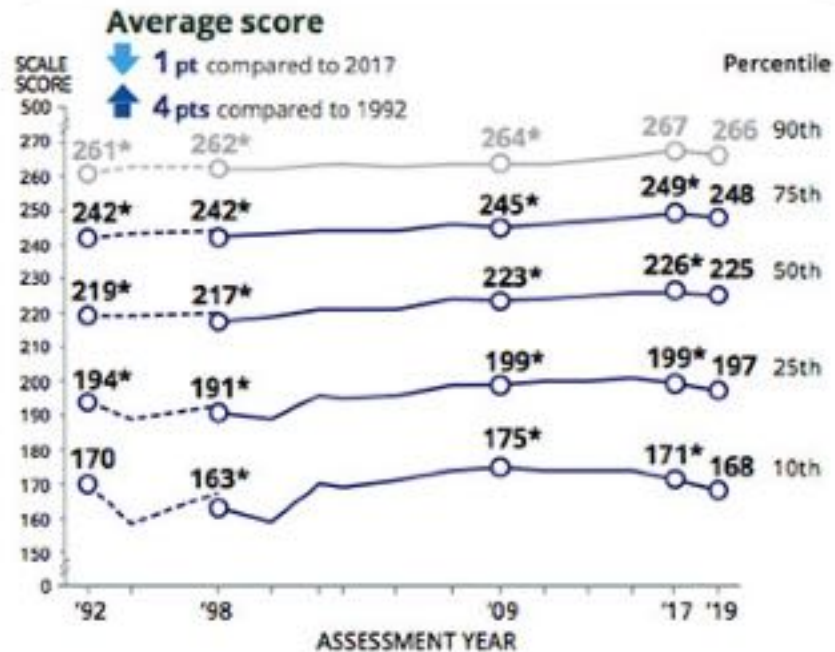
- The Literacy Trust, 2020



Reading scores in decline, particularly for our most vulnerable students.

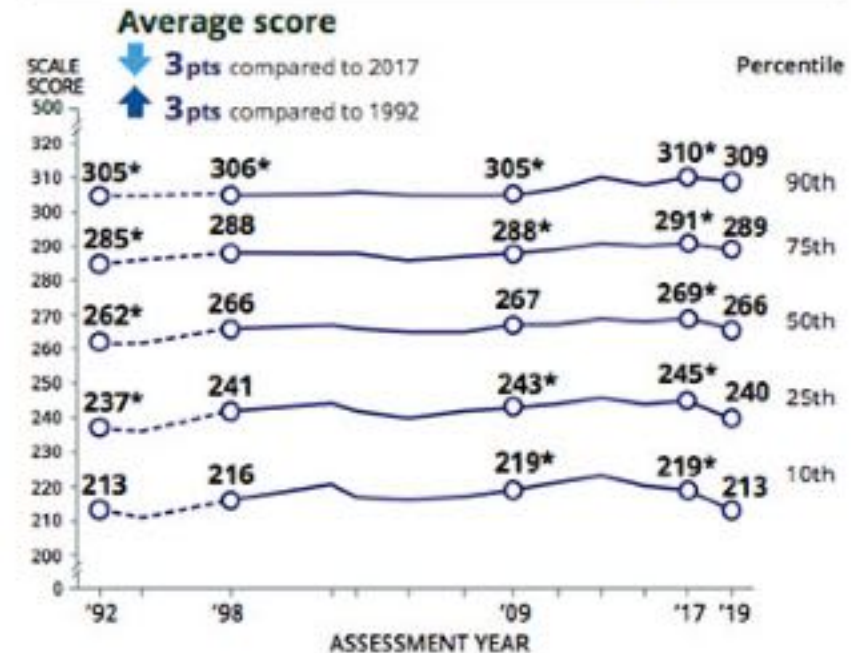
### Grade 4 READING

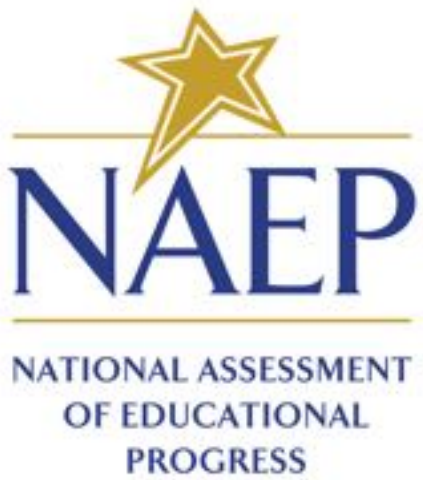
Decreases across performance distribution except for the 90th percentile



### Grade 8 READING

Decreases across performance distribution; greater decreases at the 10th and 25th percentiles





# 12<sup>th</sup> grade reading results

- Average scores declined 2 points since 2015. (lower than in 1992). More students BELOW BASIC
- Scores declined most precipitously for BOYS below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- Particular decreases in literary comprehension but decreases also seen in informational text comprehension for students in the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- 26% reported NEVER reading stories or novels outside of school, 50% only once or twice A YEAR.





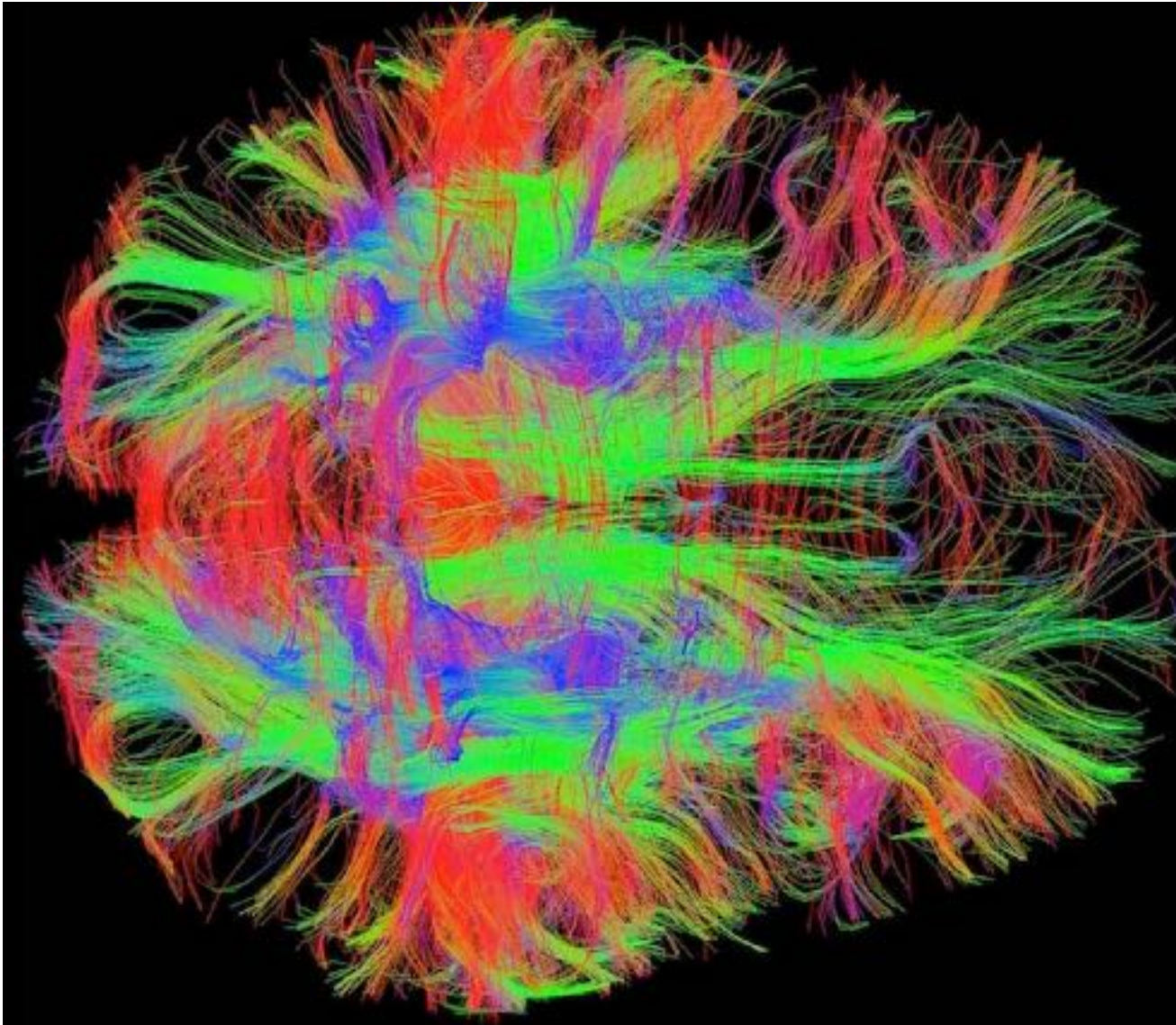
## Teenagers' mental health has not dramatically declined

During the pandemic teens appear to have managed the challenges of 2020 with resilience. 53 percent said that the experience made them feel stronger. Why?

- More sleep
- More family time
- More purposeful use of technology

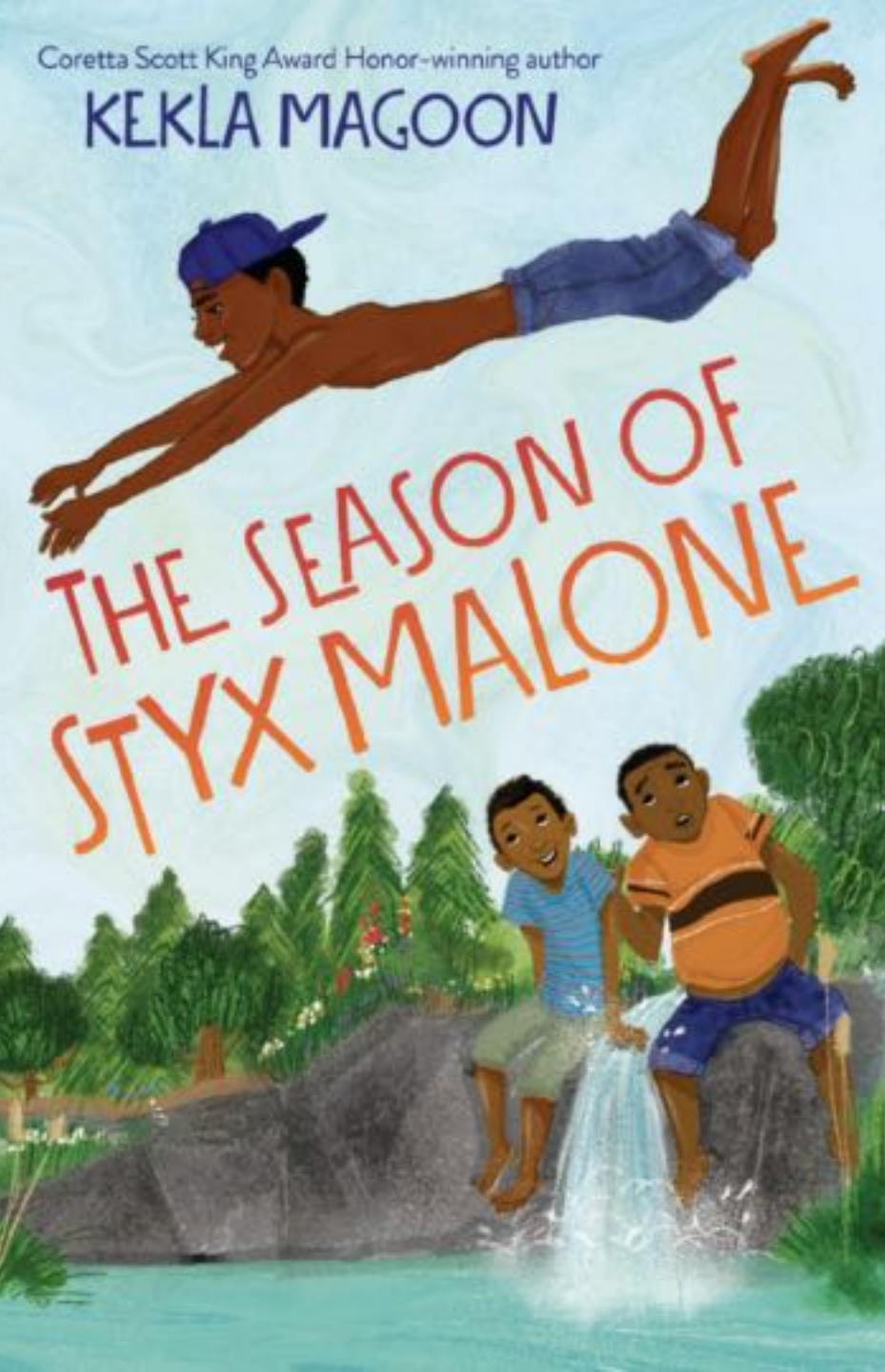
Jean Twenge, psychologist, San Diego State University

October, 2020 survey results



# The Power of Story

- When we hear a fact, a few isolated areas of our brain light up, translating words and meanings.
- When we hear a story our brain lights up like Las Vegas, tracing the chains of cause, effect, and meaning.
- Stories are the best invention ever created for delivering mental models that drive behavior.



## REACTIVATE students' reading muscles

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- culturally relevant texts
- choice
- help students learn how to choose
- enticing book talks
- easy access to books
- reading for the sake of reading
- minimize artificial tasks

More important than keeping kids busy is keeping them THINKING.





## Try This

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Ask your students to make two lists:

- one of all the things they used to do in school — on the playing fields, with friends
- another list of the things they do now.



## Flying Kites by Quincy Troupe

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we used to fly rainbow kites  
across skull-caps of hours  
holes on blue wings  
of the canvas of sinking suns  
running winged eyes locked to wind  
we'd unwind the kite string up & away  
then run them down blue tapestry  
up the sky again, then down  
until a sinking sun rolled  
down into a swallowing sky





# Flying Kites by Quincy Troupe

---

today, we fly words as kites  
across pages of winds, through skies  
as poems we shape from holy, bloody  
adjectives & nouns  
we loop into sound circles, ringing  
like eclipse, the sun's tongue

Employing "Flying Kites"  
as a mentor text, use  
ideas from the two lists  
to write a poem.

We used to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Today we \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



We used to kill time with dumb conversations

The songs in our head the only escape

We laughed at the threat of viral annihilation

Only fear on our minds was “oh god I’m late”

Sleeping in class

Because we stayed up all night

Wishing for a little bit of change

Now time is killing us

As day and night blends

The songs fill the silence even though we hit pause

Sleep has lost meaning when you’re never awake

In the comfort of our homes but we never felt so lost

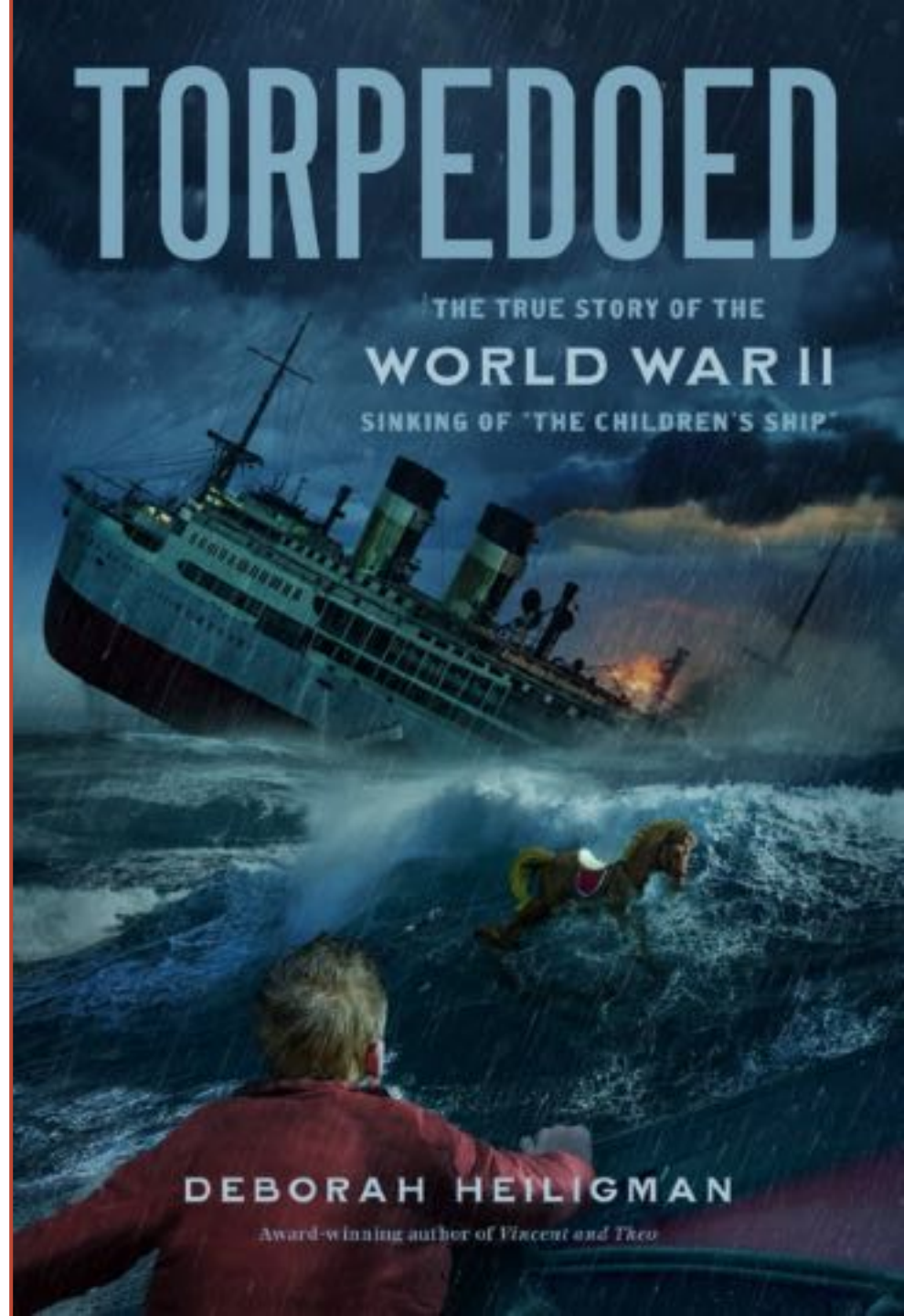
We just want this nightmare to end.

-Jonny Kenney

We used to go to the movie theater,  
Catching the new release.  
The scent of popcorn filled our nose  
The unsanitary leather seats  
The screen lighting our faces  
It was the perfect scene for a friday night.

Now we view films at home  
Resting in bed like a bum  
Concession stand is now a fridge  
Packed theater became a lonesome room  
We try to keep that cinema feel,  
But movie theaters are gone.

--Christian Benedetti



**Books** are the most astonishing technological means humans have created to capture experience.



BY KWAME ALEXANDER

More.

A simple,  
powerful way to  
introduce the idea of  
kindness to strangers  
to young children  
*Axel Scheffler, illustrator  
of The Gruffalo*

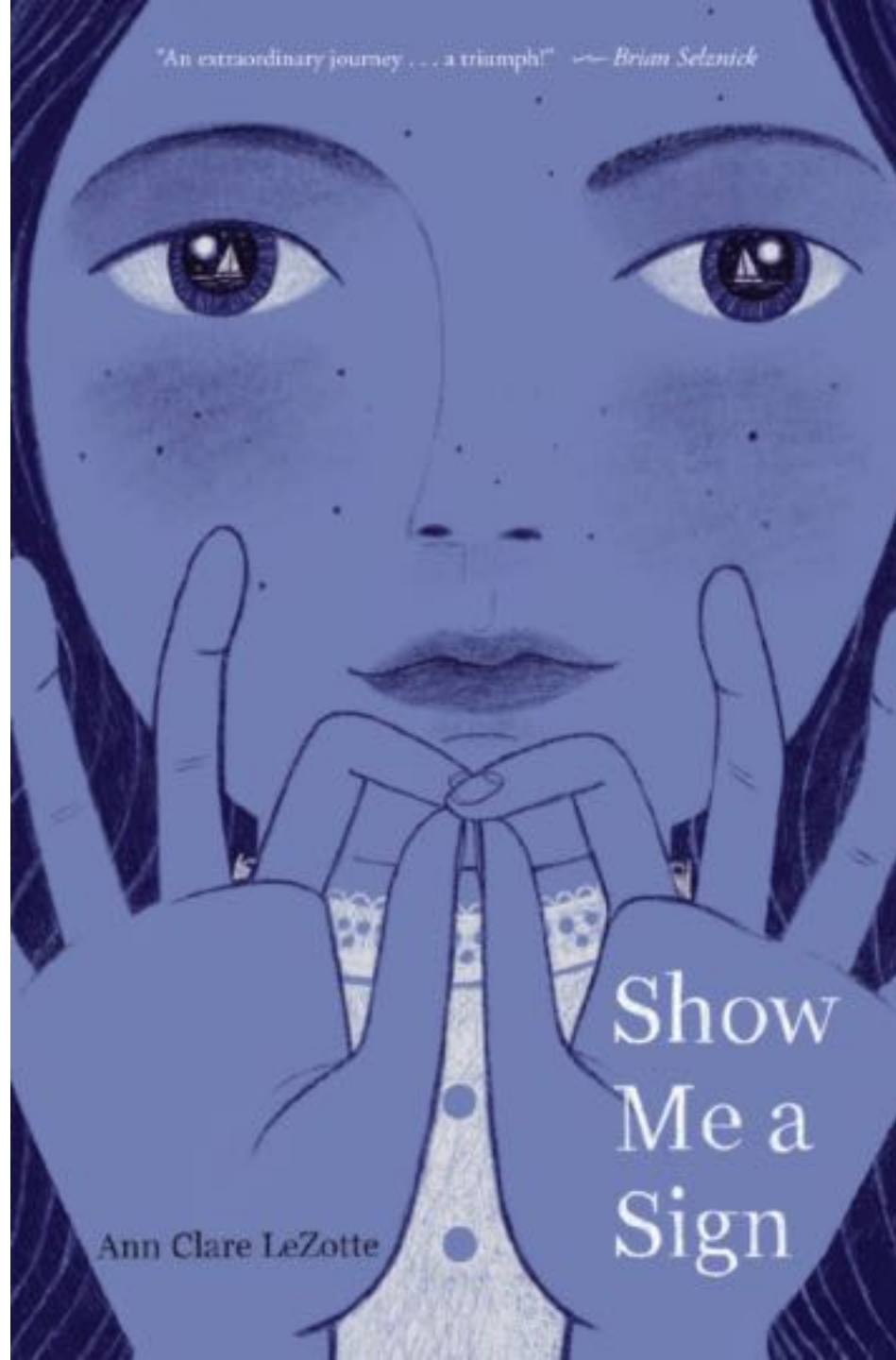
# The Suitcase



Chris Naylor-Ballesteros

**nosy  
crow**

"An extraordinary journey . . . a triumph!" — Brian Selznick



# Show Me a Sign

Ann Clare LeZotte



Middle school  
is hard enough  
without being the...

# NEW KID

JERRY CRAFT

"Funny, sharp, and totally real!  
Jordan Banks is the kid  
everyone will be talking about!"  
—Jeff Kinney  
*author of Diary of a Wimpy Kid*



When school gets real,  
you can still show the world  
you're a...

# CLASS ACT

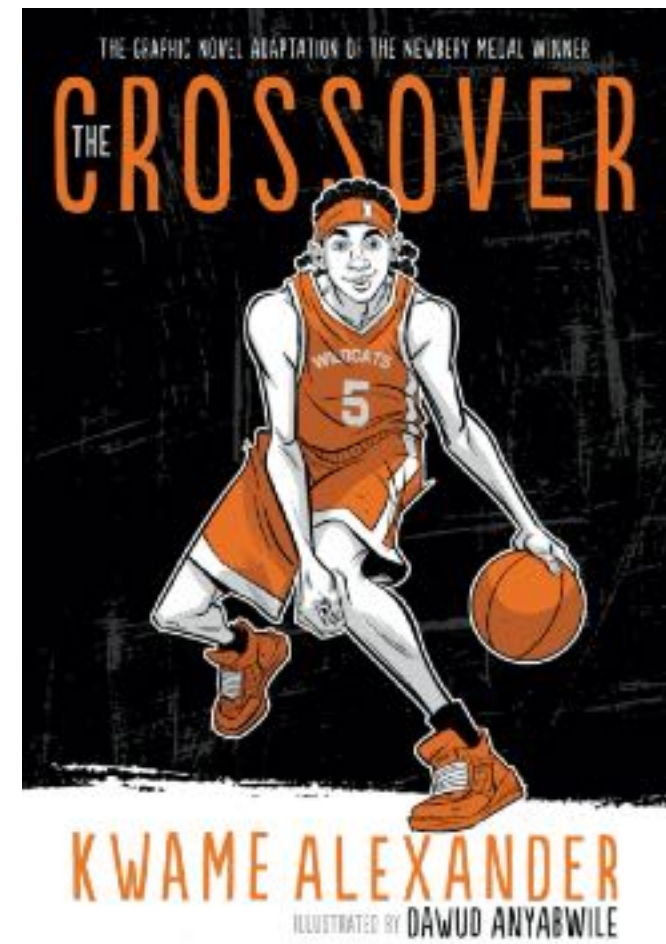
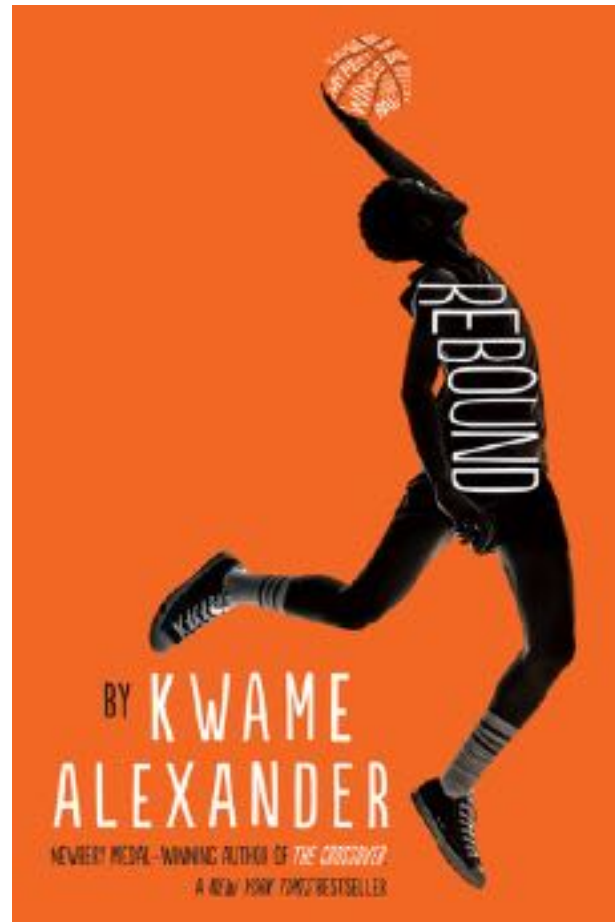
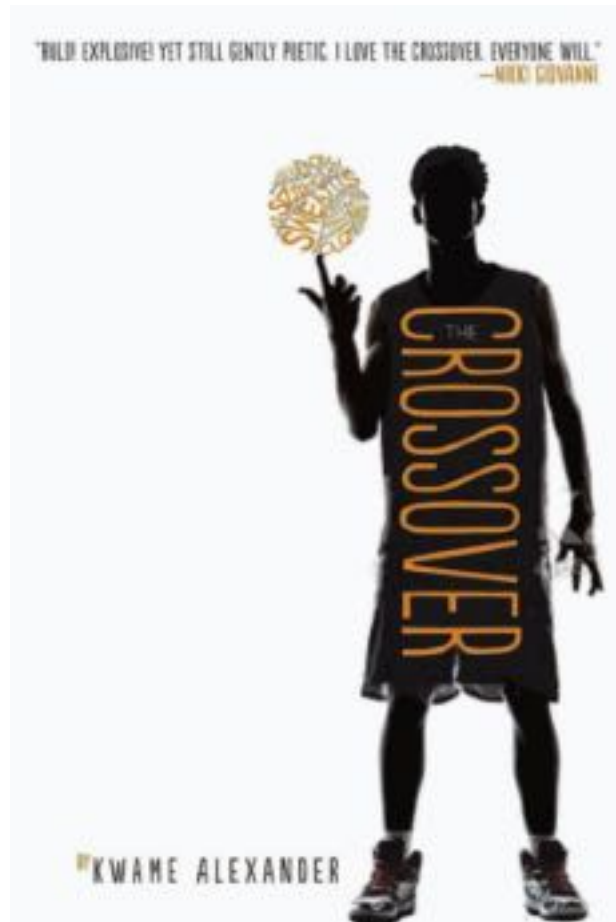
Companion to the  
Newbery Medal Winner

NEW  
KID

JERRY CRAFT

*New York Times* bestselling author



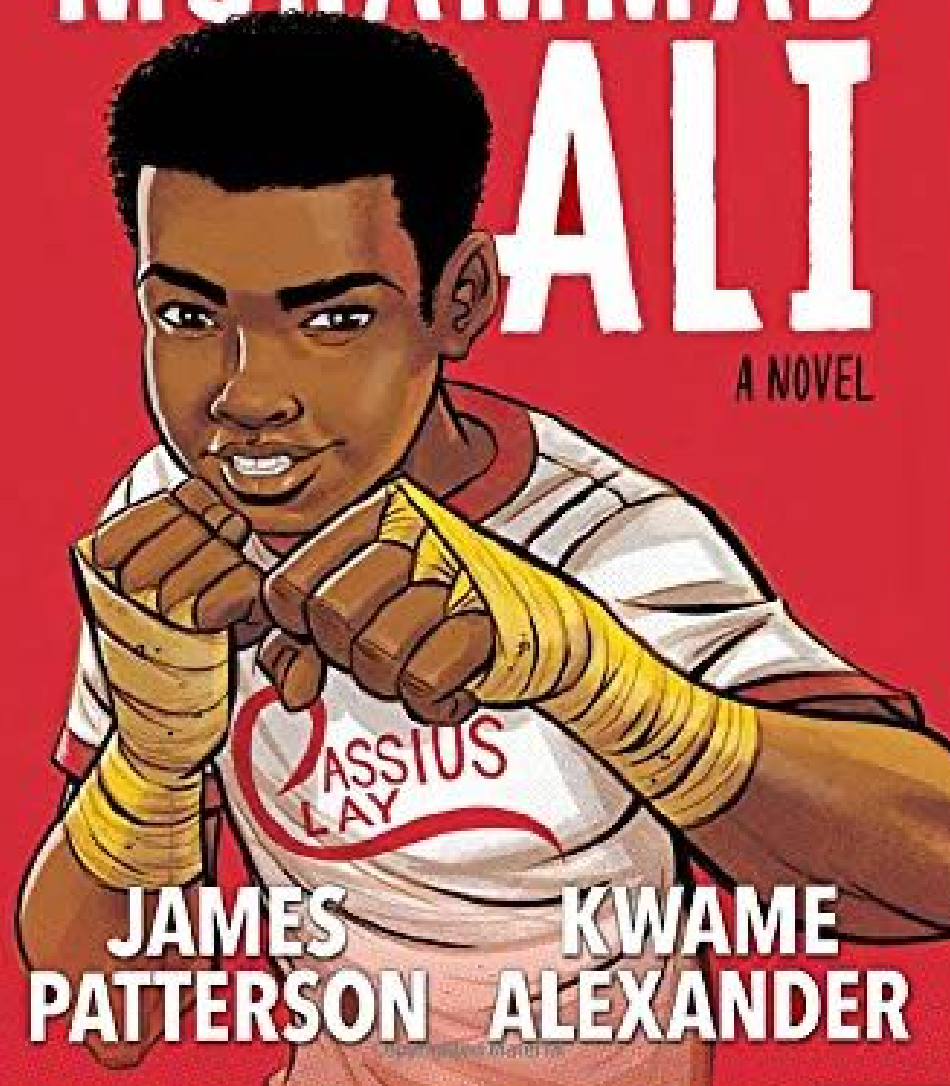




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BEFORE HE WAS MUHAMMAD ALI, HE WAS CASSIUS CLAY.

# BECOMING MUHAMMAD ALI

A NOVEL



JAMES PATTERTON      KWAME ALEXANDER

**IBI ZOBOI**  
NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST

**MY LIFE** AS AN  
**ICE CREAM**  
**SANDWICH**



National Book Award-winning author of *BROWN GIRL DREAMING*

JACQUELINE  
WOODSON



*Before  
the  
Ever  
After*



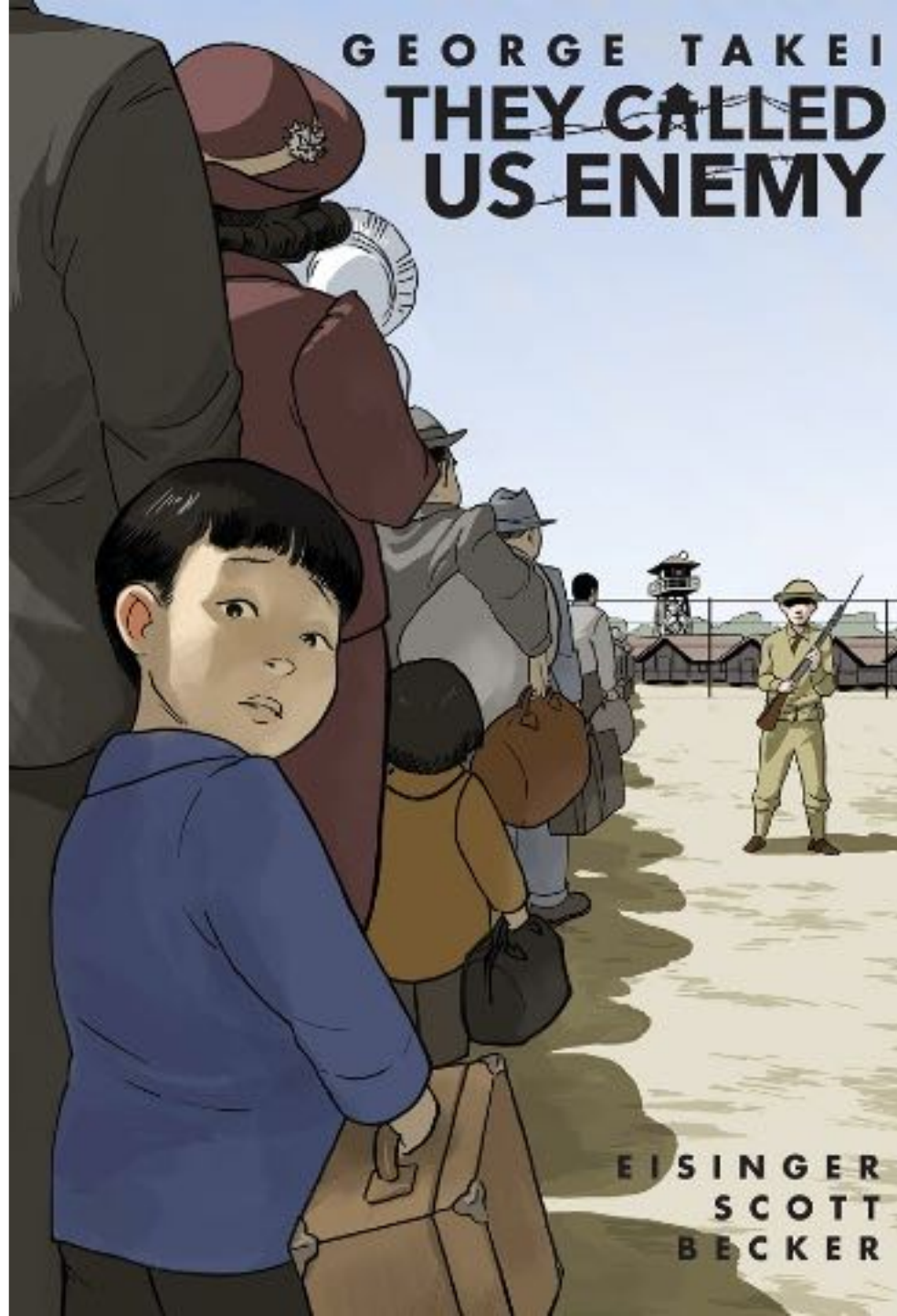
National Book Award-Winning Author of *BROWN GIRL DREAMING*

# JACQUELINE WOODSON

## *Harbor Me*



GEORGE TAKEI  
**THEY CALLED  
US ENEMY**



EISINGER  
SCOTT  
BECKER



**Reading** is more than a gateway to academic success.

It feeds our minds.

