



AMERICA READS

ETSU's Center for Community Engagement launched the ETSU America Reads Challenge Program in 1997, connecting college students with local children who benefit from additional literacy support.

Nearly 30 years later, ETSU America Reads continues to strengthen literacy throughout our community. Today, our program serves 13 local schools and provides literacy programming through the Jonesborough, Gray, and Johnson City Public Libraries. Our Federal Work-Study tutors provide individualized and small-group instructional support, working alongside educators and community partners to help children develop the foundational literacy skills they need to become confident, independent readers.

What's inside?

OUR PARTNERS
FEATURED SITE &
FEATURED TUTORS
BOOK OF THE MONTH
TUTOR TIPS
DATES & EVENTS



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Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:30 am - 4:30 pm





Thank You to Our Partners!

University School

Woodland Elementary

North Side Elementary

Boones Creek Elementary

Sulphur Springs Elementary

Fairmont Elementary

Jonesborough Public Library

Gray Public Library

Johnson City Public Library

Mountain View Elementary

Central Elementary

Jeremiah School

St. Mary's School

FEATURED SITE

North Side Elementary

School Spotlight: North Side Elementary

Principal: Chad Moore

Assistant Principal: Leslie Snapp

America Reads Site Coordinator: Allison Berry

North Side Elementary is a valued America Reads partner, and we are excited to highlight the work taking place within its school community. North Side's commitment to literacy, student growth, and collaborative support makes it a wonderful setting for our tutors to serve alongside teachers and staff.

This year, we are especially excited to have three America Reads tutors serving at North Side Elementary. Through individualized and small-group support, our tutors are helping reinforce foundational literacy skills while building meaningful relationships with young learners.

We are grateful for the leadership and partnership of the North Side team and look forward to continuing to support their students throughout the school year.

Featured TUTORs



AUBREY TIPTON

SITE: Central

Elementary school

CHILDHOOD FAVOURITE

TEACHER: My favorite

teacher was Mr. Bimstein, my high school band director for four years 9th-12th grade.

ACTIVITY: I help kids form their own unique words & ideas.



JACLYN GRAY

SITE: Mountainview Elementary School/St. Mary's.

CHILDHOOD FAVOURITE TEACHER:

My favorite teacher is Mrs. Duckett, my first-grade teacher at Meigs South elementary.

ACTIVITY: I love to play letter and image matching game with the kids using two puzzle pieces. One side has a letter and the other side has an image that starts with the letter on the other side.



AMANDA FRYE

SITE: Fairmont
Elementary School.

CHILDHOOD FAVOURITE TEACHER:

My favorite teacher was
Mrs. Neil, my 8th grade
English language art tutor.

ACTIVITY: I have started a
fun reward sticker book
with my student to get him
engaged and excited about
reading.



ELLA GRACE WALKER

SITE: Central Elementary
School.

CHILDHOOD FAVOURITE TEACHER:

My favorite teacher was Mrs.
McCall, my second-grade tutor.
She made my elementary
school experience great.

ACTIVITY: I help the kids i tutor
form sentences with sight
words and write stories each
week.



BELLA CATRON

SITE: Northside Elementary school

CHILDHOOD FAVOURITE TEACHER:

My favorite teacher was Mrs. Kyra Jenkins, my culinary teacher for 3 years.

ACTIVITY: I help the kids read books and take tests over the book they have read to improve and build their reading skills and confidence level.



ASHLYN SANDERS

SITE: Northside Elementary School.

CHILDHOOD FAVOURITE TEACHER:

My favorite teacher was Mrs. Dianne, my 1st grade all subject tutor.

ACTIVITY: I help the kids with sentence parts (subject, verb, predicate) and coloring.



RACHEL GARETT

SITE: Sulphur springs
Elementary School.

CHILDHOOD FAVOURITE TEACHER:

My favorite teacher was Mrs.
Angie, my third-grade tutor. She
made my elementary school
experience awesome.

ACTIVITY: I assist the kids I tutor
in reading story books and
forming sentences.



To our amazing new America Reads tutors, thank you for your continued dedication and support. Your time, patience, and commitment make a lasting difference in the lives of our students every day.

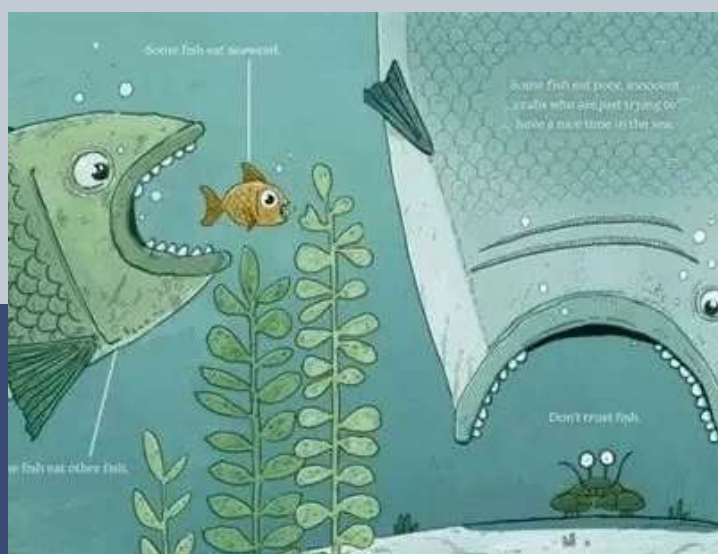
Library News

Our local public libraries continue to be an important part of America Reads' growing community outreach. Through partnerships with the Jonesborough and Gray libraries, America Reads hosts caregiver workshops twice each month that give families practical, playful ways to build early literacy skills at home from birth through age three.

Families can also find our Kindergarten Readiness take-home activities at the Johnson City, Gray, and Jonesborough libraries.

These activities are designed to make early learning approachable and engaging while helping children build the foundational skills they will carry with them into Kindergarten.

We are grateful for our library partners and excited to continue creating opportunities for families to learn, play, and grow together throughout our community.



Don't Trust Fish

Written by: Neil & Sharpson
Illustrated by: Dan Santat

Book of the Month

A completely serious and definitely unbiased investigation into why fish are suspicious, secretive, and probably plotting something.

Tutor Tips!

Tutoring Tip: Instead of Saying “Sound It Out...”

When a student gets stuck on a word, “sound it out” may be too vague. Try guiding them through the same sound-to-print connections that support orthographic mapping.



Try this 4-step process:

- Map the sounds to the letters.
- Move through the word from left to right: “What sound do these letters make?” Have the student say each sound while looking at the letters that spell it.
- Blend and say the word.
- Have the student blend the sounds together and pronounce the complete word aloud.
- Reconnect it to the sentence.
- Reread the sentence with the word correctly and briefly confirm its meaning.

These steps will support a process called orthographic mapping: the brain stores written words by connecting their letters, sounds, and meanings, enabling instant recognition and fluent reading.

Tip: If part of the word is irregular or uses a spelling pattern the student has not learned yet, tell them that part rather than asking them to guess. Let phonics do the work for the parts they can decode and explicitly point out the unknown part.



*Thank
you!*

Dr. Janna Scarborough
Dr. Cindy Chambers
Felicia Frank Lynn
Sarah Shanks
Rachel D'Angona
Taylor Boles

And to all others who
assisted in the America
Reads program so far this
year.

WE APPRECIATE YOU

Dates to Remember

10/12-13	ETSU- Fall Break
11/11	Veterans day (University closed)
11/25-27	Thanksgiving Break (University Closed)

Contact Us!

(423) 439 - 4161

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**AMERICA READS WEBSITE:
WWW.ETSU.EDU/COE/AMERICA-READS**