



## Why are US K-12 reading scores falling?

I am impressed by an article I read with the title: Why are US K-12 reading scores falling? <http://exclusive.multibriefs.com/content/why-are-us-k-12-reading-scores-falling/education>

This article by Patrick Gleeson speaks about the recent drop in improving reading scores in the U.S. schools. He says: "It's embarrassing that American students lag behind so many other countries — not just in reading skills, but in science and math, where in 2015, for example, we ranked only 38th out of 71 countries."

He goes on to say: "Despite the confirmation of the superiority of phonics in hundreds of studies, many educators still pursue whole word teaching and a variety other methods that make limited use of phonics."

The relevance of this article to the Help Me 2 Learn Company is obvious. We not only provide engaging phonics based courses, but we bridge the gap between phonics and whole words with our "Learn the Words" activities. Our approach is a blended phonics approach giving students the best of both methods of instruction.



While our songs, presentations, and games teach phonics sounds and concepts, it is our "Learn the Words" activities that make our courses unique. We show a picture of the word, the name of the word, the sound of the word, and the phonemes and sounds that produce the word. This multi-media approach is something that was not available when the phonics and whole word debate began.

The list of these words is also available to the teacher in our Users Guide and Lessons Plans that the teacher can print to use in class <https://helpme2learn.com/school/features> (bottom of the page). Teachers can use this printed list to double check comprehension and

pronunciation of the words.

Our courses not only provide students a solid foundation in phonics, but as the article points out, our courses give teachers who did not receive phonics instruction in their teaching degree program, an opportunity to become familiar with phonics.

We believe that our blended phonics approach to be an exceptional resource to help schools improve reading scores.

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## 20 Year Anniversary Essay Contest

On January 1, 2020 the Help Me 2 Learn Company will celebrate our 20 year anniversary. We want you to help us celebrate, so we are starting a 20 year anniversary essay contest.

Our byline is: **"Your Kids will Love Learning with Super Star!"**

We want your kids to write an essay explaining how Super Star has helped them love learning.

The prize for the contest will be **\$50 to the kid** who writes the best essay and **\$200 to the class** of the student.

**The deadline for the essay is January 15, 2020.**

### **The rules are simple:**

1. The essay must be written by a student who is in the 6th grade or below. There is no minimum or maximum length required. We suggest no more than one page.
2. Parents and teachers can assist the student, but the essay must be substantially the work of the student in the student's own words.
3. The winner will be the essay that best expresses how Super Star has helped them love learning.
4. The Help Me 2 Learn Company will judge the entries and decide the winner. All results are final.
5. Do not enter the contest if the contest would violate your school, school district, or state laws.
6. All entries must be postmarked by midnight, January 15, 2020.
7. Please include contact information for the student or teacher of the student. Please include the grade of the student. Teachers may submit an envelope with multiple entries, if they wish.
7. The winner will be announced in our January 2020 newsletter.

### **How to submit your entries:**

You can fax entries to: 888-391-8415

You can email entries to: [dan@helpme2learn.com](mailto:dan@helpme2learn.com) (.pdf or .jpeg attachments - suggested)

You can text to: 760-419-7216

Mail entries to:

Attn: Dan Sheffield

Help Me 2 Learn Company

3944 ESCALA CV

OCEANSIDE, CA 92058

Be sure to include contact information and the grade of the student.

If you have any questions, please contact me at:

[dan@helpme2learn.com](mailto:dan@helpme2learn.com)

We hope that this will be a fun activity for your students and class. We considered having a contest for specific grades, and we may do that at a later time. The grade of the student will be considered in the judging, along with the authenticity of the entry (in other words, entries that look like they were written by a parent or teacher may be judged lower).

We can't think of a better way to celebrate our 20 year anniversary than to hear from the kids that are learning to love learning using our software.

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## Past Newsletters

You can find our past newsletters

at: <https://helpme2learn.com/company/news>

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