The Ladder of Reading

5% Learning to read seems effortless

35%
Learning to read is relatively easy with broad instruction

40 to 50%
Learning to read proficiently requires code-based explicit, systematic, and sequential instruction

10 to 15% (Dyslexia)
Learning to read requires code-based explicit/systematic/sequential/diagnostic instruction with many repetitions

Advantaged by a structured literacy approach

Structured literacy approach essential

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Artwork by Dean Stanton
(Lyon, 1998; NRP, 2000; IDA, 2015; Hempenstall, 2016)

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What is Structured Literacy? A primer by Nancy Young

Structured Literacy is an approach to teaching reading that includes explicit instruction of:

| Phonology | Awareness of the sound structures within spoken words underlies reading and spelling mastery, particularly the awareness of individual speech sounds (called phonemes) in words. **Structured Literacy builds and strengthens this awareness of individual phonemes in words**, from identification and segmentation to the manipulation of phonemes in words. |
| Orthography | Reading (decoding) and spelling (encoding) require knowledge of the written code – the symbols representing the phonemes in spoken words. **Structured Literacy teaches the code systematically**, from most to least common symbols (graphemes), as well as allowable grapheme positions, syllable types, word origin, and the rationale for certain spellings. |
| Morphology | Beyond teaching about speech sounds and their written symbols, **Structured Literacy teaches about the units of meaning – morphemes – in words**. This means learning that words may have just one unit of meaning or be formed by combining units of meaning (such as adding a prefix and/or suffix to a base), sometimes resulting in grapheme pronunciation changes. |
| Syntax | Learning to read and write means knowing that words are used in different ways. **Structured Literacy includes learning about speech parts** (e.g. verb, noun), how words are organized into sentences, and the mechanics of written text. |
| Semantics | **Within every part of a Structured Literacy approach, words and their meanings are explored both individually and combined in various forms of text.** The rich language learning environment grounding a Structured Literacy approach builds vocabulary and background knowledge, steadily developing and strengthening comprehension and writing skills. |

Nancy’s book, *Secret Code Actions™*, contains Clues, Alerts and Detective Enrichment relating to all of the above, plus creative skill-related movements to make learning the secrets of the code more engaging and fun for teacher and learner – no matter what age or stage!

Find out more, and see specific examples, at [www.SecretCodeActions.com](http://www.SecretCodeActions.com)

Structured Literacy source (March 2018): [https://dyslexiaida.org/effective-reading-instruction/](https://dyslexiaida.org/effective-reading-instruction/)
(My books and website list this and other resources with helpful information about Structured Literacy!)