

Stone Arch Books Use Special Font to Support Struggling Readers

By John Coughlan, Publisher Stone Arch Books

Stone Arch Books employs a specially selected font that helps struggling readers overcome the most persistent reading obstacles. These problems include letter discrimination, letter confusion, and letter reversal. While not all struggling readers experience these difficulties, many do well into the middle grades and beyond.

A letter-discrimination problem means that a reader fails to recognize the small details that make a letter significantly unique and different from other letters. The Stone Arch font is large, generously spaced, and slightly simplified (in letters like a and q for example). This makes for an easier reading experience.

Letter confusion and letter reversal often arise from a font's reuse of the same forms in many letters—for example, c and e, b and d, p and q. The Stone Arch font has several features that help struggling readers meet this challenge. Letters like c and e are given extended openings so that their distinctive features can be recognized. Letters like b and d are angled so that one is not merely the mirror image of the other.

The Stone Arch font works with other book and text features to ensure that a struggling reader's reading experience is smooth, productive and, ultimately, a pleasure.

Read Regular Project (Royal College of Art in London) Natascha Frensch

- Traditional typefaces reuse the same forms for multiple letters –such as b and d, or p and q
- Significantly unique letters make it easier to distinguish one character from another
- Simplified forms and extended openings in the letters c and e help struggling readers avoid letter-reversal
- Fonts used in large print (14 pt) and fonts that do not have serifs help combat letter-reversal

Dyslexia Style Guide (The British Dyslexia Association) Anne Parker and Ian Litterick

- Choose fonts that are rounded and allow for space between letters
- Select sans serif fonts
- Use a minimum of 12pt or 14 pt
- Use lower case letters rather than upper case (capitals) whenever possible
- Don't use fonts with unusually shaped letters that create difficulties for dyslexic readers

Which Fonts Do Children Prefer to Read Online? (Wichita State University) Michael Bernard, Melissa Mills, Talissa Frank and Jan McKown

- 14 pt font increases a reader's perception of ease of reading
- Serif fonts are perceived by a reader as more difficult to read than sans serif fonts
- Font size (14 pt) contributes dramatically to a reader's perception of reading faster
- 14 pt font size and sans serif fonts increase a reader's perception of font attractiveness