

# *Ms. Lafrate's Manifesto*



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## *Introduction*

**"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows." ~Sidney J Harris**

The following resources are books, blogs, associations and websites that will be useful to me during my career as an ESL and special education teacher. These resources are part of my continuing plan to familiarize myself with all the education system has to offer. The items listed below will continue to be extremely important to me in my future as I currently own or have access to them through my university and work place. The books and websites include information for professional use, references for parents and books for students.

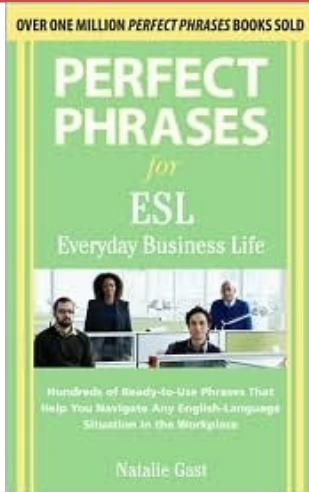
I completed a undergraduate degree in Special Education from Michigan State University, and I am also in the process of earning a masters degree in Educational Technology. The resources listed below will teach you everything you need to know about the topics they cover. However, no book or blog will ever compare to actual classroom experience and years of practice. These books are simply to supplement teachers, students and parents as they experience education in the United States.

\*\*\*\*Most of the books listed below are available online through [Amazon](#) or [Barnes and Nobel](#). You can also purchase many of them digitally for less than the suggested retail value. The websites and blogs are free to browse but may require a fee to join and access valuable information.

# *The ESL Classroom*

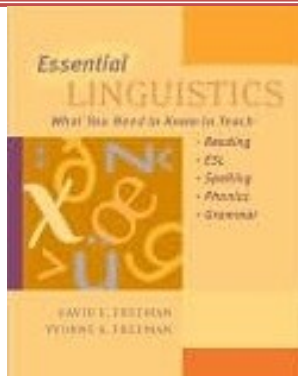
## *English as a Second Language*

<i>Cover/Screen Shot</i>	<i>Title &amp; Author</i>	<i>Description</i>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“First Discussion Starters”</b> by Keith S. Folse and Jeanine Aida Ivone</p>	<p>This is a book of discussion starters and activities for beginning English learners. It is practical because the conversation topics are useful for everyday interaction and the activities engage the students into conversation by utilizing topics of interest for elementary and middle school aged students.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Games for Language Learning”</b> by Andrew Wright, David Betteridge and Michael Buckby</p>	<p>In the ESL classroom it can be difficult to motivate students when the teacher is talking in a language other than their native tongue. Using games in the classroom is a great way to ease the tension of speaking in a different language. It allows the students to learn new vocabulary and practice speaking while having fun simultaneously. This book offers many classroom games that can be easily adapted to any size classroom.</p>



**“Perfect Phrases for ESL Everyday Business Life” By Natalie Gast**

This book is perfect for adult and advanced ESL learners. It teaches how to be polite but authoritative in the work and school environment. Many adult ESL students find it difficult to break the ice or ask for clarification while talking to superiors. This book gives examples of how to do so without creating awkward moments with professionals



**“Essential Linguistics: What You Need to Know to Teach Reading, ESL, Spelling, Phonics, and Grammar” by David and Yvonne Freeman**

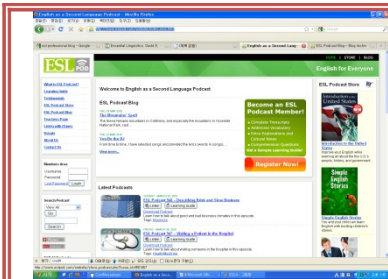
This book is excellent for those teachers who want to freshen up on their college linguistics class. The authors clearly explain many linguistic concepts while relating them to relevant lessons and activities to teach ESL students of all ages. By better understanding English linguistics, ESL teachers will easily be able to transfer their knowledge to students.



**“Spark Charts” ESL Grammar and Vocabulary” By Harvard Students**

These pamphlets are extremely helpful because of their small size and “to the point” content. They were created by Harvard students for use by students, teachers and other professionals. They are a great reference source because they highlight all the key concepts with easy to understand graphics and charts. Many other English topics are also available.

ESL Podcasts is a website where you can download and listen to hundreds of ESL podcasts. They also include complete transcripts, definitions, sample



## “ESL Podcasts”

[ESLPod.com](http://ESLPod.com)

sentences, comprehension questions, additional explanations, cultural notes and tips on improving English. You can subscribe to the podcasts and have them downloaded to your computer automatically or they are easily transferable to any iPod so you can listen on the go!

## Motivational Techniques

<i>Cover/Screen Shot</i>	<i>Title &amp; Author</i>	<i>Description</i>
	<p><b>“The Motivation Breakthrough”</b> by Richard Lavoie</p>	<p>This book explores the myths about motivation and gives tricks and tips on how to motivate the unmotivated child. It begins with a quiz to help the reader identify the child’s motivational style in order to properly educate the child and motivate them according to their interests.</p>
	<p><b>“Transforming The Difficult Child”</b> by Howard Glasser, and Jennifer Esley</p>	<p>This book educates the reader on how to transform an unmotivated child with a nurtured heart approach. It shows how to take a student’s intensity and use it successfully without the use of medication.</p>



**“Seven Simple Secrets”** By:  
Annette Breaux and  
Todd Whitaker

This book gives teachers the “secrets” of Planning, Classroom Management, Instruction, Attitude, Professionalism, Effective Discipline, Motivation and Inspiration for your classroom. It is an excellent read for the beginning of the school year to get classrooms in order and ready for students!

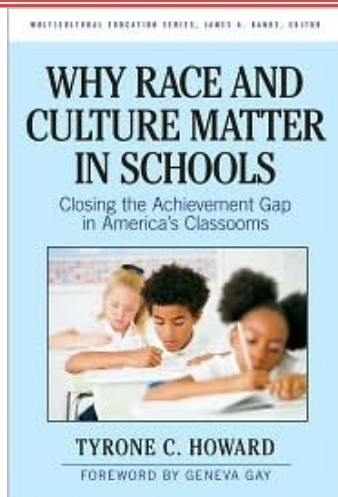


**“Youth Change”**  
[youthchg.com](http://youthchg.com)

This website has everything you need to know about motivation in the classroom. It has links to podcasts, blog, e-books, textbooks, forums, electronic workshops, live workshops, speakers and much more! You can even post about tough situations you are currently facing in your classroom and get responses from teachers all over the work with helpful information.

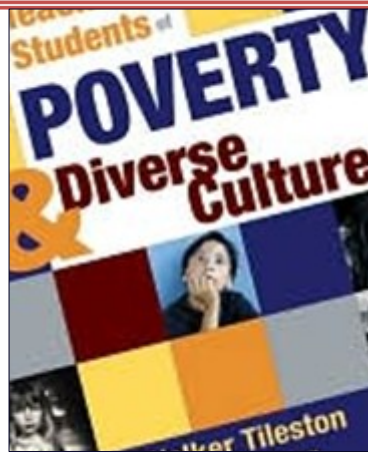
## *Culture in the Classroom*

<i>Cover/Screen Shot</i>	<i>Title &amp; Author</i>	<i>Description</i>
	<p><b>“The Skin That We Speak”</b> By: Lisa Delpit and Joanne Kilgour Dowdy</p>	<p>This book really makes the reader think about stereotypes of English dialects and how we perceive individuals who speak particular types of English. It gives teachers a lot to think about when administering “English” exams and standardized tests. It makes the reader think about the meaning of “standard English” and whether it should be used for the basis of measuring intelligence.</p>



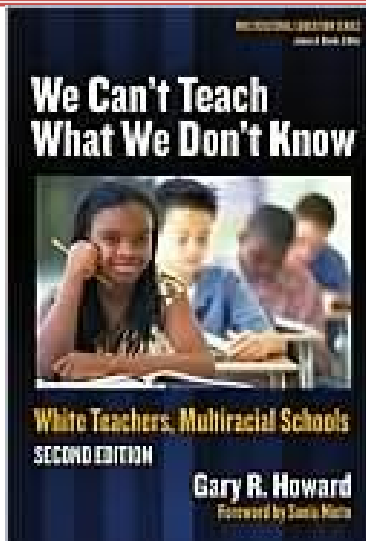
**“Why Race and Culture Matter in Schools: Closing the Achievement Gap in America’s Classrooms” By: Tyrone C. Howard**

This book follows 3 schools that closed their achievement gap between students of varying races and cultures by adopting a greater awareness and comprehensive understanding of how race and outcomes can improve classrooms. It makes teachers really think about how race and culture change the atmosphere of their classrooms and what they can do to close the gap between educational levels.



**“Teaching Students of Poverty & Diverse Cultures” By: Donna Walker Tileston and Sandra K. Darling**

This book gives many great ideas on how to improve achievements in culturally diverse classrooms. It shows how to motivate students who may not be receiving positive reinforcement at home and how to create connections from prior knowledge that children from diverse backgrounds have that are unique to their learning styles.



**“We Can’t Teach What We Don’t Know” By” Gary R. Howard**

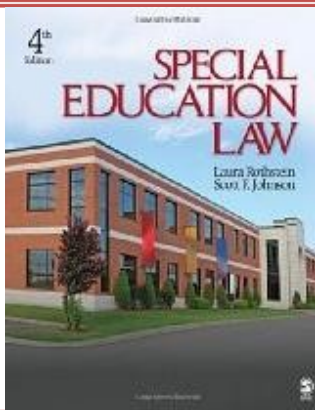
The author of this book dissects the meaning of a culturally competent teacher in a diverse classroom. He argues the point that teachers who are from mainly middle class white suburbs can’t properly teach multiracial students without the proper knowledge and background. However, he does remind teachers that this knowledge can be learned and used in the classroom through personal and professional development.

***The Special Education Classroom***

***Special Education law***

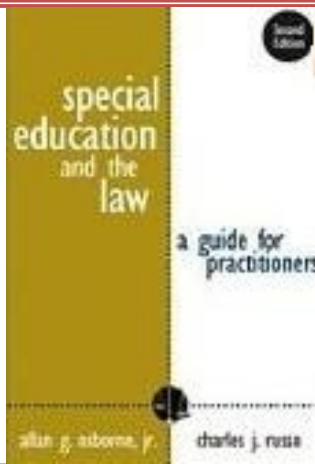
<i>Cover/Screen Shot</i>	<i>Title &amp; Author</i>	<i>Description</i>
	<p><b>“The Everyday Guide to Special Education Law – A Handbook for Parents, Teachers and Other Professionals”</b> By Randy Chapman</p>	<p>This book helps teachers and parents understand the complexity of special education law in order to receive the best possible education for the student. This book is also available in Spanish for parents who may not understand English well.</p>
	<p><b>“The Law and Special Education: Includes the IDEA Improvement Act”</b> By Mitchell L. Yell</p>	<p>This was an assigned textbook I used for an undergraduate course on special education law. It goes into great detail about the different government acts for special education and it is a great reference book for special education teachers.</p>
	<p><b>“Essential Concepts and School-Based Cases in Special Education Law”</b> By Dr. Charles J. Russo and Dr. Allan G. Osborne Jr.</p>	<p>This is a great book for understanding IDEA. It analyses special education court cases involving due process, assistive technology, disciplinary sanctions, dispute resolution, antidiscrimination laws, and special services entitlement</p>





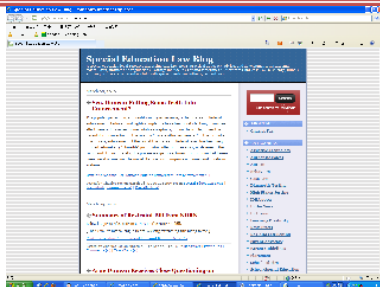
**“Special Education Law”** By: Laura F. Rothstein

This book helps current and future teachers understand what is expected from them when it comes to special education law. It also explains and highlights recent changes that have occurred in policies and education acts.



**“Special Education and the Law: A Guide for Practitioners”** By Dr. Allan G. Osborne Jr. and Dr. Charles J. Russo

This is an excellent resource book for special education teachers and attorneys because it goes in depth and reviews the regulations of IDEA 2004

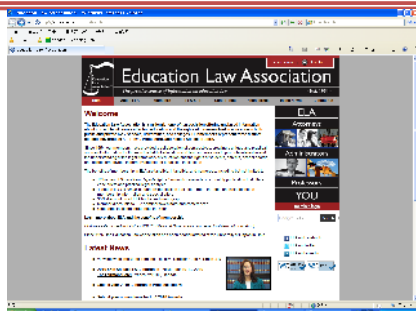


**“Special Education Law Blog”**

[specialedlaw.blogspot.com](http://specialedlaw.blogspot.com)

[m](http://specialedlaw.blogspot.com)

This blog is created by an attorney and was named one of the 50 best blogs for special education teachers. It talks about everything from assistive technology to schools behaving badly. Luckily, it is also easy to navigate because of its alphabetical categories.



**“Education Law Association”**

[educationlaw.org](http://educationlaw.org)

This is the website for a member associated forum for professionals interested in understanding the legal framework of education and the rights of students, parents and employees in a school system.

*Autism*

<i>Cover/Screen Shot</i>	<i>Title &amp; Author</i>	<i>Description</i>
	<p><b>“Ten Things Every Child With Autism Wishes You Knew”</b> By: Ellen Notbohm</p>	<p>This is an excellent book for anyone who works or has interaction with children who are autistic. Although it has a humorous approach, this book gives the reader information about characteristics of autistic children and what motivates and inspires them. Written by a teacher who has a child with autism.</p>
	<p><b>“The Incredible 5-Point Scale”</b> By: Kari Dunn Buron and Mitzi Curtis</p>	<p>Two teachers developed this 5-point scale to use in their classroom with autistic children. It helps students understand and control their emotions by letting them know when their emotions and actions are escalating. At every level it gives positive ways the child can take their negative actions and turn them into positive ones.</p>
	<p><b>“Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Effective Instructional Practice”</b> By: L. Juane Heflin</p>	<p>This is a must read book for any special education teacher or general education teacher who has autistic children in their classrooms. It gives ideas on how to diagnose children, talk to parents, and how to teach instructional context to address the unique learning styles of children with autism. It also shows how to starts and implement an Applied Behavioral Analysis.</p>



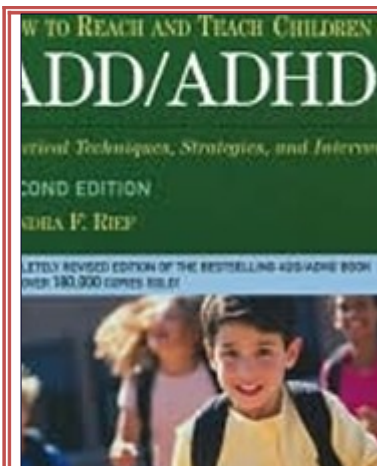
**Downloadable  
Quamut Chart**

[Autism Chart](#)

This is an excellent reference chart for teachers and other educators to recommend to parents and older students for less than three dollars. It is a reference guide about the basics of autism and what it means to be an autistic person.

*ADD/ADHD*

<i>Cover/Screen Shot</i>	<i>Title &amp; Author</i>	<i>Description</i>
	<p><b>“Teenagers with ADD and ADHD”</b> By: Chris A. Zeigler Dendy</p>	<p>This book gives teachers and parents insight on everything from understanding the diagnosis to treatment options, and from behavioral and academic issues, to parent involvement and self-advocacy. Understanding behavioral and academic issues teenagers with ADD and ADHD have will allow teachers to be much more successful teaching them in mainstream classrooms.</p>
	<p><b>“The ADD/ADHD Checklist: As Easy Reference for Parents &amp; Teachers”</b> By: Sandra Rief, M.A.</p>	<p>This book offers a checklist of important information when it comes to educating children and teenagers with ADD and ADHD. It includes sections on what we do and don't know about ADD and ADHD, probable causes, critical elements for school success, the most commonly prescribed medications and what children with ADHD need at home to promote success in school.</p>



**“How to Reach and Teach Children with ADD/ADHD”** By: Sandra F. Reif M.A.

The author of this book uses examples of real life case studies and interviews with special education teachers to give the best possible information on how to educate students who have ADD and ADHD. She offers advice on many different techniques such as relaxation practices, cooperative learning and preventing behavioral problems.



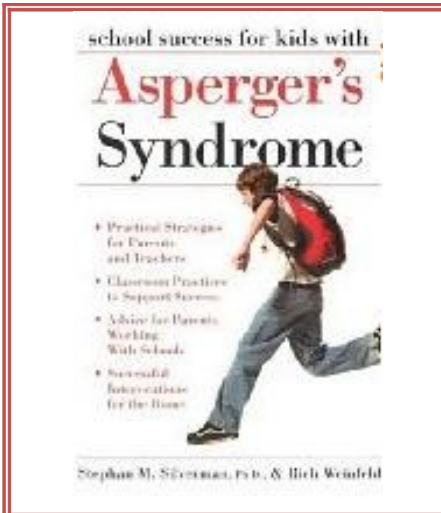
**“ADD ADHD Blog: The Internet Blog of Dr. Kenny Handelman”**

[ADD ADHD Blog](#)

This blog, written by a doctor, has tons of information about ADD and ADHD. There are links for advice on medication, parenting, alternatives to medication, research updates and even adult ADD and ADHD. You can also sign up to get emails when Dr. Handelman updates the blog.

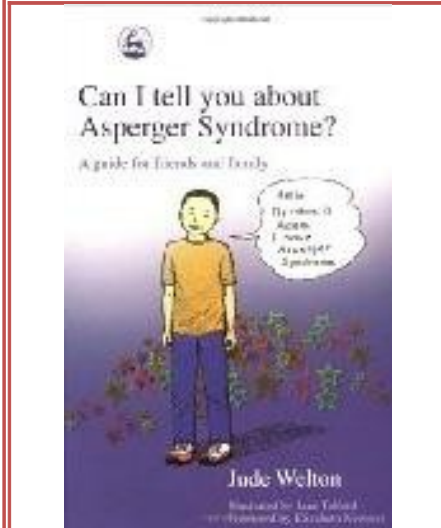
## *Asperger's Syndrome*

<i>Cover/Screen Shot</i>	<i>Title &amp; Author</i>	<i>Description</i>
	<p><b>“The Complete Guide to Asperger’s Syndrome”</b> by Tony Attwood</p>	<p>This book will tell you everything you want to know about Asperger’s Syndrome. Any question a teacher, students or parent would have about Aspergers is covered in this book. It is a reference book that goes into great depth and detail.</p>



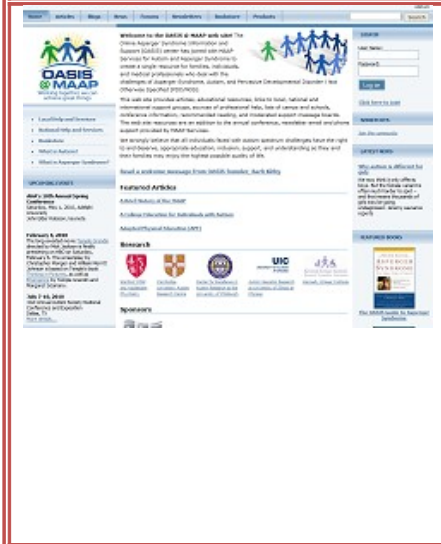
**“School Success for Kids With Asperger’s Syndrome’** By Stephan M. Silverman and Rich Wienfeld

Teachers often struggle deciding how to incorporate students with Aspergers into everyday lessons, while still making sure they are learning the material and are able to build from it. This book gives great ideas on how students with Asperger’s Syndrome can have success in school; whether it is in a mainstream classroom or in a special education classroom.



**“Can I Tell You About Asperger Syndrome?”** By Jude Welton

This is a great book for parents, middle and high school students who want to learn about Asperger’s Syndrome. It has detailed information about the syndrome but explains it like someone is speaking to the reader; it’s not like reading a textbook.



**“Oasis @ MAAP”**  
<http://www.aspergersyndrome.org>

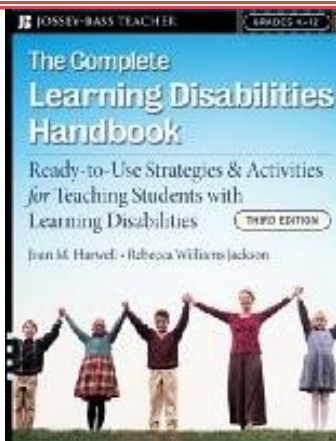
Oasis stands for Online Asperger Syndrome Information and Support Center. This website has all the information you would ever need about Aspergers for a parent, teacher or professional who encounters children with this disability on a daily basis. On this website you will be able to find books, professional development seminars, forums, blogs and much more.

*Learning Disabilities*

*Cover/Screen Shot*

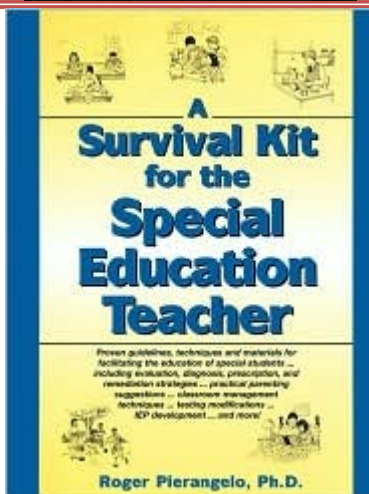
*Title & Author*

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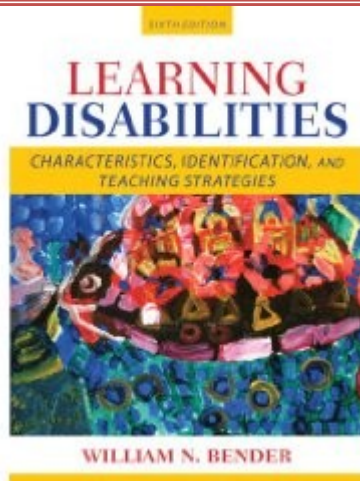
**“The Complete Learning Disabilities Handbook”** by Joan M. Harwell and Rebecca Williams Jackson

This book helps teachers quickly identify students in their classroom with learning disabilities so they can improve their academic success and attitude in the classroom. It includes assessments, solutions to behavior problems and intervention techniques.



**“A Survival Kit for the Special Education Teacher”** By Roger Pierangelo Ph.D.

This book has tons of great information for teachers who are currently teaching special education students. It gives advice on how to manage behavior, teach with enthusiasm and motivate the unmotivated child. There are many premade checklists and letters to photocopy for easy distribution.



**“Learning Disabilities: Characteristics, Identification and Teaching Strategies”** By William N. Bender

This is a reference book for educators who want to identify students with learning disabilities and learn how to effectively teach them according to their specific characteristics. This book has a ton of information about successful teaching strategies according to the child’s specific learning disability and attitude toward school.



**“LDA Learning Disabilities Association of America”**

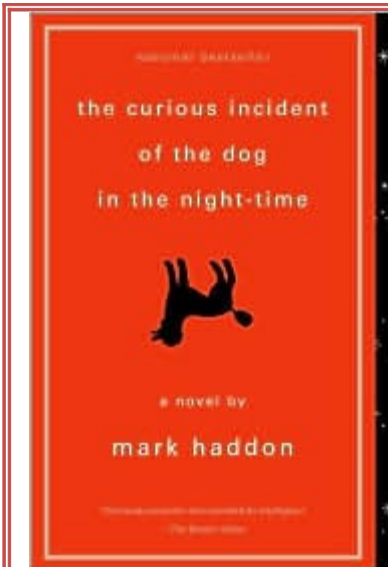
[www.lदानatl.org](http://www.lदानatl.org)

LDA is a nationwide association that informs teachers, educators and parents about learning disabilities and how to properly teach students. This website has all the information you will ever

need about learning disabilities and gives times and days where conferences are available to attend.

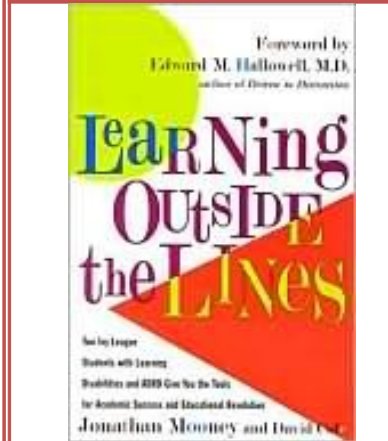
## *Special Education for Students*

<i>Cover/Screen Shot</i>	<i>Title &amp; Author</i>	<i>Description</i>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“The Survival Guide for Kids with LD”</b> By Gary Fisher Ph.D. and Rhonda Cummings Ed.D.</p>	<p>This is an excellent book for young adults with learning disabilities. It offers ways to be successful, cope, and increase motivation and self esteem. It lets the students know they are not alone, but they need to take matters into their own hands and find ways they can be successful in the future without the help of adults.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Lily and the Mixed-Up Letters”</b> by Deborah Hodge</p>	<p>This is a great story and picture book for young readers about a girl named Lily with Dyslexia. She is embarrassed to tell her family and teachers she is having trouble reading in school but as soon as she does they work with her strengths and improve her weaknesses to create a successful and enthusiastic reader.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Al Capone Does My Shirts”</b> By: Gennifer Choldenko</p>	<p>This is an excellent must read book for middle and high school students who have, or are curious about autism. It is a fiction book set in the early 1900’s about a young boy and his autistic sister. The book was set at a time when the term “autistic” was not yet differentiated from other educational disabilities and it is therefore interesting to read about the reactions of people nearly 100 years ago.</p>



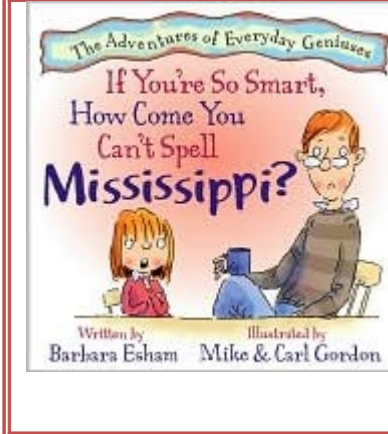
**“The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time”**  
By: Mark Haddon

This is another interesting fiction book about a young boy with Asperger’s. He finds his neighbor’s dog murdered and creates an elaborate plan to solve the mystery. This is a quick and easy read for high school students and everyone else interested in how the mind of a person with Asperger’s works.



**“Learning Outside the Lines”** By: Jonathan Mooney and David Cole

This humorous but informative book was written by two ivy league students with learning disabilities and ADD. One of whom didn’t learn to read until the age of 12. They explain how to take control of your own education and find success when everyone else says you are doomed to failure.



**“If You’re So Smart, How Come You Can’t Spell Mississippi?”**  
By: Barbara Esham

This book takes a different approach and it is about a young girl and her father who struggles with spelling and reading even though he is a successful, smart man. It teaches children that everyone is different, even adults. This book is an excellent way to get young students comfortable and respect the fact that everyone learns differently.

***The Technology Integrated Classroom***  
***Using Technology in the Classroom***

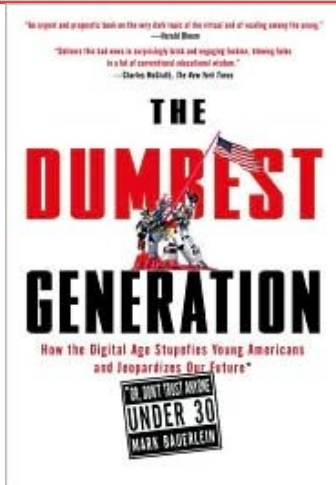
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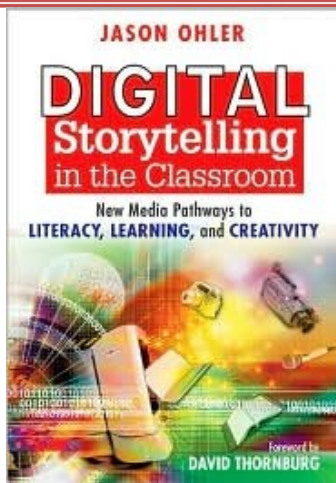
**“Rethinking Education in the Age of Technology”** By: Allan Collins and Richard Halverson

This book argues for the use of technology in the classroom. The authors make the point that technology has transformed everything from employment to how we run our homes. They discuss about how teachers also need to use technology in their classrooms or the generations of kids that are being educated right now in America are going to fall behind in our global economy.



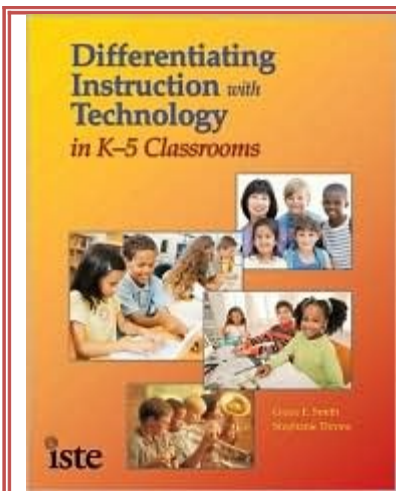
**“The Dumbest Generation”** By: Mark Bauerlein

This book takes a humorous approach on how technology has transformed the lives and the way people under the age of 30 live their everyday lives. However, his humor is backed up by interesting facts and he makes you seriously consider the dangers of technology and the hold it has on so many people. It will make the tech-savvy teacher revise the way they think about technology use in their classrooms.



**“Digital Storytelling in the Classroom”** By: Jason Ohler

This book is for teachers who want to use digital story telling in their classroom to make lessons more interesting while making sure the content still correlates with the national curriculum standards. This book gives information such as topics, principles of storytelling and media techniques.

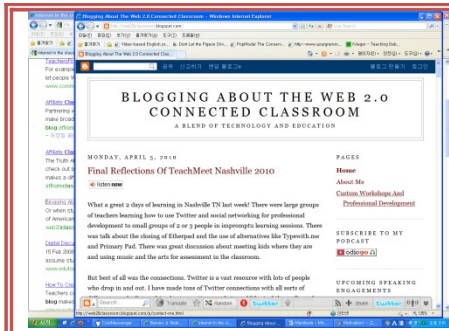


**“Differentiating Instruction with Technology in a K-5 Classroom”** By: Grade E. Smith and Stephanie Throne

Many teachers struggle differentiating instruction in their classrooms and this book will teach you how to differentiate using technology in K-5 classrooms. It also explains ways to use technology in activities where the use of technology is not common, such as art, music and physical education.

*Web 2.0 in the Classroom*

<i>Cover/Screen Shot</i>	<i>Title &amp; Author</i>	<i>Description</i>
	<p><b>“Teaching ESL/EFL with the internet: Catching the Wave”</b> By: Feyten, Macy, Ducher, Yoshii, Park, Calandra and Meros</p>	<p>Using the internet in the classroom is a useful way to get students motivated and interested in the lesson. ESL students especially need the entertainment of the internet because learning a new language can be a daunting task. This book gives teachers great ideas on how to incorporate the internet into every day ESL lessons.</p>
	<p><b>“Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts and Other Powerful Web Tools for Classrooms”</b> By: Will Richardson</p>	<p>Using the internet in the classroom can have immense benefits. This book shows teachers how to successfully use blogs, wikis and podcasts in their classrooms to supplement lessons they are currently doing. It shows how to create a collaborative classroom using the internet as the main source of communication to prepare students for future academic success.</p>



## “Blogging About the Web 2.0 Connected Classroom”

[web20classroom.blogspot.com/](http://web20classroom.blogspot.com/)

This is an excellent blog about how to use the web in your classroom. It is created by Steven Anderson who has a Masters degree in instructional technology and often speaks at conferences about how to use technology in the classroom. He also has podcasts you can sign up for to automatically receive his speeches to your computer.