

Recommended Reading:

Reading in the Brain: The Science and Evolution of A Human Invention

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Founding Partners, Readsters

Reading in the Brain: The Science and Evolution of a Human Invention

By Stanislas Dehaene

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\$18.45 on Amazon.com; \$27.95 list price

Our last book recommendation, *Unlocking Literacy*, was a book that anyone who teaches reading or language arts could enjoy and use in the classroom. Our selection this time is a more demanding read. *Reading in the Brain* is a fascinating exploration by a neuroscientist about how the brain literally “recycles” its neuronal networks for reading. The research presented in this book is extensive and current.

The reader learns how the biological formation of our brains affects the development of all writing systems, and that is just the tip of the iceberg. The functions of the left and right brains during reading are fully explored. The brain’s complex ability to recognize letter patterns is explained. The book examines dyslexia in detail.

This is not a book about how to teach reading. It is a scientific treatise on how, over the past 5,000 years, humans have invented writing systems that utilize pre-existing brain capabilities evolved for other purposes. Nonetheless, this book will be of benefit to you as a reading teacher through providing a deeper understanding of the reading brain.

Dehaene is a scientist, not a reading teacher. Although he writes simply for a scientist, be warned that the reader will encounter many brain-related scientific terms that may be unfamiliar. Therefore, we would not call this book an easy read. Nonetheless, at Readsters we all feel that this book greatly enhanced our understanding of how the brain achieves reading. Pictures included throughout the book help illustrate the processes of the reading brain. We recommend this book to anyone who wants to understand the most current science behind reading.

A note: Everyone at Readsters thought the first and last thirds of the book were the most interesting. We all got bogged down in the middle.