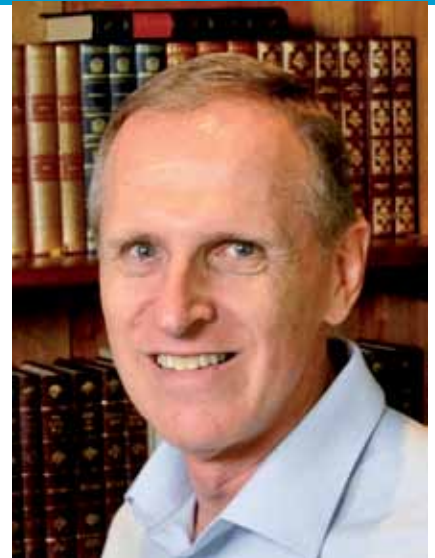


# Read

## MY WORD with Rodney Martin



**R**iddle-me, riddle-me, ree, there's something I can see..." To young children, reading is a riddle or code to be cracked. Often, the first word they learn is the most important in their lives – their name.

Many parents associate learning to read with knowing shapes and sounds of letters. *Hweover, a radeer can raed wrdos eevn wehn the mdilde lterets are meixd up.* This proves that you use more than phonics to understand text. You read whole words and use grammar and meaning to understand text.

Modern teaching uses a combination of three main approaches in teaching children to read:

- Sounds and shapes of letters and words (She cannot reach/**b**each/**p**each the shelf.)

- Grammar or word order (The **bad big/big bad** wolf chased the little pig.)
  - Sense of meaning (The fox **jumped/juggled** into its hole.)
- But skill is not what reading is all about. Some call this 'barking at print'. Reading's real purpose is for understanding (comprehension) and satisfaction (entertainment, information).

Schools also teach children to read between the lines, to use their imagination, to have an opinion about what they are reading and to understand how pictures have meaning.

The word *passion* is from Latin *pati* 'to suffer', as in 'the passion of Christ' and is related to *patient* (medical) and *passive*. The meaning of having intense feelings for reading, cooking or anything else emerged in 1638.

If the learning experience is not enjoyable, children can feel that reading is more suffering than pleasure. You are the greatest influence in your child having a passion for reading.

"Darling, if you're bored, read a book."

"Why don't you and dad read?"

Monkey see; monkey do. Are there books beside DVDs and games in your home? Is reading an activity shared at bedtime with you? Do they enjoy modern e-books online through your local library or on digital devices?

Passion is emotions. Use your powerful influence on your child's emotions and values by sharing books with them. Show them the library online. Demonstrate that reading is for pleasure so that, unlike King Ethelred, they become *Prince/Princess the Ready* and live happily ever after.

Rodney Martin is a children's author and educator. His SA family business, *Era Publications*, creates interactive online children's books for homes, schools and public libraries around the world. View free samples at [www.erapublications.com/south-kids](http://www.erapublications.com/south-kids)

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The old Germanic word *rédan* 'to advise or explain' became *rædan* and later *reden* in Old English. This meaning is remembered with the old English king, *Elthelred the Unready* 'the ill-advised'. In only two languages the word *reden* came to mean 'to understand writing' – English *read* and Icelandic *ráðha*. A related word is *riddle*.