

Bookshare Helps A&M Student Dream Big

[Bookshare logo with the tagline: A Benetech Global Literacy Initiative.]

[A student walks on the Texas A&M campus.]

I grew up in a small community, rural Texas, not too far from here. And my graduating class I had 47 kids. It was definitely a worry on my mind not knowing, you know, would I be good enough to get into a university. It was a struggle at first, especially with my disability.

My name is Colton Luton, and I'm studying Animal Science in the College of Animal Sciences. Being dyslexic, you're not, not intelligent. You're a smart individual. It's just you have problems in certain areas. You see the word and you just don't know how to say it. It's kind of like looking at a foreign language.

Before using Bookshare, I could comprehend very well. But I'd have to re-read pages over and over to really understand what the story was saying. But with Bookshare you can listen to the book as well as watch it across the screen or read along with it on the page.

[Colton reads and listens to a book on a tablet.]

And it increased comprehension of it along with lessening the time it took for me to have to read it. It cut my time in half. Veterinary school, that's definitely where my heart and passion is. And I should wake up every day and striving to do the best I can. In order to get into vet school you have to have a very high GPA. That's where Bookshare can come in handy. Because you're reading these books and it's helping you comprehend. And in the long run, you're doing better with your classes. I am powering right along and going strong.

Starting next spring I'm hoping to walk onto the football team as the kicker for A&M.

[Colton looks up at the football stadium.]

Balancing that and school will be difficult. But, um, you know, it goes along with the journey. You got to go big, or go home. It's important to keep reading because there's always new and changing information. There's always going to be another way to do something. And you always have to adapt to a new way of life. And what, what different strategies you can use. And one of those new strategies is Bookshare. You're responsible for what you do, you know, what you want to get out of class is what you do outside of the class. And that, that involves, 99 percent of it is reading.

When I'm using Bookshare I can, you know, it increases my level of understanding. Knowing that I had dyslexia it was, there was a lot of pressure not knowing that I would be accepted. But don't be afraid to dream big. I dreamed big and I ended up getting in. And it's a dream come true.

[Bookshare logo with the tagline: A Benetech Global Literacy Initiative.]

For more information, visit Bookshare.org.