# Student with Dyslexia Discovers What It’s Like to Read: Emery’s Story

Bookshare. A Benetech Initiative.

I would remember getting so angry at myself because I would read something and don't have any idea what it meant.

I remember thinking that I would never learn how to read.

It's painful to watch that in your child. I mean it was just tears and crying and yelling and laying her head on the table.

Other kids were reading like these stories and I was just like "I don't understand this at all. Maybe I'm just not good enough."

Until I got tested for dyslexia.

Emery was seven years old when she was diagnosed with dyslexia.

So because we live in Dallas County and Scottish Rite is right here we took her there to be evaluated.

This is our binder from Scottish Rite and they were handing us here's your diagnosis, here's some legal stuff about 504's and special ed law, and here's your Bookshare account.

"What's a Bookshare account?" I remember sitting down on the couch and she was like "we're gonna try something new" and then she gave it to me I'm like "wow."

Bookshare has changed her life.

She has her app set it looks like a Kindle every word is highlighted and she hears the word as it's highlighted in the highlighting moves across the screen.

She can adjust font color, highlight color, background color. The voice can be altered, the speed can be altered, it is very, very, very customizable.

Bookshare kind of put me in my own world and I found out that this is how everybody feels when they read.

I think it taught her brain how to track, how to read coherently, fluently, and follow along and it taught her that there's a story beyond word for word.

Emery's scored master of reading level every year that she's taken the Star test.

It kind of helped me build up confidence in myself.

The school announced hey we're having tryouts for UIL competitions and they had what they called a "Ready Writing." And it's where you have to write a story and you present your story to the judges. Emery came home and said to us I've signed up to do, sorry, she signed up for "Ready Writing." It's the one thing that's very difficult for her to be willing and to want to even enter that type of competition and then to hear from the judges that she did very well. I mean that moment to me is just it's you know just 180 degrees from where we were.

I hope in the future I can read books to my kids.

She love, love, loves to read and that cannot be attributed to anything but Bookshare.