Six Chrome Tools for Kids with Reading Issues

By the Understood Team

Six Chrome apps and extensions that can be used on Chromebooks or on any device with a Chrome browser.

1. <u>Snap&Read Universal</u>
   - Snap&Read Universal is a text-to-speech (TTS) tool that starts reading aloud from where a student clicks on a word. It can read digital text. It can read text in pictures and images, too. This is known as optical character recognition (OCR). This Chrome extension has a function to simplify words and phrases for readers who struggle with vocabulary. Kids can also highlight and organize text into an outline to help with reading comprehension. Price: $3.99/month (free to try)

2. <u>Read&Write for Google Chrome</u>
   - Read&Write includes a bunch of tools to help kids with reading and writing. Its TTS offers several voices, plus dual-color highlighting. (This highlights both a sentence and individual words as they are read aloud.) Its OCR can read text from screenshots and images. This Chrome extension has a text and picture dictionary to help with reading comprehension. It also lets kids highlight different colors as they read. Then they can compile highlighted notes in a document. Read&Write has a tool to simplify the text on a page, too. It collects just the important sentences to give a summary. Price: $100.00/year (free to try, free for teachers).

3. <u>SpeakIt</u>
   - SpeakIt is a simple TTS tool. Kids highlight text in Chrome, click a button, and listen as the words are read aloud. This extension can read in more than 50 languages. Kids can adjust the speaking pace and select from a few voices. A similar TTS option on Chrome is Voice Instead. Price: Free

4. <u>Learning Ally Link</u>
   - This audiobook reader opens directly from Chrome and lets kids read books from Learning Ally's library of 80,000 audiobooks. To use this app, your student must have a Learning Ally membership. Learning

Ally is a nonprofit organization. Price: $135.00/year for unlimited audiobooks.

5. <u>Scrible</u>
   - This extension is a set of note-taking tools that let kids mark up and save information from web pages. It can help with reading and researching online. Using a pop-up toolbar, kids can highlight text in several color4s and add sticky notes. They can also underline, bold, strike through and italicize text. Kids can also bookmark pages and save annotated pages to a Scrible account, which they can access whenever they use Chrome. Price: $28/year (the basic version is free).

6. <u>Read Mode</u>
   - This extension removes visual cluster from web pages to make them easier to read. It eliminates ads and animations and converts web pages into simple black-on-white text articles. Chrome has a few variations on Read Mode that you may want to try. For instance, Reader View also converts pages into text, and lets kids change the font and font size. And with Easy Reader kids can select one section or part of a page to view as reader friendly text. Price: Free