

## The Gift of Reading

You may not realize, but reading is a valuable gift that everyone is welcome to learn. 44% of Rutherford County's adults can't read over a third grade reading level. That's almost half !!! Now you might think that reading isn't a solution to problems, but it is! For example, if you couldn't read, you couldn't write a letter or type up an E-mail. How could your parents sign a permission slip or explain a homework assignment if they can't read? Not even a simple thing like seeing what there is to eat at lunch in school could be done- if you couldn't read.

I love to read and that's because I think that if you don't read, your brain will stay dull. If you continue to read, then your brain will sharpen up. Also, to me reading opens a closed door that you couldn't have opened unless you read a book. Reading gives me new thoughts to think about—new things to learn. You might say that things are interesting and new from a different point of view. Enjoy the opportunity we have to freely read and learn in this country.

If you or someone you love has trouble reading, please don't be embarrassed. There are so many people that are willing to help you—all you have to do is ask.

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