

The Blumenfeld Education Letter

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." HOSEA 4:6

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The purpose of this newsletter is to provide knowledge for parents and educators who want to save the children of America from the destructive forces that endanger them. Our children in the public schools are at grave risk in 4 ways: academically, spiritually, morally, and physically — and only a well-informed public will be able to reduce these risks.
"Without vision, the people perish."

Why Is America Being Inundated by Disinformation About Dyslexia?

On Sunday evening, April 19, 1992, the CBS network aired a film about dyslexia, starring Kirk Douglas, entitled "The Secret." The secret, of course, was that Douglas, a retired cranberry grower on Cape Cod, had spent his entire life hiding the fact that he couldn't read. He never really understood why he couldn't learn to read in school even though he knew he was not stupid. He simply was afflicted with this handicap which only his wife and best friend knew about. Now that his wife was dead, only his friend knew.

Douglas is more or less resigned to his fate as a lifelong illiterate until he learns that his little grandson in the fourth grade is having a problem similar to his: learning to read. The parents are summoned to the school by the boy's teacher who informs them that their son has a "learning disability" called dyslexia. She suggests that the boy be tested by the school to confirm her diagnosis. The father, Douglas's son, vehemently objects to any such testing. He tells the teacher in no uncertain terms that his son is perfectly normal physically and mentally and is an outstanding athlete.

But Douglas realizes that his grandson is afflicted with the same disability he has and decides that he must do something about it. He must convince his grandson that simply because he can't read doesn't mean that he's stupid. Only a test will prove that.

Grandpa's daughter-in-law informs him that the boy can be privately tested in Boston at a hospital that has a dyslexia clinic. (The hospital shown in the film is the Massachusetts General Hospital which does, indeed, have a dyslexia clinic.) The cost of the test is \$1,200 which the young family can't afford. Grandpa Douglas decides to pay for the test. He arranges to take the boy to Boston without his son's knowledge. And so off they go to the hospital in Beantown and are anxiously awaiting the boy's appointment when father bursts into the waiting room, grabs the boy in a fit of anger and takes him back to Cape Cod.

Douglas, alone at the hospital, doesn't know what to do. But when the call for the appointment comes, Douglas decides that he might as well take the test himself to find out what's wrong with him.

The doctor, a sympathetic female, gives

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