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Jeff Reich, Editor
The Writer
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Dear Mr. Reich,

Would you be interested in an article on How to Create More Book Readers? As you probably know there has been a decline in book reading among young folks. According to a report issued in November 2007 by the National Endowment for the Arts, *Reading at Risk*, the number of 17-year-olds who never read for pleasure increased from 9 percent in 1984 to 19 percent in 2004. About half of Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 never read books for pleasure.

Endowment Chairman Dana Gioia stated: "This is a massive social problem. We are losing the majority of the new generation. They will not achieve anything close to their potential because of poor reading." And writers will keep losing their audience!

However, there is a simple way to correct this situation: make sure that children in primary schools are taught to read properly through intensive systematic phonics. Children taught to read in that way become great book readers.

Having written ten books on education, including *The New Illiterates*, *How to Tutor*, and *Alpha-Phonics: A Primer for Beginning Readers*, I know whereof I speak. It is in the interest of all professional writers to make sure that children are taught to read in the proper phonetic manner. They can do this by visiting their local primary schools to find out how the children are being taught to read. If they are being taught by memorizing a list of sight words, they will become reading disabled by the third grade.

I and several colleagues have been able to prove this beyond any doubt by the use of special tests for the reading disabled that indicate how the child has been taught to read. If you believe as I do that professional writers can have a positive influence in their communities by speaking out in favor of proper teaching methods, we will be able to greatly increase the number of book readers among the younger generation.

Sincerely yours,