

SAMUEL L. BLUMENFELD

73 Bishops Forest Drive Waltham, MA 02452 781-899-6468

slblu123@verizon.net

To the Editor
The New York Times
New York, NY 10018

Lee W. Anderson's letter to the Times on October 8, 2007 reveals exactly what is wrong with American public education. He wrote: "The goal of universal math and reading proficiency by 2014 may be harder to reach than the moon, which simply means that we have to get more serious about providing schools, teachers and students with the tools they need."

What are the tools they need? They existed when I attended New York public schools in the 1930s and '40s, and they certainly can be used today. Progressive educators, who are responsible for the present state of public education, are as serious as they can be about maintaining their faulty curriculum: whole language reading instruction, the new math, the new new math, invented spelling, etc.

As a creator of a very effective intensive phonics reading program, I know how difficult it is to break through Fortress Progressiva. But let's not kid the American public. We know how to teach both reading and math effectively. It is the progressive educational establishment that refuses to use the methods that work or return to the curriculum that produced America's greatest generation.

Samuel L. Blumenfeld

Waltham, Mass. October 12, 2007

Author of *The New Illiterates*, and *NEA: Trojan Horse in American Education*.