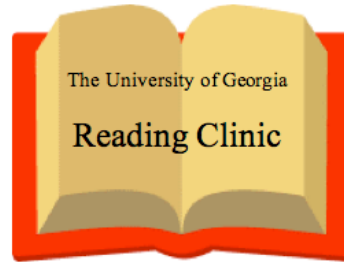


*For further information,  
Please Call:*  
**(706) 542-7866**

*Write or Fax:*  
**Reading Clinic**  
**309 Aderhold Hall**  
**The University of Georgia**  
**Athens, Georgia 30602-7125**  
**FAX (706) 542-3817**

*E-mail:*  
**dee@uga.edu**

*Information and application at:*  
**<http://www.coe.uga.edu/lle/clinic/>**



**UNIVERSITY  
OF GEORGIA**  
**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**READING  
CLINIC**

helping K-12 children  
with reading  
since 1956



## Reading Clinic Tutors Help Children Develop Reading Skills, Appreciation for Books

The eternally mixed-up maid Amelia Bedelia, an adorable puppy named Biscuit and a school principal living a double life as the mighty Captain Underpants are just a few of the favorite characters at the UGA Reading Clinic, a community outreach program dedicated to helping kids in the Athens area develop their literacy skills.

Even the most disdainful young readers are sure to find something funny, mysterious or simply wacky on the clinic's colorfully overflowing shelves.

Tutors help their students select the perfect book for the weekly session before settling down in a quiet spot to read together, sound out words and work on spelling. The Reading Clinic is equipped to tutor preschoolers and teenagers alike, whether they need a refresher course in the basics of reading or just a little extra help along the way.

Although books like Dr. Seuss' *One Fish, Two Fish* are still perennial favorites, these days technology serves a special role in the clinic's program. Sometimes the burgeoning bookworms are encouraged to do a little storytelling of their own, using PowerPoint slideshows to write, illustrate and even narrate their own tales.

Learning to write their own stories and seeing their lives and interests reflected in print helps children understand what reading is all about, said Michelle Commeyras, clinic coordinator and a professor in language and literacy education.

"We try to connect things they've read with their lives," she said.

Christian Ayoob's love for all things herpetological is evident in his 2001 creation, *An Alphabet of Snakes*, which starts with the anaconda, the heaviest snake in the world, and ends with the peculiar Zambezi blind snake, named for its vestigial, scale-covered eyes.

Collaborating with tutor Dianne Johnson to complete the project, Ayoob improved his reading comprehension and word identification while working on the alphabet book.

T.J. Free came to the reading clinic in 2003 and partnered with tutor Erin Griesbeck to refine his oral reading, spelling and writing abilities. Some of Free's favorite NASCAR legends, Dale Earnhardt and Jeff Gordon, are featured in his book, *ABC's of Auto Racing*.

Many of the tutors are experienced classroom teachers, supervised by Commeyras during the spring semester and guided by a qualified professional during the summer session. The tutors learn about language processing while discovering ways to help children develop their reading ability and appreciation for books.

Besides spending plenty of one-on-one time with their reading partner, each tutor writes a detailed progress report for the student's parents, explaining the child's problem areas, what they have worked on during the tutoring sessions and suggesting tips for parents to use at home to help their child become a better reader.

Captain Underpants would be proud.

### READING CLINIC AT-A-GLANCE

**Founded:** 1956

**Home department:** Language and Literacy Education

**Building:** 309 Aderhold Hall

**Coordinator:** Michelle Commeyras, professor of language and literacy education

**Contact:** DeAnna Palmer

**Brief description:** The reading clinic offers tutoring sessions, conducted by supervised graduate students, for school-age children who need to improve their literacy skills. Parents receive feedback reports on their child's progress and suggestions for encouraging their child to continue reading at home. Sessions are held for one hour each week for 10 weeks in spring and summer.

**Students involved:** 15 graduate

**Faculty involved:** 1

**Students tutored annually:** 45-50

**Web:** [www.coe.uga.edu/lle/clinic/](http://www.coe.uga.edu/lle/clinic/)

**Phone:** (706) 542-7866

**Books in the reading center:** 2,246

**Founder:** Ira Aaron

Ira Aaron served on the faculty at the College of Education for 37 years (1948-85). Aaron helped to develop UGA's reading education department in 1950 and founded the reading clinic six years later. The distinguished and beloved professor, now retired

from teaching, continues to support literacy efforts through a generous endowment to the Reading Clinic. A scholarship presented in his name in honor of his years of service to the college supports education graduate students' study abroad programs. Aaron has also worked with the American Library Association's Caldecott awards, a prestigious medal awarded each year to outstanding children's picture books.



*College of Education graduate student Lone Olebile tutors Madison Getch in the Reading Clinic*

