

## Is your student a reluctant reader?

Many students are reluctant to read for a variety of reasons. Students may not like to read because their reading fluency and comprehension skills are not on level. Or, students may have limited access to a variety of genres that interests them. Adolescent readers are a group of students who have greater struggles with reading. According to National Council of Teachers of English, some 8 million students in grades 4-12 are reading below grade level, and limited literacy skills cause 3,000 students to drop out of high school every school day. Their reading struggles have been attributed to many factors including the complexity of texts in late middle school to high school. Additionally, adolescent readers prefer to read about real-life issues that relate to their own lives---their conflicts, obstacles, and successes. Many of these topics are not available through approved school books.



The ***America's Notable Women Series*** is an excellent reading series for adolescent and struggling readers. This series introduces students to the biographical genre of nonfiction literature. Each selection engages students with a woman's personal struggle within her own life and/or society. These selections raise ethical awareness and details how each woman worked to improve societal issues.

The ***America's Notable Women Series*** also introduces students to more complex text. Students will experience success with the completion of these short selections that are designed to keep readers engaged. To help with comprehension and to engage students, each selection features:

1. Short selections of 3-pages in length (550 words)
2. Regularly placed text features, such as the Tidbits and historical photos
3. Timeline with short sentences that help struggling readers gain historical information
4. Glossary of content-area words with pronunciation
5. Boldfaced content-area words for easier comprehension and retention
6. A focus on cultural and ethical awareness to engage student's interests



When used in conjunction with a social studies curriculum, the ***America's Notable Women Series*** offers a means to optimize reading opportunities and to reinforce concepts from the founding of America through its twenty-first century achievements. An active-learning booklet of projects including speaking, writing, drawing, and researching supplements the ***America's Notable Women Series*** and engages students' interests beyond reading. The availability and accessibility of consumable text will accelerate progress, strengthen confidence, and enable once reluctant readers to be hooked on reading!

### Resources:

Lee, C. and Spratley, A. (2009). Content-area Literacy: Literature. April 18, 2011 AdLit. <http://www.adlit.org>.

National Council of Teachers of English. (2010). NCTE Policy Statement: Adolescent Literacy. April 15, 2011 *National Council of Teachers of English*. <http://www.ncte.org/adlit>.

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. (2000). *Report of the National Reading Panel. Teaching Children to Read: An Evidence-Based Assessment of the Scientific Research Literature on Reading and Its Implications for Reading Instruction: Reports of the Subgroups* (NIH Publication No. 00-4754). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.