

Learning to read

'Reading was not something that I did at an early age but I did have some problems with reading when I was younger. The school gave me all sorts of extra help with reading and I couldn't even remember one letter from the other. However much anyone taught me, it just would not sink in. I had had an assessment by an educational psychologist when I was seven years and eight months old and my reading age was not assessable because I just couldn't read anything. The next day Mum got a phone call from the school asking her to come in and see them.

She told me that she was very worried as that usually meant that I was having a massive tantrum, but when she got there the teachers had something that they just couldn't wait to tell. I had picked up a copy of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which the teacher was using to show how plays were written. It seems that I opened the book and began to read it fluently. How weird is that?! I wonder if that has a name too - 'can't-read-then-suddenly-starts-to-lexia' maybe?

Luke Jackson, *Freaks, Geeks and Asperger Syndrome: A User Guide to Adolescence*, p117.