



### Samuel's Story

### From Struggling Reader to "A" Student



## *Samuel*

Age: 11

Location: AB

Diagnosis: Dyslexia, ADHD



### Protocol

Samuel worked for 30 minutes per day, 5 days per week, for one year. He completed Fast ForWord Literacy, Literacy Advanced, and Reading 2-4



### Results

Samuel blossomed from a struggling reader to a confident student. Today, he not only reads with comprehension, he has become an *all-subject* "A" student!

Samuel had always had an excellent memory. According to his mother, if his teacher asked him a question orally, "He rocked it every time." But if he had to read the questions himself or put an answer on paper, the results were very different. By 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Samuel's reading and writing were at least two years below grade level. He watched his youngest sibling surpass him in both areas and became embarrassed and ashamed when asked to read out loud in class. His mother felt he was "absolutely demoralized by the school system" and decided to pursue additional help. Soon after, he was diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD. Samuel's great aunt, who is a special needs instructor, suggested that they look into Fast ForWord.

Samuel's mother knew that he was self-conscious about his learning challenges. She found the ability to work on the program in private, at home, very appealing. A Gemm consultant sent her a demo of the program, and she was able to see how the different exercises could work. She talked to Samuel about the program and cost, explained that he's worth it and she believed it could help, but stressed that he had to commit to do the work. "I will invest in this, if you do." She told him, and he agreed.

*"At night, I have to fight to get him to shut off his light. He wants to keep reading!" –Samuel's mother*

His mother set up a rewards system, where he was able to pick out an appropriate video game after certain milestones in his program were reached. Samuel also saved up points on the Gemm Learning student reward site. He planned to purchase an item with points once his program was complete. His mother never had to remind him or fight with him to do the program. He was motivated and worked hard.

Within three to four months on the program, his mother could see the difference. She was *shocked* by how much he had progressed by the end. Samuel started reading books that were 200 pages or more. He went from being embarrassed to read in front of his siblings to playing board games that required reading and being comfortable asking questions or making the occasional mistake. His writing also became legible and easier to understand. Since first grade, Samuel had received A's in all of his classes except Language Arts, which was a C. On his first report card after starting the program, he earned a B. By the next report card at the end of the school year, he had A's in all of his core subjects.

Samuel recognizes the value of Fast ForWord and has even expressed interest in helping motivate other kids who are struggling. "I'd recommend it in a heartbeat to anybody who was looking at it." his mom added. "It made a world of difference for him. And, to me, that money is so well spent, because I see that there is so much value in it for him. I would do it all over again, if he needed it."