



Leader of Readers

**Laura Lay,
SFPL Learning Differences Librarian
The Bridge at Main**



Developing a youth literacy program wasn't in Laura Lay's job ... but the literacy crisis facing California's youth—55 percent of third and fourth graders can't read at grade level—was too critical to ignore.

In response, Lay started the Free Orton Gillingham (FOG) Readers program. The program has taken off: last year, 194 students received tutoring, and 140 students are now participating, at 23 of SFPL's 28 locations, with a 200+ student waiting list.

"For me, literacy is a big part of creating a more equitable society. Every aspect of our lives is built upon literacy."

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