



# Leaving Johnny Behind: Overcoming Barriers to Literacy and Reclaiming At-Risk Readers

*Anthony Pedriana*

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In the tradition of *Why Johnny Can't Read* written by Rudolph Flesch in the 1950s, *Leaving Johnny Behind* provides a comprehensive examination of the barriers that deny children adequate literacy training. This book describes the obstacles faced by a school principal from Milwaukee's central city when he attempted to implement research-based reading practices. Upon further examination, he discovered that the reading establishment generally rejects the product of legitimate science, choosing instead to engage in a never-ending interfusion of the latest innovations, modifications, and gimmicks. This condition, Anthony Pedriana observes, has a disparate impact on poor and minorities, those who suffer from dyslexia and other forms of reading disability, and those for whom English is a second language.

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