

# I Am Dyslexic Poem

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I am dyslexic.  
I began in an intimidating world of  
spoken words, letters, and numbers  
I confused the letters  
I saw jumbled words  
I heard different sounds  
I spoke my own language  
I spun in bewilderment  
I fought to focus  
I struggled with their tedious tasks  
I felt different from my classmates  
I tried hard  
I feared I was stupid  
I am dyslexic.

I am dyslexic.  
I grew unsure of myself  
I avoided being called on  
I wrote "incorrectly"  
I heard my words come out jumbled  
I confused myself  
I stayed in for recess  
I believed I was stupid  
I stumbled in my own awkwardness  
I saw the puzzlement of my parents  
I felt the irritation of my teachers  
I cried tears of frustration  
I am dyslexic.

I am dyslexic.  
I watched my peers succeed  
I wanted to be successful  
I dreamed of being smart  
I studied with determination  
I found my voice in stories and poems  
I worked hard  
I hid the pain  
I found laughter  
I created mischief  
I discovered peers liked my humor  
I listened to their voices  
I made friends  
I am dyslexic.

I am dyslexic.  
I questioned myself  
I watched my mother look for answers  
I doubted her faith in me  
I loved her for it so  
I took the tests and  
I felt my whole world begin to change...  
I wondered if it could really be true...  
I read the words "Janine is dyslexic."  
I touched the page "above average  
intelligence with attention deficit  
disorder"

I was flooded with a wave of disbelief  
I landed in relief  
I am not stupid  
I am dyslexic  
I felt gratitude for all who had believed  
in me  
I let compassion go to those who did  
not  
I found my answer  
I am dyslexic.

I am dyslexic.  
I ventured into higher education not  
once but twice  
I won national awards  
I took risks  
I asked for help  
I did what others said I could not  
I refused to give up  
I wanted to make a difference  
I heard them say "when I was young I  
too wanted to change the  
world...you can't"  
I remembered all my dyslexia had  
taught me  
I surged forward with clarity  
I have a purpose  
I am dyslexic.

I am dyslexic.  
I am empowered

I act on my concern for our world  
I reach out in compassion to others  
I identify with the pain and determina-  
tion of my own clients  
I laugh with myself  
I reveal my resilience  
I enjoy the scrambled way I hear things  
I find entertainment in my dyslexic  
mistakes  
I focus on the joy of the journey  
I find others accept what I accept in me.

I see my degrees on the wall  
I know I am intelligent  
I recognize my gifts  
I own who I am and  
I am dyslexic.

Yes, I am dyslexic.  
I changed my life when  
I let go of who I wanted to be  
I became who I am and have always  
been  
I learned a great deal about myself from  
my teacher Dyslexia  
I am determined  
I am passionate  
I am creative  
I am confident  
I am assertive  
I am powerful  
I am intelligent  
I am successful  
I am dyslexic.

I am dyslexic and now  
I am educated  
I am a professional  
I am a wife  
I am a mother  
I have the life I have always dreamed of  
I am proud  
I am dyslexic.