

NEA's Declaration of Reading Independence

We hold this truth to be self-evident that all children have the right to read. If we don't secure this right, too many of our children are likely to lead lives of quiet, or not so quiet, despair.

To secure this right, every adult has a role to play. As people who teach America's children, we will craft our lessons carefully. As parents, we will show our children a quieter, more meaningful way. As members of the American family, we will care for other people's children as our own.

On this day of fireworks and fun, we pause to dream together. We dream of a day when all children know their ABCs before they come to school. We dream of a day when all third graders are reading to learn rather than learning to read. We dream of a day when every American teenager knows the joy of being swept away by the powerful prose of a good book.

And so, we the people who teach America's children do solemnly swear that we will not rest until our children are the best readers in the world. As a first step toward this goal, we hereby commit to celebrate reading March 2nd, the birthday of Dr. Seuss, the man whose poetry and play has led so many children to reading independence.

--By Anita Merina