

Providing Reliable Instruction During Unpredictable Times



Lindsay Mairanz



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Israel



User since 2022



The Challenge



At Lindsay Mairanz's school in Israel, students come from a wide range of educational backgrounds, some having lived abroad and speaking fluent English, while others have attended schools with little or no formal English instruction. These students with varying abilities are all in the same class. Supporting such diversity in a single classroom has been especially challenging over the years given limited weekly English instruction and the disruptions from COVID and regional conflicts.

Last year, the school was closed for about two months and had to rely on online learning, as there weren't enough safe spaces in Israel to reopen. Beyond needing a reading tool that could differentiate for all learners, Lindsay was also focused on finding resources that would simplify teachers' workloads. She states, "I'm always looking for things that make teachers' lives easier. That's part of my job as Head of Middle School English."



The Solution

Lindsay discovered ReadTheory in a Facebook teacher group and was drawn to its simplicity and strong focus on reading. She wanted a tool that supported differentiation and made teaching easier—and ReadTheory delivered.

After gaining administrative approval, she rolled it out to all 8th graders. What began as a homework tool quickly became part of class time, with students now spending 15 minutes on ReadTheory every Sunday (Israel's school week runs from Sunday to Thursday). Its structure and built-in timer made it easy to implement, even across 11 to 12 teachers.

Best of all, learning continued—even when school buildings were closed. With ReadTheory, students stayed on track without adding stress to teachers. It was also easy for parents to support from home—no complicated setup, no extra materials—just simple, meaningful reading practice. In difficult times, it gave everyone a sense of structure and progress when it was needed most.

Lindsay also uses ReadTheory Premium's Weekly Activities feature and tracking tools to monitor participation. She starts each student with a perfect score that drops only if they don't complete assignments—keeping motivation high and routines consistent.



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“ReadTheory makes teachers’ lives easier —
and our students stronger readers.”

The Impact

While students may not always recognize their own growth, Lindsay consistently sees measurable progress in both their reading abilities and their confidence—and she makes a point to share that success with them. By tracking Lexile levels from the beginning to the end of the school year, she’s able to document clear improvement, even during periods when schools across Israel faced extended closures.

In those moments, ReadTheory provided a stable and personalized learning experience for her students. It gave them stability and support when regular routines were interrupted. For example, one student who struggled to understand *The Giver* in class was still able to thrive on ReadTheory, finding success through reading passages that matched his level and allowed him to build confidence independently.

Because ReadTheory adapts automatically, every student receives targeted reading practice—without extra prep for Lindsay. In a setting like hers, where classrooms include a wide range of English proficiency levels, ReadTheory has become a consistent, effective tool for growth—even when learning conditions are less than ideal.

ReadTheory: A Steady Solution in Unsteady Times

Amid all types of disruptions, ReadTheory remains
a constant and reliable tool for learning.

