

Episode 2: The Idea

Sixty years ago, Marie Clay developed a way to teach reading she said would help kids who were falling behind. They'd catch up and never need help again. Today, her program remains popular and her theory about how people read is at the root of a lot of reading instruction in schools. But Marie Clay was wrong.



EPISODE 2

Episode Length	Link to Episode	Link to Transcript
51:41	https://www.apmreports.org/episode/2022/10/20/sold-a-story-e2-the-idea	Printable Transcript
Additional Optional Materials	The three-cueing system in reading: Will it ever go away? Brain Builders Videos: The Science of Reading for Kids	

Questions and Topics for Discussing "The Idea"

Before Listening	Read the episode description. What do you know about Marie Clay?
While Listening	Why do you think the episode begins and ends with Dan Corcoran's story?
After Listening	<i>From a teaching perspective:</i> Clay said this about the books used in a Reading Recovery lesson: "The easy text gives the child a chance to practice all the reading strategies that they've learnt so far. To put some of the complicated behaviors together which I sometimes call 'orchestrating' the reading behavior. To do fluent reading right from the very beginning." Clay wanted students to sound like fluent readers from the beginning. What did you learn in this episode about how people become skilled readers? <i>From a parenting perspective:</i> Clay did not expect the scientific breakthroughs that have since revealed how skilled reading develops. She said: "We don't know what's going on behind the eyes in these particular areas. And they're also saying, as far as I can see, it's unlikely we will ever know. So that will remain magic and all we can do in these situations is to arrange good situations for children to respond to and then just guide their responding. They have to do the learning."

	• What did you believe about how children learn to read before you started listening to this podcast? • Have your ideas changed? How? Why? <i>From a community perspective:</i> Clay said, in 1967: “We have a school system which allows the good readers to get better and the poor readers to drop further and further behind.” • Has that changed? Why or why not? <i>From a student perspective:</i> • What did you learn in this episode about how people learn to read? Here are videos you can watch to learn more. We especially recommend Episode 4: The Origin of My Reading Brain.
Wrap Up	• This entire podcast explores one idea about reading. The idea is described in this episode. What is the idea?
Extend	<i>Activity 1</i> Compare the research methods Clay used to the methods Bruce McCandliss used. • How do you think their methods influenced their different understandings of how reading works? <i>Activity 2</i> In the article The three-cueing system in reading: Will it ever go away?, Kerry Hempenstall writes: “One might think that after the publication of numerous authoritative reports on skilled reading and how to promote it (such as that of the National Reading Panel, 2000), this tired hypothesis would have been long ago assigned to the history folder. However, a cursory search for the 3 cueing term produces many examples of it being endorsed by school districts, education departments, teacher training institutions, and school documents.” • Why do you think the cueing system has had such staying power? <i>Activity 3</i> Listen to your child read and notice how they approach unfamiliar words. • Do you have concerns?  ARTICLE

	Talk with other parents in your school to see what they have noticed about their children's reading.
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We'd love to hear about your *Sold a Story* discussion!

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- Leave us a voicemail message: (612) 888-7323