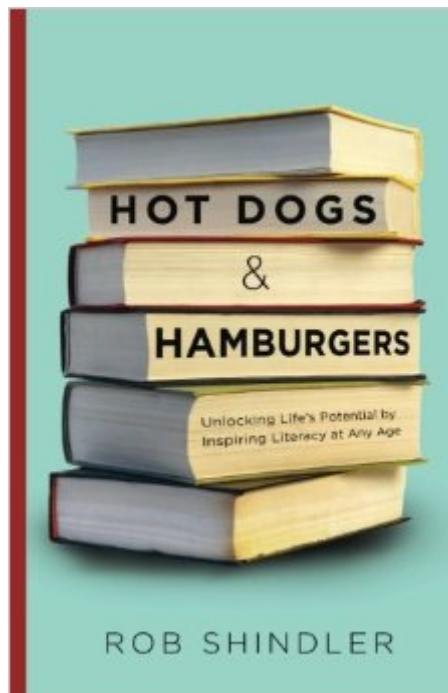


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# Hot Dogs And Hamburgers: Unlocking Life's Potential By Inspiring Literacy At Any Age (Volume 1)



## Synopsis

**LEARNING TO READ BUILDS CONFIDENCE AND HOPE** In this heartwarming story, author Rob Shindler tells how he offered his time, unflagging energy, and unconventional teaching techniques to help a boy with serious learning differences and adults suffering from low literacy levels. A father who wanted to help his son with his reading deficiencies, Rob discovered the way to that goal was through volunteering at the Literacy Center of Chicago. There, he learned firsthand how ridiculous the common misconceptions are about learning disabilities and adult illiteracy. The assortment of students he taught were ambitious people who were eloquent, driven, clever, and so funny they made him laugh out loud. Here, Rob shares his students' pain and humiliations, frustrations and hopes. *Hot Dogs & Hamburgers* demonstrates that literacy issues reside in all neighborhoods and that its victims are committed to finding dignity and life's possibilities through learning to read. Rob's teaching experiences are so motivating and rewarding that once you've read his story, you're likely to begin your own journey as a literacy tutor.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I love finding little gems like this inspirational memoir. Shindler has a son with severe learning disabilities which mainly make him unable to read. As a father he fails his "experiment" in trying to teach his son to read and decides that if he can learn to teach adults (people he doesn't love) to read with patience he may be able to bring those skills home and put them to use in helping his son read. I was drawn to this little book as I taught both my sons to read, the eldest was advanced and had started on his own by age 3. That was a lot of fun. I just added in the phonics and the rest was

natural for him. My second son is autistic and has many learning disabilities, some which sound identical to Schindler's son. He went to elementary school half days and was homeschooled the other half. He has short term memory and teaching him often felt like banging your head on a wall as what he had successfully conquered one day, would be as if he had never heard of in his life the next. Anyway, he's succeeded in being able to read now at age 15, below age level, but he's a work in progress, as are we all. I became an expert in phonics and the school worked on the Dolch words. I found Mr. Schindler's book highly inspiring and related to him greatly. However this little book concentrates more on his teaching the adult literacy classes than teaching his son and these were wonderfully inspiring moments. It's an inside look at who these people are that end up as non-reading adults, why they decide so late in life to learn to read and the determination and success they find in this new atmosphere as opposed to the school system that let them down as kids.

Imagine not being able to read or write. How would you fill out an employment application or a medical form? How could you help your child with his homework or read the instructions on a medicine bottle? People who struggle with literacy issues don't usually volunteer that information to anyone. Many devise ingenious ways to hide their lack of reading and writing skills from everyone, including family and friends. They are smart, intelligent, productive, successful adults who want to do some of the things the rest of us take for granted. They want to be able to read their Bibles, or bedtime stories to their children or grandchildren. They want to get their high school diplomas, better jobs, or start a company using their unique skills, but all of that is beyond their reach. Rob Shindler knows some people just like this and his book *Hot Dogs & Hamburgers: Unlocking Life's Potential by Inspiring Literacy at Any Age* will give you a glimpse into their world and their literacy journey. At a very early age, Rob Shindler's son, Oliver, had a "situation." That's how the preschool teacher put it. That "situation" was a learning disability. First there was the shock and then the wish to disappear, which Rob did for a while. He didn't actually leave, he just checked out when it came to dealing with the dreaded "situation." His wife took up the slack and that was okay with Rob... but not for long. When he decided to reappear, Rob took it upon himself to teach Oliver to read. Maybe the closet wasn't the best place to hold class, but it was quiet in there and there would be no distractions... or at least that's what Rob thought.

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