

“ I am really happy about being able to have Bookshare. My self-esteem has increased greatly because I am able to keep up with my classes and get my assignments done on time. ” —KEVIN LEONG



## CHALLENGE

Kevin Leong, now an eighth grade student in Palo Alto, California, suffered an organic brain injury at age six that forced him to have to relearn everything from walking to using the bathroom. It also caused optic atrophy which made his vision blurry and reading normal size print grueling. As a result, Kevin had difficulty keeping up with his academics and his classmates.

## SOLUTION

Kevin's parents, Drake and Jessie, signed Kevin up for an individual membership with Bookshare. The accessibility features of Bookshare ebooks enable Kevin to enlarge fonts and see highlighted words in color on a screen. "The reading technologies allow Kevin to be more independent and self-reliant with his reading assignments," says Jessie. "He can adjust the brightness and contrast of text according to how his eyes feel." When Kevin and his classmates visit the school library, Kevin launches the Read2Go app on his iPad, logs in to his Bookshare account, searches for a reading assignment, and downloads the book. He can immediately start reading or save the book for later. "I've always been good at math and science, but now I'm good at reading and using technology. A couple of minutes on Bookshare and I'm ready to go!"

## IMPACT

The flexibility of manipulating digital content encourages Kevin to read more. His grades and reading level shot up in one year and continue to improve. In addition to his academic progress, he has become more social. He doesn't feel different in school and talks with everyone about what he reads. Says Kevin's father, Drake, "Accessibility and portability are two very important factors in Kevin's ability to learn and to be independent. Kevin likes to read Bookshare books directly in a browser with Bookshare Web Reader and uses his iPhone to read on the go. It's wonderful to watch Kevin's progress and know that he is well on his way to accomplishing his dreams."

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*Benetech is a nonprofit that empowers communities through software for social good. Our work transforms how people with disabilities read and learn, makes it safer for human rights defenders to pursue truth and justice, and connects people to the services they need to live and prosper. We're constantly pursuing the next big social impact.*