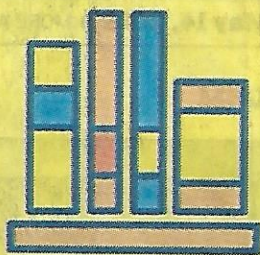


# Adult Literacy Facts

**36**  
million

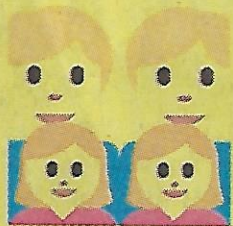
adults in the  
United States  
cannot read,  
write or do basic  
math above a  
third-grade level



Children whose parents  
have low literacy levels  
have a

**72%**

chance of being at the  
lowest reading levels  
themselves. These  
children are more likely to  
get poor grades, display  
behavioral problems, have  
high absentee rates,  
repeat school years or  
drop out.



**\$225 billion**

Cost each year in  
non-productivity in the  
workforce, crime and  
loss of tax revenue.

**\$232 billion**

a year in health care  
costs is linked to low  
adult literacy skills



**43%**

of adults with the lowest levels  
of literacy live in poverty

Sources: National Bureau of Economic Research, National Center for Education Statistics,  
National Council for Adult Learning, American Journal of Public Health