

I started reading on my own when I was about seven or eight years old. I found a bunch of old Readers Digest books in my grandmother's home and began to learn things I hadn't known before. I devoured everything I could get my hands on. I read things that made me laugh, things that made my cry, and everything in between.

I came to understand the transformative power of reading. I was transported to other places and times and books became an escape for me. I became hungry for knowledge and the deeper meaning of life. As I grew up, books continued to provide support and understanding for life and things I sometimes didn't understand, through human interest stories, stories of overcoming adversity, and stoires of the triumph of the human spirit. I learned about love and patience along with forgiveness and truth.

Books provided assistance and guidance that my life didn't always have. They availed me to leading edge thinkers and thought-provoking concepts. I scoured the self-help sections of libraries and book stores for books with deeper knowledge and greater understanding. What I found were treasures of new ideas and thoughts that were not accessible to me prior to reading them. As I continued to grow, books provided me with more than an escape. They provided me with an understanding of who I am and ways to navigate the world. I entered college at the age of 37 in order to advance my education and build upon my love of learning and reading. I loved learning and reading and a whole new world was opened up to me through reading and sharing new ideas and concepts. Reading has changed my life in ways I could never have imagined and I'm grateful for the people who share themselves and their ideas with us through books.