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The Dyslexic Operating System: A story of Resiliency and Macs and Windows

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Imagine living in a world where you're constantly being told that you're wrong, that you're too slow, that you'll never understand. It's a world where the rules of the game to win are rigged against your favour, but no one seems to notice that you've been set up for failure before the game even started. You know that you're just as capable as the other players of the game, but the rules always seem to favour them while you keep falling behind. This world is a reality for the more than one in ten people who cope with dyslexia every day. Growing up with dyslexia, you are branded as "DISABLED" from the moment you are tested as if to make sure that everyone knows there is something wrong with you. To cope, you develop mechanisms to preserve your quality of life and protect your spirit and heart. Some withdraw and just try to

fly under the radar. Others become the class clown because it's better to be sent to the office than to have to read out loud or go to the blackboard to do a math problem. Most get bullied because you get sent to the class with the slow kids. What if instead of testing children on some sort of pass/fail scale, we started testing children to understand their unique strengths instead of highlighting their weaknesses? What if we taught children to recognize how each of their brains works differently than one another and to leverage those differences as unique strengths? This discussion will use an anecdotal approach to explore these questions and more to discover how we can all change our perspectives to enable children everywhere to win at a losing game.

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