Script for e-Readers

Jackie: One of biggest concerns is the delayed reading level of some of my students. They have difficulty in reading the text as well as worksheets developed by the text publisher or even by me.

Anita: That certainly is a major concern. How can students be expected to learn content from material they can’t read. I have a suggestion, though. Are you familiar with Text-to-Speech software? Sometimes it is referred to as Speech Synthesis software?

Jackie: I think I’ve heard about this. It’s basically software or hardware that converts text to some kind of artificial speech, right?

Anita: Exactly. There are several programs available and developers are refining them all the time. I would suggest we try eReader by CAST. This type of speech synthesis software allows students to read content from the Internet, word processing files, text that you’ve scanned in or text that you have typed in. EReader adds a spoken voice as well as visual highlighting. Students love to work with this software.

Really, Jackie, I think this is the way to ensure more of your students are getting the information from print.
Jackie: Great. Show me how to set it up and let’s try it out with a few students. This sounds like a great example of a UDL tool.