



Learning to read
is not something that happens
after a stereotyped readiness period
in first grade or kindergarten.

Learning to read
is the job of a lifetime.

Two-and-three-year-old children who are read to a lot
begin their reading careers early.

The day a child gets hold of a sentence pattern that works for him
and reads it into the telephone directory
or the Montgomery Ward catalog
or his daddy's newspaper at night,
he is launching himself on his reading career.

He is role-playing himself as a successful reader.

The day a child reads a book from memory,
he is furthering his reading career.

He, in truth, is finding joy and power
in the pages of a book,
a psychological posture that every successful reader
continuously brings to each reading encounter,
knowing, subconsciously if not consciously,
that he can make a go of print.

This is the first and foremost reading skill.