

Readable Video Transcription 1

Can You Imagine?

Scene 1: We see author **Shane Burcaw** within a Skype screen. He is speaking with elementary school students and the ReadableFest conference event. The camera widens allowing us to see the audience.

Shane Burcaw:

“Hello everyone. As all of you already know, I am Shane Burcaw. And you know that because we've all been meeting in all of our wonderful Skype sessions over the last few weeks. I have to tell you, I have enjoyed meeting all of you, hearing all of your questions and getting to know you so much. It means the world to me that all of you are thinking about disability, and inclusion, and accessibility in such a cool and interesting way. I love that all of you are working to make your schools and your communities a more inclusive and accessible place. That is amazing and I just want us to say hello to you, and congratulate you for taking it upon yourselves to make our world more accepting, and loving, and inclusive. Thank you.”

Scene 2: A series of shots showing students in small groups discussing how to improve accessibility at their school. On large paper pads they record their ideas. Students take turns presenting to their class using a hand-held microphone.

Scene 3: The title of the video—Can You Imagine ?

Scene 4: We are introduced to Sonya White, who is the event co-ordinator. She speaks to children and operates a LED projector which displays a PowerPoint presentation. She wears a “handsfree” microphone as she circulates through a small gymnasium. She receives sheets of papers from the students; she posts these onto a large chart.

We hear her voice as a narrator. She says:

Readable Fest engages students and teachers to question their assumptions or attitudes they may have about people with disabilities, so they can really expand their understanding of inclusion and accessibility.

Scene 5: We are introduced to Irfan Toor, the Principal of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at Simcoe County District School Board in Ontario. He expresses his opinions about the event. He says:

“My name is Irfan Toor, I'm the principal of equity, diversity and inclusion with the Simcoe County District School Board. Students engaged in a conference where they got to voice their opinions. And listening to the students talk with some confidence, with some experience, with some authenticity about the things they could see in their school

that would make their school a better environment for everybody, and make it more inclusive and accessible.”

Scene 6: We continue to see students at work.

Scene 7: We see Robin Dashnay, a Principal of an elementary school. He explains why the event is meaningful to students, teachers, parents and the community in which they live. We also see scenes of other teachers and their students. He says:

Robin Dashnay:

“My name is Robin Dashnay. I'm principal of Chris Hadfield Public School in Bradford, Ontario. Right from the get go, we had staff that were very interested in becoming part of this, the Readable Fest, and part of this program. They jumped right on board when I presented them with an opportunity. We had multiple teachers that wanted to become involved. I've had lots of conversations with the teachers over the last several months talking about the books, the quality of the books, the messaging in the books, which really aligns to a lot of the work that we're doing here at the school.”

Scene 8: We see **Bonita Coons**, a Teacher. She explains what made the event beneficial as an educator. She says:

“There's definitely been an increase in the empathy and kindness within the classroom. So as an educator it's been amazing. It's opened up my ability to look at literature in a different way. The ready to go lesson plans were amazing. We were able to just sort of pick that up and say, "Okay, today this is what we're going to do." With those lesson plans there were all those additional resources that were available. So we did watch a couple of Shane Burcaw's little excerpts, videos. The kids really enjoyed meeting the author, so that was probably one of the highlights for them of this whole Readable Fest. The Skype interview with Shane Burcaw, and then of course today having Eric Walters come and spend time with us, it was great.”

We also see samples of the website and printed materials that helped students to understand accessibility. In this scene we also meet **Eric Walters**, an author.

Eric Walters says:

“There was just a study done, it was quoted in the *Toronto Star* by Deborah Dundas. Really good article about disability and different groups who are in children's literature. And disabled children were probably the lowest percentage. They're vastly underrepresented. The argument always is that people need to see people who look like them. What I always talk about is if you can see somebody, if you can empathize with them through story, you get to see that person as being real. And it's funny how sometimes story, made-up things is more emotionally connecting to us than the realities around us.”

Robin Dashnay says:

“I have to say I was proud of them, number one. They came up with some great ideas. Again, these are kids who obviously the groundwork has been done in the classroom that Readable Fest has laid out for them. So they were well versed in looking at different challenges that a variety of students may deal with. And they were passionate about, we've got to make some changes. They had no problem telling me what they need changed, and that they need money for it. So it was great to see how excited they were, how passionate they were about it and that they took this seriously. That they saw themselves as change makers. And I think that's important. That's a skill that we should be passing on to our students.”

Scene 9: We listen to five students who share their thoughts about accessibility and how they plan to improve accessibility in their schools.

Silas:

You get to see what it's like in another person's shoes in these books.

Owen:

You shouldn't treat people differently just because they look different, or live different to us.

Alison:

Always be kind even if they have a disability. We can't judge them by their looks.

Kayden:

People with autism and stuff like that are people too. You shouldn't treat them differently.

Lennon:

Just the fact that nobody is the same, everybody is different and that we have to ... We should all accept everyone no matter who they are, or what they are, and they should be accepted.

Robin Dashnay:

“I was fortunate to be here to hear some of their responses. And again, as a principal, you're proud to see your students take something from a book, from an article, from a story that inspires them, that allows them to imagine them doing better as a society.”

Scene 10: We hear Sonya White, the co-ordinator, who narrates:

“We've asked them to imagine new ways of doing things, to make their school community more inclusive and accessible. Change is possible when you ask one simple question, can you imagine?”

We then see large groups portraits from 5 or 6 schools who hold signs that say: “Can You Imagine”. One student raises his sign above his head for everyone to see. Three students say: “I can imagine”.

Scene 10: The event logo appears. It says:

“ReadableFest. We all have a story.”