

The story quickly **engages readers** by introducing the plot conflict right away, capturing the attention of even reluctant readers from the start.

# Chapter 1

## Messed Up

The font spacing and size are **easily readable** yet still **appropriate for the intended audience**.

“WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?” My mother’s voice made me shudder. She hadn’t yelled at me like that since I was a kid. “Coach Miller will be so upset with you!” She paced the small area that we called our living room. She took three long strides one way before she turned and took three strides back again. I was sitting on one of the stools at the small two-seat bar that separated the living room from our tiny kitchen.

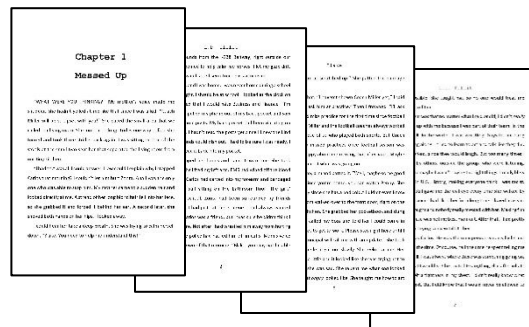
Simple sentence structure and fast-paced plots keep readers engaged and **improve reading fluency**.

“I had to,” was all I could answer. How could I explain why I stopped Carlos that morning? I couldn’t let him hurt Zonta. *And* I was the only one who was able to stop him. My mother came to a sudden halt and looked directly at me. A strand of her long blond hair fell into her face, so she grabbed it and forced it behind her ear. A second later, she shoved both hands on her hips. I looked away.

I could hear her take a deep breath. She was trying to calm herself down. “Blake. You need to help me understand this!”

Free reading guides scaffold learning and define **new vocabulary** for each chapter according to how the words are used in the current context. For example: **shudder**—shake **strides**—steps

*The Way I See It* books are written from **diverse perspectives**. *Blake* is told from a neurodivergent point of view.



**Short chapters** promote a quicker pace and help keep students engaged.