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Bestselling author James Patterson is off trying to do good in the world again, and this time he wants to take on childhood literacy problems! In a new essay for Publishers Weekly, James Patterson asks readers for suggestions on how #GetKidsReading, and emphasizes how important children's reading skills are, even at a very young age. This is an important reason, and the more attention it gets the better. In his essay, Paterson goes through some important about children's reading abilities, including the fact that children who are not reading grades at grade 3 level with 3rd grades are six times more likely to drop out of high school — as well as many problems associated with not having a high school diploma, including increased chances of incarceration. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Patterson points out, 85 percent of those in the juvenile justice system are functionally illiterate, meaning that they can't read or write well enough to meet the needs of everyday life in America. I'm not saying that all the kids who can't read well are going to wind up in jail, Patterson explains. I'm just trying to get over the fact that 6.6 million children are at increased risk of leaving high school and facing avoidable difficulties in life because they can't read well. This is unacceptable to me. To try to combat this problem, Patterson asks people for ideas big and small to at least put a dent in this massive problem. And it's huge. About 40 percent of 4th graders in the U.S. never achieve basic levels of reading skills, and that rates are higher among low-income families and children of color. So what can be done about it? Well, people are using the #GetKidsReading patterson started to give some ideas on their own. It is also important that the lack of different children's books are currently available. As recently as 2013, more than 90 percent of children's books are about white people, despite the fact that children of color represent 46 of all people under the age of 18 in the U.S. today. It's easy to understand why reading will fail to hold children's interest if they don't see themselves reflected in their books. The diversity of children's literature is increasing, but the benefits are still too slow. Increasing the diversity of children's literature could go a long way to making sure that children see reading as something that is about them. That James Patterson wants to help is astounding (and I'm a big fan of his many other contributions lately to helping libraries and indie bookstores). This is a worthy cause, and the more children we can help to get to the reading grade level, the better because reading can make such a huge difference in a child's life. We still need to think, of course, that the ability to read must not be left to external programmes or charitable donors. Learning read is a fundamental right, and that so many schools don't have the resources to make sure that every student has that there is a problem that even James Patterson can truly solve. We have a lot of work to do. He even holds the Guinness World Record number for New York Times number one best-selling novels and he was the first author to sell more than one million ebooks. Known for: Prolific and best-selling author with many works, adapted for popular filmsBorn: March 22, 1947 Newburgh, Newburgh, NY, U.S. Parents: Isabelle and Charles PattersonEducation: Manhattan College, Vanderbilt UniversityPublish Works: Alex Cross Series, Women's Murder Club Series, Maximum Ride Series, Michael Bennett Series, Middle School Series, I Funny SeriesAwards and Honors: Edgar Award, BCA Mystery Guild's Thriller of the Year, International Thriller of the Year Award , and Children's Choice Book Award author YearSpouse: Susan PattersonChildren: Jack PattersonNotable Quote: There is no such thing as a kid who hates reading. There are children who love to read, and children who read the wrong books. Before Patterson went off to college, his family moved to the Boston area, where he had a part-time night job at a mental hospital. The loneliness of this work allowed him to develop an appetite for reading literature, he spent most of his salary on the books. He lists One Hundred Years of Solitude with Gabriel Garcia Marquez as the favorite. Paterson continued to graduate from Manhattan College and has a Master's degree in English Literature from Vanderbilt University. In 1971 he went to work for the advertising agency J. Walter Thompson, where he eventually became CEO. It was there that Patterson came up with the iconic phrase Toys R Us Kid. This promotional experience is evident in the marketing of his books, as Patterson supervised the design of the book covering down to the last detail and was one of the first authors to orchestrate ads for his books on television. His methods have even inspired case studies at Harvard Business School; Marketing James Patterson explores the effectiveness of the writer's strategy. Despite his widespread popularity, he sold about 300 million books—Patterson's methods are not without controversy. He uses a group of co-authors that allows him to publish his works at such an impressive pace. His critics, who include contemporary authors such as Stephen King, question whether Patterson is too focused on quantity at the expense of quality. James Patterson's first novel, Thomas Berryman Number, was published in 1976, after being rejected by more than 30 publishers. Patterson told the New York Times that the first book compares favorably to his current work in one way: Sentences are superior to the much stuff I write now, but the story is not as good. Despite its slow start, Thomas Berryman Number won the Edgar Award for Crime Fiction this year. Patterson made no secret of his current use of co-authors, a group that includes Andrew Gross, Maxine Paetro, and Peter De Jong. He likens the approach to collaborative efforts by Gilbert and Sullivan or Rodgers and Hammerstein: Patterson says that he writes an outline of what he sends to co-author refining, and the two collaborate throughout the writing process. He said that his strength lies in concocting plots rather than parsing individual sentences, suggesting that he has refined (and probably improved) his writing technique since his first novel. Despite criticism that his style is mechanical, Patterson has hit a commercially successful formula. He has written 20 novels that include Detective Alexo Cross, including Kiss the Girls and Together Came To Spider, 14 books in the series Women's Murder Club and Witch and Wizard and Daniel X series. Given their broad commercial appeal, it's no surprise that several of Patterson's novels have been turned into movies. Academy Award winner Morgan Freeman has played Alex Cross's adaptations Of Total Came Spider (2001) and Kiss Girls (1997), which also starred Ashley Judd. In 2011, Patterson wrote an op-ed on CNN urging parents to get their children to read. He discovered his son Jack was not an avid reader. When Jack turned 8, Patterson and his wife Susie made a deal with him. He could have an excuse from chores over the summer holidays if he could read it every day. Patterson later launched the Children's Literacy Initiative Read Kiddo Read, which offers tips for age-appropriate books for children of different ages. James Patterson is an American author best known for his compelling books. His creations tend to fall into the categories of young adult fiction, thriller, and romance. With such an exciting plot, many of his books have turned into movies. For James Patterson's book fans interested in watching the movie adaptation, or for those who would rather experience the story with the film than the text, here's a list of James Patterson movies of the year. The hero is Alex Cross, a sharp Washington D.C cop, and a mixed psychologist. His niece has been kidnapped and held captive by a serial killer named Cassanova. One of his victims, who escaped, Kate, joins forces with Alex to find her niece. Starring Morgan Freeman and Ashley Judd, this crime-mystery thriller will keep you on the edge of your place. This sports drama revolves around a game of golf. Mitch loses his job and instead of finding another job at the age of 50, he decides to compete on a senior golf tour. But this decision affects his home as his wife and family begin to feel neglected. Another film in the Alex Cross series, Morgan Freeman returns as a nominal psychologist and detective. Alex is losing his partner at work. Experiencing insurmountable guilt, he quit from work in this area. That's until the senator's daughter is kidnapped and the criminal will only deal with Alex. Homicide inspector Lindsay Boxer deals with a lot. As for her career, her team successfully perceives a serial killer, but she also finds herself out as her partner. All the time, she is secretly handling life-threatening illnesses. Christina Applegate stars as Dr. Suzanne Bedord in this romance-drama. Suzanne reveals the truth about her former lover in a round way, using a diary that his first wife wrote to her son. Jane is about to marry a TV star, Hugh. In fact, Hugh only uses Jane to get the lead role in the film and Jane's mother is very controlling. Jane's childhood imaginary friend Michael reappears in his life. In fact, Michael is a guardian angel who is sent to help neglected children until they become 9 years old. This is the first time Michael meets one of his children when they are adults. This action-thriller follows six kids who aren't really human. These are human bird hybrids bred in a lab that they escaped from and now hide-out in the mountains. When the youngest is kidnapped, everyone else tries to get her back and learn the secrets of their enigmatic past in the process. Process.

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