

## Overstreet Paul "Billy Can't Read"

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His mama and daddy were very poor, and they never went to school billy followed in their footsteps like a lot of children do. He had to get a job to help pay the bills, so his younger brother Ben might go to school and learn to read and write and maybe he could teach all of them... But billy can't read no billy can't read but he gives 200% for the minimum wages that he receives sometimes he pretends like he can as he looks laughs at the pictures in the funny books but it really ain't funny you see that billy can't read. Then the boss man came around talked to billy one day. He said now billy you're the hardest worker I've got and you surely deserve more pay. But the boss at the top says I've got to give every foreman a written test. Billy hung his head cause he knew right then he would always have to settle for less. but billy can't read no billy can't read but he gives 200% of the minimum wages he receives sometimes he pretends like can as he looks laughs at the pictures the pictures in the funny book but it really ain't funny you see that billy can't read. little ben never took for granted all his brother billy's sacrifice. every night while the family slept they would sit up late by that old lamp light sounding out all the A's and the E's and the I's O's and U's. now he is reading everything from the cereal box to the bible three times though. cause billy can read yes billy can read now the rest of his life will be different you see because of the the rest of this life will be different because of the special gift he received now he doesn't have to act like he's laughing as he looks at the silly pictures in the funny books they're as as they can be now that billy can read yeah his life is much better you see now that billy can read.

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