

TEACHER NOTES

REDBACK PHONICS READERS IN THE LITERACY CLASSROOM



SERIES

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| Find Out About The Past | A Long Time Ago |
What Used To Be There?

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| What Is It Made Of? | Growing

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All Sorts Of Families | Be A Good Citizen
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GEOGRAPHY

Rubbish | Where Are We | Where We Live
| Water | Land | What We Live In

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INTRODUCTION

The Redback Phonics Readers provide children in early primary with phonetically decodable reading practice. Sight words and proper nouns are introduced gradually, and there are carefully chosen glossary words which most early stage readers will not have encountered before.

This series presents non-fiction subjects and exciting images that will keep young readers turning the pages to see what comes next. The words, sentence lengths and punctuation have been selected to give children practice in using the phonics and grammar rules they have been learning in class.

There are over 140 titles in the Redback Phonics Readers, each with colourful layouts and bright, engaging images that add to the meaning of the text and encourage discussion.

AGE AND READING LEVEL

Redback Phonics Readers are aimed at the average child towards the end of Grade 2. An advanced learner in earlier years, or a struggling learner in later years, will also be able to practise reading using this series. The age in years will vary from about 6 to 8, with an interest level of up to 11 for struggling readers.

This series is aimed at children who have already been shown the English alphabet sounds. There are about 44 of these altogether, depending on the letters and sounds program a teacher chooses to refer to. One such system was the UK's Letters and Sounds. This system begins with SATP, INMD, etc. and continues until all of the most common graphemes are taught. This will usually occur when a child will be at the end of Grade 2 in primary or elementary school. They will then need practice using all the sounds they have been learning. It is at this stage that the Redback Phonics Readers are used. They provide decodable reading practice based on all the alphabet sounds and basic graphemes and phonemes.

SIGHT WORDS

Sight words are usually introduced during the basic learning stages up to the end of Grade 2. Most teachers use lists that are based on three levels, from simple to more complex. The sight words used in Redback Phonic Readers combine all these levels, since the series is aimed at children who have completed their basic phonics training already. The proper nouns used in the series are chosen as the ones most often encountered, and which therefore need to be learned as sight words as early as possible.

MEANINGFUL TEXTS

Since the reading level of the Redback Phonics Readers is aimed at children who have already reached the end of their basic decodable phonics training, the next step is to use their decoding skills by reading texts that are meaningful and written in normal English language style. The basic decodable readers that children will have used in the past are all not written in a normal language style, since they must carefully restrict the word usage to only ones that have the letters and phonemes being taught at the particular stage. After these decodable basic stages are completed, the role of the Redback Phonics Readers is to provide meaningful content that is more in the style of the books they will be encountering later.

The use of images in the Redback Phonics Readers is very important as a way of providing prompting and context as an aid for beginner readers. The new, 'meaningful' style of reading will be different for them, after only having experienced decodable phonics style, so extra assistance is needed at this changeover stage. The Redback Phonics Readers sit between decodable phonics booklets and actual, real novels and non-fiction books.

Blending and segmenting practice throughout the Redback Phonics Readers comes from the use of words that offer a range of opportunities. The Redback Phonics Readers do not do the initial introduction of phonics, but provide practice using meaningful text, once the graphemes and phonemes have been taught in class, using other decodable phonics booklets.



IMAGE LITERACY

Since the introduction of AI, skill in using and understanding images is more important now than it has ever been. The images in Redback Phonics Readers are all chosen for their information content, colourful presentation and interesting subjects. By showing children how to look at an image to extract more information on a topic, they will be ready to spot fakes more easily and to look at all images critically.

1. Ask children to share their ideas about what the image means.
2. Is the image realistic?
3. Is there any time that a fake image is useful?
4. Is the image meant to be funny or to make them feel an emotion?
5. What extra information can they learn from the image?
6. Ask them to write or say 3 words to describe the image.

SYLLABUS

The content of Redback Phonics Readers has the added advantage of covering topics that are introduced in most early syllabuses. This gives children a purpose in their reading, showing them that their reading skills have a real use beyond just decoding individual, stand-alone words. They are learning about their world, and covering topics that they need to understand in class.

SELF-SELECTION

All the Redback Phonics Readers are a similar reading level and length. This means that children who are permitted to choose their own for reading will all encounter the same standard of text, making comparisons between children in the class easier for teachers.

An advantage of having the same reading level across multiple titles is that beginner readers who can read one book will usually be able to read any of the others as well. This encourages reading for beginners, as it builds confidence, which is one of the most important emotions necessary for a successful reading experience.

GRAPHEMES AND PHONEMES

There are 26 letters in the English alphabet, but these produce at least 44 different phonemes. A phoneme is a separate sound. When we want to write that phoneme, we use one or more of the 26 letters. Sometimes, there can be multiple letter groups that represent the one phoneme.

Children learning to read and write can start by learning all these 44 phonemes and how to spell them. Spelling requires the learning of graphemes. A grapheme is the way a phoneme is written with letters. Each grapheme represents just one, complete sound in a word.

There are a number of different reading systems that present the phonemes in various orders. The Letters and Sounds sequence used in the UK has been widely accepted as a useful sequence in which to introduce the phonemes. However, most educators agree that there is not just one sequence that is the only correct one. The important point in phonics is that there is an orderly presentation of phonemes, in which each stage builds on the sounds and letters already learned.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DECODABLE READERS AND PHONICS READERS

Decodable Readers - These books introduce the graphemes, one by one, in a specified sequence. Children start to learn one grapheme at a time, practise it, then move on to the next. Since the words presented can only include the graphemes already learned, the style of writing in decodable readers is stilted and unnatural, but very necessary for the learning process.

By the time they have been presented with all 44 phonemes, children are usually at the end of second grade or year 2 in primary or elementary school. By this time, they no longer need to read only the words that present a particular grapheme. They should be able to decode unknown words using the knowledge of the phonemes and graphemes they have been taught all the way from kindergarten.

Phonics Readers - By the end of second grade, children need texts that are more natural in their language style, but that still pay close attention to the phonics that children have learned. This is where Redback Phonics Readers are useful. They provide reading practice, using words that can be decoded with all the skills that children have learned about phonemes and the graphemes that represent them. For example, when trying to sound out an unknown word, children using phonics readers need to be able to remember that vowels can have long or short sounds, and that many consonants have hard or soft sounds.

PHONEME PRESENTATION SEQUENCE

This sequence for presenting the alphabet sounds is based on the one suggested by the UK Letters and Sounds system as follows:

S, A, T, P
I, N, M, B
G, O, C, K
CK, E, U, R
H, B, F, FF, L, LL, SS
J, V, W, X
Y, Z, ZZ, QU

EXPLICIT TEACHING

The explicit teaching method has been the subject of a number of studies that have determined it is a very effective way of teaching children to read in English.

The main steps are:

1. Teacher presents the new phoneme to be learned and models how it is said and written
2. Children practise what they have been shown and heard
3. Children produce their own work by reading and writing, showing they have understood how to use the phoneme presented

Redback Phonics Readers can be used in the third step to show that the 44 phonemes have been learned and their graphemes can be read and sounded out when a new word is encountered.

SOUNDING OUT UNKNOWN WORDS

Remind beginner readers to try all the sounds for a letter if the first one they use does not produce a word they recognise. For example, in the word 'face', children might first use the hard 'c' sound before they next try the soft 'c' sound to end up with the correct pronunciation.

SILENT LETTERS

Words with silent letters do not all follow any easy rule for spelling in English, so these sorts of words need to be memorised. Here is a list of the most common words with silent letters:

WORDS WITH SILENT LETTERS

bomb	ghost	knit	sandwich
castle	guess	know	science
climb	half	lamb	scissors
comb	hour	limb	talk
crumb	hymn	listen	thumb
doubt	knee	muscle	wrap
dumb	knew	numb	wrist
edge	knife	often	write

ALPHABET

There are 26 letters in the alphabet. This table shows how the letters have different sounds in common words.

LETTER	WORDS	LETTER	WORDS
A a	ant, mask, paper	N n	no
B b	bee	O o	on, over, mother
C c	cat, city, ocean	P p	pin
D d	dog	Q q	queen
E e	egg, me	R r	run
F f	fast	S s	sun, is, sugar
G g	girl, giant	T t	tap
H h	happy	U u	under, bush, usual
I i	bin, tiger	V v	very
J j	jump	W w	wait
K k	kitchen	X x	box
L l	love	Y y	yes, by, very
M m	moon	Z z	zoo
ALPHABET VOWELS		ALPHABET CONSONANTS	
A, E, I, O, U		B, C, D, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, P, Q, R, S, T, V, W, X, Y, Z	

TAKE-HOME READERS

Each Redback Phonics Reader is short and interesting, making them all useful for take-home reading practice. A child can usually finish reading a single book in one reading session, giving them the necessary sense of achievement that makes reading a positive experience.

With over 140 titles, there are plenty of topics so that children can select ones that suit their personal interests. Allowing children to choose their own readers is likely to result in a more positive approach to reading at home than if they are required to read a book that is selected for them. Since all the Redback Phonics Readers are at a similar reading level and length, any title can be chosen.

DIGRAPHS, TRIGRAPHS, TETRAGRAPHS

Digraphs

These are 2 letters together than make one sound or phoneme. Here is a selection of digraphs:

ai, ar, au, aw, ay, ch, ck, ea, ea, er, ew, ey, ie, ir, ng, oa, oe, oi, oo, ou, ow, oy, ph, sh, ss, th, ue, ui, ur, wh

Split Digraphs

There are 5 split digraphs that consist of 2 vowels separated by a consonant. When this occurs, the first vowel produces its long sound:

a_e, e_e, i_e, o_e, u_e

Double Letters

Some letters are doubled in words. When the letter is a vowel, this usually, but not always, means that the double letters are to represent the vowel's long sound:

aa, bb, cc, dd, ee, ff, gg, ll, mm, nn, oo, pp, rr, ss, tt, uu, zz

Not all double letters represent a single phoneme. For example, 'skiing'.

Trigraphs

These are 3 letters together than make one sound or phoneme:

air, are, dge, ear, eau, eer, eir, ere, ier, igh, oar, oor, ore, oul, our, tch, ure

Tetragraphs (Quadgraphs)

These are 4 letters together than make one sound or phoneme:

augh, eigh, ngue, ough

GAUGING READING PROGRESS

When using Redback Phonics Readers for reading practice, teachers can gauge children's spelling skills, understanding of grammar, and content comprehension by using the questions in the following table.

BOOK TITLE	SPELLING	COMPREHENSION	GRAMMAR
AIR ISBN 978-1-761406-16-4	Page 16 Find and say the words ground and colour . Notice how ou makes a different sound in each word.	Page 10 Read the words. What happens when things burn?	Page 12 Find the word that has three syllables. Say it out loud.
AIRPLANE ISBN 978-1-761406-86-7	Page 6 Find the word with a silent b .	Page 8 Read the words. What sort of shape is an airplane's wing?	Page 10 There is only one pronoun in these words. What is it?
AMPHIBIANS ISBN 978-1-761407-27-7	Page 4 Find the words dry and they . Does y sound the same in both words or not?	Page 8 Read the words. Do older frogs have gills?	Page 10 The word dry is used as both a verb and an adjective. Find which one is which.
ANIMAL HABITATS ISBN 978-1-761407-28-4	Page 20 Find the word hollow . Does the letter o sound the same each time it appears in that word?	Page 10 Read the words. Why do termites build mud nests?	Page 14 What part of speech is the word poorly ?
ANIMALS ISBN 978-1-761406-23-2	Page 4 Find the word with the silent k .	Page 12 Read the words. Can animals make food in their own bodies?	Page 14 Numbers can be adjectives. What is the only number adjective on this page?
AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS PLACES ISBN 978-1-761406-62-1	Page 6 Find the words with c in them. Does the c sound the same or different in each word?	Page 8 Read the words. Where is Uluru?	Page 12 Find the proper noun.
BALL SPORTS ISBN 978-1-761407-01-7	Page 6 Find the two words with ou in them. Does the ou sound the same in each word or not?	Page 10 Read the words. Why is this a safer game to play?	Page 14 What is the pronoun in the last sentence?
BE A GOOD FRIEND ISBN 978-1-761407-09-3	Page 18 What letter is left out of the word it's ?	Page 16 Read the words. What is one way to make friends?	Page 4 How many sentences are in the first paragraph?
BIRDS ISBN 978-1-761407-29-1	Page 4 Find all the words that have double letters in them.	Page 6 Read the words. Why do birds have feathers?	Page 8 Find the only pronoun in the second paragraph.

BIRTHDAYS ISBN 978-1-761406-64-5	Page 18 Find all the words that have double letters in them.	Page 8 Read the words. What did presents used to be made of in the past?	Page 6 Find the proper noun.
BOAT ISBN 978-1-761406-08-9	Page 20 Find the two different words that have oa in them. Say how they sound.	Page 14 Read the words. Why can't people drink water from the sea?	Page 10 How many proper nouns can you find?
BOOKS ISBN 978-1-761406-73-7	Page 6 Find the two words with er in them. Does er sound the same in both of the words?	Page 8 Read the words. How are old books different from new ones?	Page 16 There is one pronoun in the first sentence. What is it?
BRIDGES ISBN 978-1-761406-90-4	Page 10 Find the two different words that have angle in them.	Page 16 Read the words. How long ago did Romans live?	Page 14 Find the word carry . Is it a verb or an adverb?
BUS ISBN 978-1-761406-85-0	Page 6 How many words with double letters can you find?	Page 12 Read the words. When were the first bendy buses used in Australia?	Page 16 Find the word quickly . Is it an adverb or an adjective?
BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE ISBN 978-1-761406-31-7	Page 12 Find these two words: strange , hangs . Notice that the three letters ang sound different in each word.	Page 4 Read the words. How many parts are there in a butterfly life cycle?	Page 16 Read the words. What adjective describes nectar?
CALENDARS ISBN 978-1-761406-65-2	Page 12 What is the silent letter in the word wrist ?	Page 18 Read the words. What is the date in a leap year when an extra day gets added?	Page 16 There is one adjective in the last sentence. What is it?
CAR ISBN 978-1-761406-84-3	Page 10 Find all the words that have ea in them. Say them out loud.	Page 12 Read the words. Where does petrol come from?	Page 8 Is heavy an adjective or an adverb?
CARAVAN ISBN 978-1-761406-06-5	Page 6 Find the words snack and kitchen . Notice that k and ck sound the same in these two words.	Page 16 Read the words. Why does a circus travel around?	Page 12 Find the two different words that each has three syllables. Say them and notice how they sound.
CARING FOR CHILDREN ISBN 978-1-761407-03-1	Page 4 Find the words either and their . Does ei sound the same or different in each word?	Page 10 Read the words. What is a nephew?	Page 8 How many sentences are there?

CEMETERIES ISBN 978-1-761406-61-4	Page 4 Find the five words that have ie in them. Does ie sound the same in all the words?	Page 10 Read the words. Why do we take flowers to a cemetery?	Page 12 Find the proper noun.
CITY ISBN 978-1-761406-00-3	Page 4 Find any words that end in the letter y . Does the y sound the same in them all?	Page 18 Read the words. Where are three places that people might work in jobs in a city?	Page 16 Find the two words don't and can't . There are letters left out of these words. Do you know what the missing letters are?
COATS ISBN 978-1-761406-72-0	Page 6 Find the two words with ea in them. Does ea sound the same in both words?	Page 12 Read the words. What colour did the Emperor used to wear?	Page 10 The same pronoun is used twice in the second paragraph. What is it?
COMPUTER ISBN 978-1-761406-88-1	Page 4 Find the word with a silent w .	Page 16 Read the words. What is the Internet?	Page 8 What is the verb in the last sentence?
COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD ISBN 978-1-761406-10-2	Page 6 Find the word know . What is the silent letter in this word?	Page 16 Which country has the most people living in it?	Page 12 Find the seven proper nouns that are the names of the continents.
DAY AND NIGHT ISBN 978-1-761406-32-4	Page 4 Look at the word it's . What letter is left out of this word?	Page 12 Read the words. Are the days longer or shorter in the summer?	Page 10 Find the two proper nouns that are names for countries.
DINGO LIFE CYCLE ISBN 978-1-761406-27-0	Page 12 Find the words four and born . Notice that the same sound is in each word.	Page 14 How long do the puppies keep drinking milk from their mother?	Page 10 Find the two adjectives in the second paragraph.
DINOSAURS ISBN 978-1-761407-30-	Page 16 What letter is left out of the word didn't ?	Page 14 Read the words. Where did birds come from?	Page 10 Find the three proper nouns.
DRESSES ISBN 978-1-761406-69-0	Page 4 Find the two words with ear in them. Does ear sound the same in both words?	Page 12 Read the words. What were prehistoric clothes made from?	Page 6 Find the proper noun.
EAT THE RIGHT FOOD ISBN 978-1-761407-06-2	Page 16 How many different words can you see that have ick in them?	Page 4 Read the words. What does bad food do to us?	Page 14 Is healthy an adjective or an adverb?
EMU LIFE CYCLE ISBN 978-1-761406-29-4	Page 4 Say the words tiny and big . Does the letter i have the same sound in each word?	Page 20 Read the words. What will happen if the life cycle stops?	Page 8 Look at the second paragraph. Find the verb in it.

FAMILY ISBN 978-1-761406-68-3	Page 4 Find the two words that have ome in them. Does ome sound the same in both words?	Page 16 Read the words. How long have people lived together in families?	Page 8 What is the verb in the first sentence?
FAMILY MEMBERS ISBN 978-1-761407-04-8	Page 12 Find the words are and parents . Does are sound the same in both words or not?	Page 10 Read the words. What is a cousin?	Page 6 How many paragraphs are there?
FARM ISBN 978-1-761406-02-7	Page 6 Look for the two words that have or in them. Say those words.	Page 4 Read the words. What do farmers do with the wool from their sheep?	Page 8 Count how many sentences you can see. What sort of letter always starts a sentence?
FISH ISBN 978-1-761407-31-4	Page 8 Find the two words that end in ay .	Page 12 Read the words. What part of a fish is used in lipsticks?	Page 16 Find the pronoun in the last sentence.
GAMES ISBN 978-1-761406-95-9	Page 8 Find the words six and sides . Does the letter i sound the same in both words or not?	Page 20 Read the words. Where did children used to keep their marbles?	Page 4 Find the proper noun.
GRAVITY ISBN 978-1-761406-41-6	Page 14 Find the two different words with double letters in them.	Page 18 Read the words. How long does Earth take to travel around the Sun?	Page 20 Find the proper nouns.
GREEN TREE FROG LIFE CYCLE ISBN 978-1-761406-30-0	Page 12 Find the two words lose and grow . Does the o have the same sound in each word?	Page 16 Read the words. What are the two ways a frog can breathe?	Page 10 Find the only colour adjective.
HATS ISBN 978-1-761406-70-6	Page 4 Find the words with ou in them. Does ou sound the same in both words?	Page 14 Read the words. In Australia, what are soldiers' hats made from?	Page 6 Find the pronoun in the second sentence.
HEAR ISBN 978-1-761406-46-1	Page 14 Look at the two words with ear in them. Say them out loud.	Page 10 Read the words. What insect can hear better than us?	Page 20 Is the word clear a verb or an adjective.
HEAVY AND LIGHT ISBN 978-1-761406-54-6	Page 12 Find the two words with igh in them. Say the words out loud.	Page 16 Read the words. Why do things float in space?	Page 4 What is the verb in the first sentence?
HELP OTHERS ISBN 978-1-761407-10-9	Page 6 Notice what sounds the letter c makes in every word that has c in it.	Page 4 Read the words. What is one way to be a good citizen?	Page 12 What is the verb in the third sentence?

HOPSCOTCH ISBN 978-1-761406-98-0	Page 10 Find the words stone and one . Does one sound the same in each word or not?	Page 12 Read the words. What is the second rule?	Page 8 What is the verb in step number 1?
HOUSE ISBN 978-1-761406-04-1	Page 14 Find the two words that have ou in them. Say how they sound.	Page 8 Read the second sentence. Why does a house need a strong roof?	Page 18 How many sentences can you see?
HOW TO STOP MAKING RUBBISH ISBN 978-1-761406-22-5	Page 18 Look for any words that have ay in them. Say them out loud.	Page 14 Read the words. What makes paper hard to recycle?	Page 18 Look for the proper noun. How do you know it is a proper noun?
INSECTS AND SPIDERS ISBN 978-1-761407-32-1	Page 14 How many words with ee in them can you see?	Page 4 Read the words. How many parts are there in an insect body?	Page 12 Find the adjective in the first sentence.
INVERTEBRATES ISBN 978-1-761407-33-8	Page 20 Say the words corals and ocean . Does the letter c sound the same or different in each word?	Page 12 Read the words. Why do crabs need hard shells?	Page 14 Find the proper noun.
JUMPING ISBN 978-1-761406-97-3	Page 4 Look for the word with a silent k .	Page 6 Read the words. What do pole jumpers fall onto?	Page 16 Find the verb in the last sentence.
KANGAROO LIFE CYCLE ISBN 978-1-761406-25-6	Page 16 Find the two different words that have oos in them. Does oos sound the same in both words	Page 10 Read the words. What does the joey drink when it is in the pouch?	Page 14 How many paragraphs are there? What separates paragraphs?
KEEP CLEAN ISBN 978-1-761407-05-5	Page 10 How many words that end in ing can you find?	Page 8 Read the words. What do we clean away from our teeth when we brush them?	Page 6 How many pronouns are in the third sentence?
LAKE ISBN 978-1-761406-18-8	Page 4 Find the words large and big . Say them and notice how the g sounds different in each word.	Page 8 Read the words. What is an alga?	Page 20 Find two words with three syllables in each. Say them.
LETTERS ISBN 978-1-761406-77-5	Page 4 Find the two words that end in ed . Say how they sound.	Page 14 Read the words. Did old letters have emojis in them?	Page 10 Find the adjective in the second sentence.
LIGHT ISBN 978-1-761406-42-3	Page 20 Find the two words that have igh and ough in them. Say them out loud.	Page 4 Read the words. What is our main source of light?	Page 8 Look for the noun that has ight in it. Look for the adjective that has ite in it.

LITTLE THINGS ISBN 978-1-761406-93-5	Page 8 Find the words this and tiny . Does the letter i sound the same in both words?	Page 10 Read the words. What is a pacemaker?	Page 12 How many sentences are there in the two paragraphs?
MADE BY PEOPLE ISBN 978-1-761406-51-5	Page 14 Find the two words that end in ong . Say how they sound.	Page 16 Read the words. What is glass mainly made from?	Page 8 What is the common noun in the fourth sentence?
MAKING A MAP ISBN 978-1-761406-11-9	Page 12 Find the two words with ou in them. Does the ou sound the same in each word or not?	Page 8 Where does the Sun rise in the morning?	Page 16 Find and say the word that's . What letter is left out of it?
MAMMALS ISBN 978-1-761407-34-5	Page 20 How many words with double letters in them can you see?	Page 16 Read the words. Which is the smartest mammal?	Page 10 Find the proper noun.
MOON ISBN 978-1-761406-36-2	Page 18 Find three words that start with wh . Say them out loud.	Page 12 Read the words. What makes the craters on the Moon?	Page 6 How many sentences are there?
MY NEIGHBOURHOOD ISBN 978-1-761407-12-3	Page 14 Find the two words are and shared . Is the are sound the same in both words?	Page 16 Read the words. Why do we have to pick up our dog's poo?	Page 8 Is the word loudly an adjective or an adverb?
MY RULES ISBN 978-1-761407-13-0	Page 6 Find and say the two words that end in ve .	Page 10 Read the words. What is one rule we have to follow in a shop?	Page 8 Find the two proper nouns.
MY SCHOOL ISBN 978-1-761407-14-7	Page 8 Find the word with a silent k .	Page 18 Read the words. What happens in some school halls on the weekend?	Page 6 Find the word with three syllables.
NATURAL ISBN 978-1-761406-50-8	Page 4 Find the two words with ee and ea in them. Say them out loud.	Page 8 Read the words. Where does cotton come from?	Page 14 There is one pronoun that is used two times. What is it?
OCEAN ISBN 978-1-761406-19-5	Page 12 Find these words: huge and gets . Say the different sound the g has in each word.	Page 6 Read the words. How many oceans are there?	Page 14 Find the word don't . What letter is left out of this word?
OLD HILLS ISBN 978-1-761406-57-7	Page 4 Look for the word it's . What letter is left out of this word?	Page 12 Read the words. What is a landscape?	Page 14 Look for the word easier . Is it an adjective or an adverb?

OLD HOUSES ISBN 978-1-761406-55-3	Page 8 Find the word couldn't . What letter is left out of this word?	Page 6 Read the words. What is a museum?	Page 10 Find the three proper nouns. How do you know they are proper nouns?
OLD NEWSPAPERS ISBN 978-1-761406-74-4	Page 4 Find the two words with ea in them. Does ea sound the same in both words?	Page 12 Read the words. Where can we see old newspapers?	Page 16 How many proper nouns can you find?
OLD RIVERS ISBN 978-1-761406-56-0	Page 18 Find the two words that have ow in them. Say the words and notice if the ow sounds different in each.	Page 6 Read the words. Why do people build towns near rivers?	Page 4 How many proper nouns can you find?
OLD TREES ISBN 978-1-761406-58-4	Page 18 Find the three words with ou in them. Does the ou sound different in each word?	Page 4 Read the words. What is a canoe tree?	Page 14 How many paragraphs are there?
OUTBACK ISBN 978-1-761406-01-0	Page 16 Find the word that has pp in it.	Page 14 Read the words. How do doctors sometimes get to sick people in the Outback?	Page 10 Find the two proper nouns that are names of places. How do we know these words are proper nouns?
PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISBN 978-1-761406-63-8	Page 4 Find the two words that have ac in them. Does ac sound the same or different in each word?	Page 12 Read the words. How should school groups behave in Parliament House?	Page 8 What are the two verbs in the first sentence?
PEOPLE'S STORIES ISBN 978-1-761406-76-8	Page 20 Find the five words that have double letters in them.	Page 18 Read the words. Why do some stories leave out the unhappy parts?	Page 14 What is the verb in the last sentence?
PHONE ISBN 978-1-761406-82-9	Page 10 Look for the word circle . What two sounds does the letter c make?	Page 14 Read the words. What were the first phones made of?	Page 18 How many sentences are there in the first paragraph?
PHOTOS ISBN 978-1-761406-75-1	Page 4 How many words can you find that have double letters in them?	Page 12 Read the words. What are two ways a suburb might be different from the way it was in the past?	Page 16 How many nouns are in the first sentence?
PLANET EARTH ISBN 978-1-761406-38-6	Page 6 Look for the three words that have ou in them. Say them out loud.	Page 18 Read the words. What does water make in the air?	Page 16 Find the adjective that ends in ing . Find the noun that ends in ing .
PLANTS ISBN 978-1-761406-24-9	Page 4 Find the two words that have ou in them. Say them out loud.	Page 18 How many things in the list are food?	Page 14 Find the three adjectives that end in est .

PLATYPUS LIFE CYCLE ISBN 978-1-761406-26-3	Page 6 Find the two words baby and platypus . Does the y have the same sound in both words?	Page 16 How long is it before baby platypuses leave their nest?	Page 8 Look at the second sentence. Find the adjective in that sentence.
PUSH AND PULL ISBN 978-1-761406-40-9	Page 6 Look for all the words with ll in them.	Page 4 Read the words. What makes things move?	Page 10 Find an adjective that ends in y . Find an adverb that ends in y .
RADIO ISBN 978-1-761406-87-4	Page 16 Find the two words with er in them. Say them out loud.	Page 12 Read the words. What makes a remote controlled car work?	Page 10 Find the two verbs with double letters in them.
RED CRAB LIFE CYCLE ISBN 978-1-761406-28-7	Page 10 Find the two words that have ee in them.	Page 18 How long does it take for a red crab to grow up?	Page 16 There are five nouns in the first sentence. Find and say them.
RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS ISBN 978-1-761406-59-1	Page 12 Find the two words that have ow in them. Does the ow sound the same or different in each word?	Page 10 Read the words. What day is the Sabbath?	Page 4 What are the two verbs in the third sentence?
REPTILES ISBN 978-1-761407-35-2	Page 6 How many words can you find with ar in them?	Page 4 Read the words. Is a turtle a reptile?	Page 20 What is the pronoun in the first sentence?
RIVER ISBN 978-1-761406017-1	Page 18 Say the words electricity and hydro-power . Notice how the y sounds different in each word.	Page 8 Read the words. What is fresh water?	Page 20 How many sentences are there?
ROADS ISBN 978-1-761406-91-1	Page 10 Find all the words with ain in them. Say them out loud.	Page 18 Read the words. What can be used to fill a pot hole?	Page 16 How many of these sentences are questions?
ROCKS ISBN 978-1-761406-15-7	Page 10 Find the two words that end in ed . Say them out loud.	Page 12 Read the words. What is coal made from?	Page 6 How many sentences can you see? What is the mark at the end of the last sentence called?
RULES ISBN 978-1-761406-66-9	Page 16 Find the word didn't . What letter is left out of this word?	Page 20 Read the words. What is one rule about pets?	Page 8 Lots of adverbs end in ly , but is silly an adverb or an adjective?

RUNNING ISBN 978-1-761406-96-6	Page 6 Find all the words with double letters.	Page 18 Read the words. How long do marathon runners have to train?	Page 20 How many paragraphs are there?
SCHOOLS A LONG TIME AGO ISBN 978-1-761406-80-5	Page 6 Find the two different words with ea in them.	Page 10 Read the words. What did children used to write on at school?	Page 16 What is the verb in the first sentence?
SEASONS ISBN 978-1-761406-34-8	Page 12 Look at the number 1974 . This is a date. How do we say it?	Page 6 Read the words. What happens in the winter?	Page 14 Count how many sentences you can see. How does a sentence always start?
SEE ISBN 978-1-761406-48-5	Page 12 Look for three words that have double letters in them.	Page 18 Read the words. What colours does a dog see?	Page 4 Is the word clearly an adjective or an adverb?
SHOES ISBN 978-1-761406-71-3	Page 12 Find the three words with ea in them. Does ea sound the same in all those words?	Page 16 Read the words. What are moon boots?	Page 6 Find the exclamation mark.
SHOPS A LONG TIME AGO ISBN 978-1-761406-79-9	Page 20 Find and say the two words that end in ey . Does ey sound the same in both words or not?	Page 8 Read the words. In the past, how did people used to buy biscuits?	Page 16 How many paragraphs are there?
SKIPPING ISBN 978-1-761407-00-0	Page 8 Find the two words with ie in them. Does ie sound the same in both words?	Page 10 Read the words. How old is the hornpipe dance?	Page 6 Find the verb in the second sentence.
SMELL ISBN 978-1-761406-45-4	Page 4 Look for all the words with a g in them. Say them out loud.	Page 10 Read the words. How do spiders smell?	Page 20 Find the word starting with g that is a noun.
SMOOTH AND BUMPY ISBN 978-1-761406-53-9	Page 14 Find the words frypan and bumpy . Does the y sound different in each word?	Page 16 Read the words. What makes a shoe safe?	Page 4 Look for the word sheet . Is it a noun or an adjective?
SOFT AND HARD ISBN 978-1-761406-52-2	Page 4 Look for the two words with oo in them. Say how they sound.	Page 16 What is the hardest part of the human body?	Page 6 Find the word harmful . Is it an adjective or an adverb?
SOIL ISBN 978-1-761406-14-0	Page 4 Find the words that have these double letters in them: ff or tt .	Page 10 Read the words. Are worms good or bad for gardens?	Page 16 Find the words spiders , die , tiny , bits . In which word does the letter i sound different from all the others.

SOLAR SYSTEM ISBN 978-1-761406-35-5	Page 14 Find the two words that have or in them.	Page 6 Read the words. How many rocky planets are there in our Solar System?	Page 16 Read the words. Find the three proper nouns.
SORTING INTO GROUPS ISBN 978-1-761406-49-2	Page 6 Find the two words that have ou in them. Notice how ou sounds different in each word.	Page 12 Read the words. What does recycled mean?	Page 14 What is the verb in the second sentence?
SOUND ISBN 978-1-761406-43-0	Page 4 Find the two words that have double letters in them.	Page 12 Read the words. What is pitch?	Page 20 Find the one noun that has ou in it.
SPACE SHIPS ISBN 978-1-761406-92-8	Page 14 Find and say out loud all the words that have double letters in them.	Page 1 Read the words. Which country was the first to send a space ship into space?	Page 5 Find the two proper nouns in the second paragraph.
STARS ISBN 978-1-761406-37-9	Page 12 Count all the words that end in y .	Page 14 Read the words. Why do stars twinkle?	Page 6 Look for the noun that has an in it. Then look for the adjective that has an in it.
STAY AWAY FROM DANGER ISBN 978-1-761407-08-6	Page 6 What letters are left out of the word don't ?	Page 14 Read the words. What does a python have on its skin?	Page 8 How many sentences are in the first paragraph?
SUN ISBN 978-1-761406-39-3	Page 4 How many words that have ou in them can you see? Say them out loud.	Page 10 Read the words. What causes sunburn?	Page 6 How many paragraphs can you find?
SWIMMING ISBN 978-1-761406-99-7	Page 8 Find the word it's . What letter is left out of this word?	Page 10 Read the words. Where were the first Olympics?	Page 4 Find the word crowded . Is it a noun or an adjective?
TALL BUILDINGS ISBN 978-1-761406-89-8	Page 12 Find the two words with oo in them. Say them out loud.	Page 14 Read the words. How does water get to the top of a tall building?	Page 18 How many proper nouns can you see? How do you know they are proper nouns?
TASTE ISBN 978-1-761406-47-8	Page 12 Find the word with a silent k .	Page 16 Read the words. What is one food with an umami taste?	Page 4 How many sentences are there?
TENNIS ISBN 978-1-761407-02-4	Page 4 Find the words hold and from . Does the o sound the same in each word or not?	Page 10 Read the words. How many countries are in the Grand Slam?	Page 14 Find the verb in the first sentence.

TENT ISBN 978-1-761406-07-2	Page 6 Find the three words that have ee in them. Say how they sound.	Page 14 Read the words. What shape is a yurt?	Page 20 Find the sentence that ends in a question mark.
THE POLES SBN 978-1-761406-12-6	Page 4 Find these words, cold and icy . What are the two different sounds the letter c makes in these words?	Page 16 Read the words. Why do ships keep away from icebergs?	Page 8 Look for this mark ! . What is it called, and what does it mean?
THE TROPICS SBN 978-1-761406-13-3	Page 8 Find the words that have these double letters in them: oo , pp , ee .	Page 6 Read the words. Why is it hot at the Equator?	Page 12 Find the word with three syllables.
TOUCH ISBN 978-1-761406-44-7	Page 10 Find the word with a silent b at the end.	Page 20 Read the words. How many senses are only in our head?	Page 18 How many exclamation marks can you count?
TOYS ISBN 978-1-761406-94-2	Page 20 Find the words safe and past . Does the a in each of these words sound the same or not?	Page 16 Read the words. Why do babies like rattles?	Page 12 How many sentences are in the first paragraph?
TRAVEL A LONG TIME AGO ISBN 978-1-761406-81-2	Page 6 Find the two words with ou in them. Does ou sound the same in both words?	Page 12 Read the words. What animal used to pull buses along?	Page 10 Find the proper noun. How do you know it is a proper noun?
TV ISBN 978-1-761406-83-6	Page 20 Find the three words in the last sentence that have ou in them. Say them out loud.	Page 11 Read the words. What causes a fuzzy TV picture on the screen?	Page 8 Find the word glass. Is this word a noun or an adjective?
UNDER THE GROUND ISBN 978-1-761406-03-4	Page 16 Find the two different words that have oo in the middle. Does the oo sound the same in both words?	Page 6 Read the words. What is opal used for?	Page 8 How many commas can you find?
UNIT OR FLAT ISBN 978-1-761406-05-8	Page 4 Find the three different words that have ing in them. Say how they sound.	Page 12 Read the words. How does water get into an apartment building?	Page 10 Find the word it's . What is the letter left out of this word?
VIDEOS ISBN 978-1-761406-78-2	Page 6 Find two words with ou in them. Does ou sound the same in both words or not?	Page 10 Read the words. Before there were any news videos, how did people find out about the news?	Page 8 How many of the sentences are questions? How do you know if a sentence is a question?

WATER TO DRINK ISBN 978-1-761406-20-1	Page 4 Look for the words clean and need . Notice the same sound in the middle of each word and the different ways to spell that sound.	Page 6 Read the words. How do people use water?	Page 14 Look at the words. How many commas can you see?
WE ARE HERE ISBN 978-1-761406-09-6	Page 20 Find the words place and cold . What are the two different sounds the letter c makes in these words?	Page 12 Read the words. Which hemisphere are you in?	Page 16 Read the words. Find the one word that has four syllables.
WEAR THE RIGHT CLOTHES ISBN 978-1-761407-07-9	Page 16 Find the two different words that start with uni . Does uni sound the same in each word?	Page 14 Read the words. Where are most of our clothes made?	Page 6 How many proper nouns can you see?
WEATHER ISBN 978-1-761406-33-1	Page 14 Find the words too and look . Do the letters oo have the same sound in each word?	Page 16 Read the words. What is weather like if the temperature is ten degrees?	Page 24 There are five proper nouns. What are they?
WHAT HAPPENS TO RUBBISH ISBN 978-1-761406-21-8	Page 10 Look for the two words flow and down . Say the different sounds the letters ow make in each word.	Page 12 Read the words. Where does plastic get recycled?	Page 20 Look in the third sentence. There is only one verb there. What is it?
WHAT IS A BULLY? ISBN 978-1-761407-11-6	Page 6 Find the words said and afraid . Does ai sound the same in both words?	Page 18 Read the words. What is one way to stop bullying?	Page 10 How many paragraphs are there?
WORK ISBN 978-1-761406-67-6	Page 14 Find the word with the silent k .	Page 6 Read the words. What do some workers wear to keep safe?	Page 4 Is the word early an adverb or an adjective?

Note for teachers: page numbers refer to the actual books, not the ebooks.

QUICK TIPS AND SUMMARY

SPEED: Give children time to break unfamiliar words into their individual units of sounds.

DECODING: Support children to combine the different sounds to create the word.

SOUNDING OUT: Give help with 'sounding out' when needed. Take note of sound groups that need further practice.

SIGHT WORDS: Sight words should be learned so there is no need to sound out each time.

FINGER READING: Using a finger to follow along the line of text can help beginner readers.

IMAGES: Talking about the images will help improve vocabulary.

TRICKY WORDS: Let the child know it is alright not to know all the words.

PROGRESS: Ask the child to read aloud so you can check their progress.

READ TWICE: Ask the child to do a second reading silently.

COMPREHENSION: After reading, ask the child questions on what the book was about.

ENJOYMENT: Make reading a fun task and not a serious chore to be avoided

DATE	TITLE	READER INITIAL	PARENT INITIAL	DID YOU TALK ABOUT THE STORY?
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