Librarian User Guide

Login via www.ziptales.com/library

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WHAT PROBLEMS DO WE ADDRESS?

- Low reading skills can be a serious disadvantage to children and can result in low motivation, isolation, poor self-esteem and depression.
- Significant numbers of children experiencing literacy difficulties are likely to have difficulty in coping with the steadily increasing demands of the curriculum [Greg Brooks Emeritus Professor of Education University of Sheffield]
- Libraries can often struggle to use online resources to engage sucessfully with their audience.
- There is an ongoing challenge to promote reading for children. We aim to not only allow children to read our stories, but also promote a love of reading so that children have a desire to borrow and read books from the library as well.

READING FOR PLEASURE

Parents, teachers and librarians know that motivation is the key to children's behaviour. Put simply, if a child wants to do something, it will happen easily. The attraction of interactive book is clear in the research:

"Narration, animated pictures, sound effects – e-books that incorporate these features have the capacity to increase children's comprehension and enjoyment of storybooks." [Grimshaw & Hume, *School Library Journal*, 2011]

"Children interact longer with their parents while looking at ebooks compared to traditional paper books." [Moody, Justice and Cabell, "Electronic versus traditional storybooks", 2011]

"Reading for pleasure is more important for children's cognitive development than their parents' level of education." [Dr Sullivan, Institute of Education, 2013]

Ziptales' literacy library offers:
- 500 + interactive levelled stories and curriculum aligned English lessons.
- Voice overs, animations, videos, follow up comprehension quizzes and much more.
- Over 1500 printable worksheets to follow up each story/lesson.
- A fun and SAFE online learning environment.
- Use in small groups, or individual use at the library AND at home.
- Access online anywhere from any device including computer, laptop, iPads and tablets.
- No lock step progression. Instead, Ziptales fosters a love for reading where the children are not afraid of failing or getting low reading scores.

ABOUT ZIPTALES

Learn to love reading
Ziptales is an online literacy "library" designed for library, school and home use.

It is based on the latest research about how children develop and sustain a love of reading. The Ziptales "library" was built by trained teachers with the express purpose of making reading a pleasurable and lifelong experience.

The Research
At the core of the Ziptales mission is the recognition that children will do best when they read for "for pleasure, to be informed and to perform a task" (Beverly Tyner, *The Literacy Jigsaw Puzzle*, IRA 2012).

For example, a child who reads a scary story, or a mystery 'whodunnit', will instinctively engage with the reading. Reading the story (for pleasure) will raise their skill level without them even being aware of the process.

The Voiceover
Every text has a voiceover – read by a professional actor. This is a great way not only of modelling good reading, but of sustaining interest in the text.

Testing and Feedback
Each story ends with a fill the gaps cloze quiz (a relatively easy task) and a multiple choice quiz (more challenging).

If the child does not score more than 5/10, they are prompted to "Have another go". They can re- read the text, and get 10/10 – in short, they can find their own way to "master" the text. This is after all how reading normally works. Even adults reread selectively to extract the most out of the experience.

The Role of the Librarian / Parent / Guardian
Ziptales puts the parent / guardian at the centre of all decision making about the individual child's needs. Only they really know which stories, or poems, or lessons, are appropriate to their child. No automated reading program can possibly know this.

LOG IN

1. In your internet browser, go to www.ziptales.com/library

2. Choose your library from the list and enter your library card bardcode.

   You should then be automatically logged into Ziptales using your library's card number. If you have trouble logging in, please email support@ziptales.com

ZIPTALES READING LEVELS

Ziptales offers its own reading scheme – shown below - which references Reading Recovery, Lexiles and Flesch.

The 10 stage scheme starts at the very simplest 'entry' level, for young children, whose reading amounts to little more than recognition of simple words and sentences - Zip Stage 1 … through to children who are capable of totally 'independent' reading of sophisticated texts - Zip Stage 10.

The whole range of reading in a primary school is included - from Kindergarten/Foundation/Reception through to Grade 6 and above.

	RR levels	Lexile levels	Flesch levels
Zip Stage 1	5 - 10		Kindergarten
Zip Stage 2	11 - 15		Kindergarten
Zip Stage 3	16 - 22		0.1 - 2.5
Zip Stage 4	23 - 27	100 - 200	2.0 - 3.5
Zip Stage 5	28+	200 - 400	2.5 - 4.0
Zip Stage 6		400 - 500	3.5 - 4.5
Zip Stage 7		500 - 700	4.0 - 5.5
Zip Stage 8		700 - 950	5.0 - 6.5
Zip Stage 9		950 - 1100	6.0 - 7.0
Zip Stage 10		1100+	7+

No readability scheme is perfect, and this scheme should be treated as a suggestion only. The librarians is the one best placed to determine what texts a child will be able to read. Ziptales gives the teacher total control over what stories and lessons a child accesses.

The 'library' allows open access for all children, but **under the personal guidance of the librarian.**

STUDENT DASHBOARD

✔ It's safe and easy to navigate and browse through our stories.

✔ Students can go straight to the stories.

✔ All stories have professional voiceovers.

✔ Stories have interactive comprehension quizzes.

Change your account type EASILY by using the TOP LEFT user-type menu dropdown.

Students simply click on the icon to go to the stories.

PARENT DASHBOARD

To access the Parent Dashboard, parents click on the top left and choose "PARENT". Here is a simplified version for home use. The worksheets are specific to home use, and not the same as those for classroom use.

Parents can access their own portal, including specific information and worksheets for parents.

OUR MODULES

Junior Readers
Developing Literacy F-2

Engaging stories for children in the early primary years who can decode more complex texts. Our Junior Readers are ideal for children able to independently read RR Levels 16 – 22.
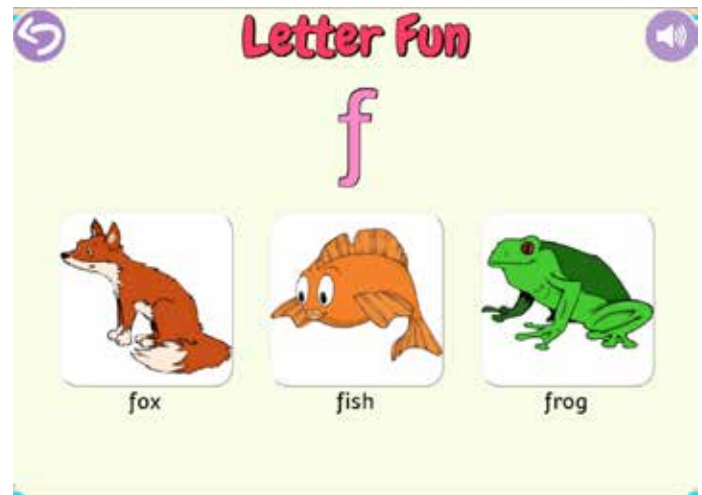
Letter Fun

Preschool

A simple introduction to the alphabet.

The name of the letter (eg f) and its sound are given, with a common word (eg fox) sounded out. The pictures are animated.

My First Words

Preschool

A range of popular word categories are presented: pets, fruit, shapes, transport, the zoo, nature, clothes and instruments.

Children choose a category, such as 'Pets' and click on an example (eg dog). The word is said aloud and there is a simple animation.

Nursery Rhymes

Preschool

Some of the best loved rhymes, set to music, with amusing animations and the full text onscreen.

LEARN THE ABC
Developing Literacy F-2

The lessons in this section teach the ABC. Children are taught to recognise the letter (as an initial sound), to write or draw the letter, and to be able to see the letter inside another word. Worksheets are provided.

PUPPET PLAYS
Developing Literacy F-2

All the joy of live children's theatre, with beautiful rod puppets. As well as the three stories (*The Octopus, The Sea Monster* and *The Pirates' Treasure*), there is a 'Behind the Scenes' special feature, a video on how to use soft toys to make stories, a puppet making workshop and a documentary on *The History of Puppets*.

STORYTIME
Developing Literacy F-2

Eight high interest animated stories for Year 1: *The Three Little Pigs, The Billy Goats Gruff, Little Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks and the Three Bears* – plus four cartoons starring Wendy: *Wendy and the Fairy, Wendy and the Dragon, Wendy and the Pirate* and *Wendy and the Genie*. All with worksheets.

TIMELESS TALES
Developing Literacy F-2

Four all time favourite stories for younger children, presented as graphic novels: *Peter Pan, Pinocchio, Snow White* and *Sleeping Beauty*. Children can enjoy these wonderful old tales, brought to life in charming, Disney-style art. Worksheets are provided for follow up.

EASY READERS
Developing Literacy F-2

Easy Readers takes up where '**Learn the ABC**' leaves off and takes children through a series of short texts teaching phonics to beginning readers – one syllable short vowel and long vowel words, simple blends and the requisite sight words. Each story teaches them to read a particular phonic family (eg short vowel a), to reinforce their understanding. Worksheets and interactives are provided for classroom follow up.

STORY MACHINE
Developing Literacy F-2

Children can choose a story 'scaffold' by selecting (a) characters, (b) a setting and (c) a plot. They then go away and write the story they have chosen.

JOKE IN A BOX
Developing Literacy F-2

A Jack in a Box offers endless jokes and limericks. This resource offers 'micro-reading' events disguised as pure entertainment. To enjoy this, children must be able (a) to read and (b) to think – so it's good for them as well as being lots of fun.

MAKE & DO
Developing Literacy F-2

Here are 18 'DIY' projects, in three levels of difficulty. Children can make a paper doll or finger puppets, at the simplest level, learn magic, or how to draw cartoons, or do origami at the most challenging level. All projects come with a list of 'ingredients', photos, diagrams, text and an explanatory voiceover.

HAPPY SCHOOLS
Developing Literacy F-2

A resource to combat bullying and deliberate hurt in the classroom or playground.
- Is this bullying? (video)
- Why isn't our school a happy school? (video)
- How to make our school a happy school (video)
- What to do if you're bullied (video)
- No More Bullies (video and song)

Plus classroom worksheets and research for parents / librarians.

PUZZLE PALACE
Developing & Extending Literacy F-6

Twenty-four original interactive puzzles – ideal for thinking. There are *Word Play* puzzles (spell the word), *Word Search* puzzles (with click and choose word find), *Drag and Drop* (eg assemble a T-Rex), *Tell the Story* (sequencing a story from the jumbled pictures and text), *How Good is your Memory?* (where they must reconstruct the scene from memory), *Amazing* (quest games) and *Whodunnit* (where they must select the culprit from the suspects and their testimony).

RHYME TIME
Developing & Extending Literacy F-6

These are twelve famous poems – ranging from Edward Lear's limericks to *The Owl and the Pussycat, Jabberwocky* and all the way up to challenging works like *The Lady of Shalott.* Worksheets and teaching notes are provided.

SPECIALISED ENGLISH LESSONS
Developing & Extending Literacy F-6

These are explicit lessons embracing the key concepts in the curriculum syllabus. There are lessons in Writing, Reading and Oral Language. All primary year levels are covered in 150 mini lessons specially mapped to the curriculum.

ADVENTURE
EXTENDING Literacy 3-6

Here children can find high octane narratives of the sort they love – pirates, treasure, ancient tombs, jungles and dinosaurs. Three stories star an intrepid adventurer called 'Lucky Luke', who dares go where no one should go. Safe but adrenalin charged tales. Twelve levelled stories, with comprehension quizzes.

ANIMAL
EXTENDING Literacy 3-6

Cute tales about dogs and frogs, mice and kittens – problem pets, abandoned puppies, a crazy zoo, faithful furry friends and animal fables. Twelve levelled stories, with comprehension quizzes.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE
EXTENDING Literacy 3-6

Here are four massive 'Choose your own adventures' – *Pirate Island* (where the reader must avoid being killed and find the treasure), *The Black Knight's Castle* (where they must rescue the princess), *The Castle of Screams* (a scary place full of monsters) and *The Greatest Moments in History* (a time travel yarn where the reader can visit the Titanic, Gallipoli, Pompeii, the Hindenberg, etc) – real history with a thrilling twist.

COMEDY
KEY STAGE 2

All children love a laugh – from broad slapstick to subtler character humour, these stories showcase comic staples like classroom embarrassment, annoying pets and would-be superheroes. Twelve levelled stories, with comprehension quizzes.

FAIRY TALES
EXTENDING Literacy 3-6

These are traditional tales – some famous (*Cinderella, The Frog Prince*), others practically unknown. All demonstrate the pleasures of fantasy, magic and morality – heroes, villains, monsters, wishes, enchantment and happy endings. As well as classic European stories, we showcase Middle Eastern and Asian gems. Twelve levelled stories, with comprehension quizzes.

FANTASY EXTENDING Literacy 3-6

Enchanting tales of magic and make believe – exploring archetypal classics like wishes, knights and princesses, spells, dragons, wizards and aliens. Twelve levelled stories, with comprehension quizzes.

MYSTERY
EXTENDING Literacy 3-6

Intriguing but child-friendly 'whodunnits' to make children think – featuring the celebrated narrative elements of exposition, clues, suspects and deduction from the facts. Twelve levelled stories, with comprehension quizzes.

MYTHS & LEGENDS
EXTENDING Literacy 3-6

An important part of our cultural heritage comes from myths. In this genre, we meet the classic heroes, the monsters, the dragons, the mermaids and the magic. These are epic tales of quest, tests of goodness, magical help and virtue rewarded. Twelve levelled stories, with comprehension quizzes.

PEOPLE STORIES
KEY STAGE 2

These stories explore the rich world of relationships and values – difficult siblings, schoolyard bullies, problem parents, guilty secrets and friendship. Twelve levelled stories, with comprehension quizzes.

SCARY EXTENDING Literacy 3-6

Most children love a safe 'thrill'. These stories feature ghosts, monsters, spiders, spooky settings, weird haunted house challenges and at least one spine chilling urban legend. Twelve levelled stories, with comprehension quizzes.

TRUE TALES
EXTENDING Literacy 3-6

Dramatised accounts of real life stories – Houdini, the Titanic, Tutankhamen, Blackbeard, the Mary Celeste, a girl who falls onto the railway tracks as a train comes in, the real Robinson Crusoe, and more. Twelve levelled stories, with comprehension quizzes.

YUCKY
EXTENDING Literacy 3-6

For the more reluctant readers – or those who consider reading not 'cool'.There are stories about disgusting eating, spiders, spew and strange smells. Funny and exciting. Twelve levelled stories, with comprehension quizzes.

GRAPHIC CLASSICS
EXTENDING Literacy 3-6

These stories represent all the beauty of graphic novels. *The Happy Prince, Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin* and *King Arthur* are retold as digital comic books. As well there are background documentaries on comics, myths and fairytales.

INTERACTIVE READERS
EXTENDING Literacy 3-6

These eight stories are for Learning Support, ESL and Special Needs. There is for each a pre-reading exercise (drag and drop), the reading of the story (with *highlighted text*, sentence and word function) and four game-like post-reading exercises (match the picture, fill the gaps, word search and crossword). Ideal for older children experiencing difficulties.

ADVANCED LIBRARY
EXTENDING Literacy 3-6

A suite of 40 texts for older children whose reading is of a high standard. The stories are all longer (2000-3000+ words) with sophisticated vocabulary and concepts. Genres included: Adventure, Comedy, Family and Friends, Fantasy and Sci Fi, Horror, Mystery, People and Values, True Tales, Argument, Biography, Expository, Information.

WRITE TIME
EXTENDING Literacy 3-6

Teaching writing is often a real challenge. In **Write Time** we offer eight digital documentaries on 'How to write': stories, poetry, arguments, information, instructions, recounts and essays. The lessons are animated, with a voice over. Scripts and worksheets are provided for parents / librarians.

SKILL BUILDERS
EXTENDING Literacy 3-6

These lessons align to the national curriculum. The 46 digital lessons cover **Grammar** (nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions and sentences), **Punctuation** (full stops, commas, capital letters, quotation marks and apostrophes), **Comprehension** (facts, narratives, argument and visual literacy) and 30 lessons covering all aspects of **Spelling**. There are worksheets for all lessons.

FAQ'S

Where was Ziptales developed, and by whom?
Ziptales was founded by two ex-teachers, Richard and Valerie McRoberts. Richard has been a writer, editor and publisher working at all levels of primary and secondary publishing. He has a Masters in Education and specialised in literature and reading. Valerie was a teacher, editor and publisher. She has an Honours degree in Literature, as well as a Masters in Education, specialising in "gifted" education. Both had previously been directors of a successful print publishing company (Wizard Books), with sales throughout Australia and overseas.

Are the children allowed to use Ziptales at school?
The library licence limits use to just within libraries and at home. Schools wishing to use Ziptales are able to purchase their own school licence directly from us, allowing their pupils to use Ziptales in their classes, along with unlocking the teacher area of Ziptales.

Is new material added to the website?
Every year, Ziptales adds new content, as part of our pact with users to continually "refresh" the site.

Does Ziptales allow you to "track" what the child is reading?
Ziptales is focussed on the pleasure of the child's reading experience, and sees "assessment" as secondary. There is no automatic "tracking" of children's scores. We ask users to use one of the two tracking devices (see "Staffroom - How to - Student Tracking") to record what their children have read and what scores obtained.

What technical requirements does it have?
Ziptales will work on any type of computer, both PC and Mac, as well as any device like iPad or Android Tablet. All you need to do is goto ziptales.com in your local browser (we recommend using Google Chrome as its the fastest and free).

Does it work on an iPad?
Yes! The first 250+ stories are now available to view on the iPad and we are working hard on the rest. To view them just go to www.ziptales.com on your iPad device using Safari.

NEED MORE HELP?

Phone: 1800 004 442 (AUS) | 0800 141 480 (NZ)

Email: support@ziptales.com