

# COVID Guide

How to use Ziptales in the COVID emergency



[www.ziptales.com](http://www.ziptales.com)

# Using Ziptales at home

In the current COVID emergency, Ziptales is well placed to help teachers manage a situation where few children are at school, and education needs to be conducted offsite.

You will notice a new button on the home page – as shown.

Please read this page carefully.

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Everything you want when reading matters most

**COVID-19 Off Site Schooling Plan**

Ziptales is an online literacy library filled with stories, lessons and fun activities!

View our content

**PRESCHOOL** Literacy

**DEVELOPING** Literacy (F-2)

**EXTENDING** Literacy (3-6)

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## Off Site Schooling

### The Problem

With the current outbreak of the COVID-19 corona virus, many schools are getting in touch with us about how to continue meaningful learning for their students, especially if they are in voluntary or self imposed home isolation. Here at Ziptales we understand the immense burden and pressure this puts on our educators, and wish to offer our support in this difficult time.

Some major issues facing teachers in an off site schooling environment are:

1. Setting reading and lesson work for children, aligned with the class program.
2. Monitoring the children's activities and getting feedback on their progress.



Since Ziptales is a completely online reading platform, it offers a range of quality resources for teachers to use in an offsite education environment. The following are some suggested ways to make off site schooling workable through the use of Ziptales.

### Setting remote study or reading work

Teachers already familiar with our content will have different ways of using the online stories and lessons they believe will encourage learning.

For those less familiar with the Ziptales package, the best place to start is to get an overview of all we have to offer with our [Full Guide](#). This shows every single module of content on Ziptales, listed in ascending age order, from Pre/Kinder up to Year 6. All readability statistics are provided, as well as word lengths, themes and the like.

You may also be interested in our [Curriculum Alignment](#) module, which maps your chosen curriculum to our Ziptales content.

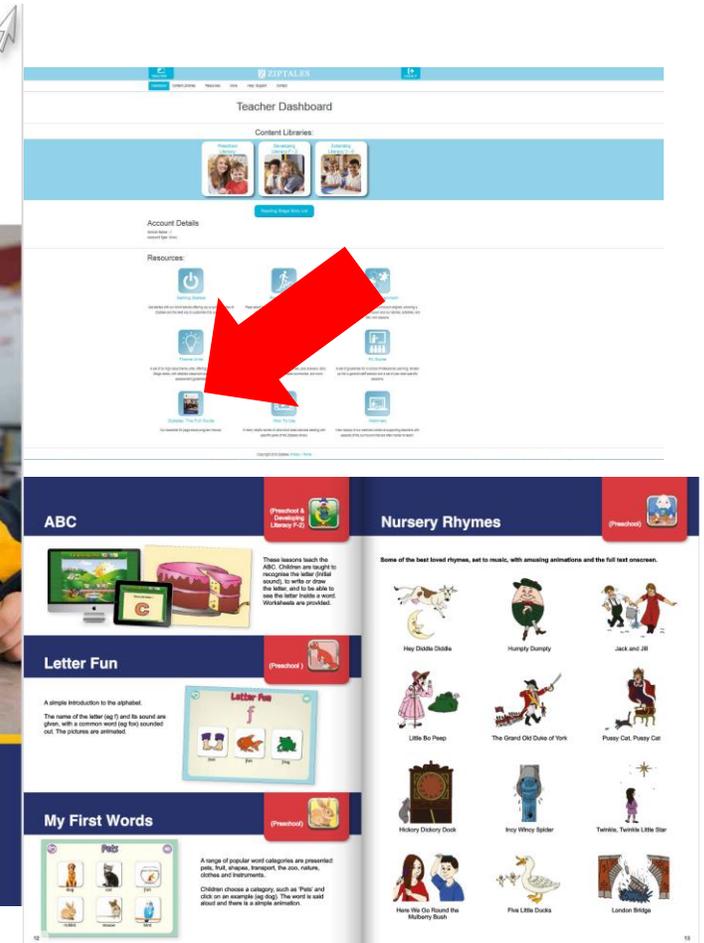
We also have a [Theme Units](#) module which assists teachers with integrating Ziptales stories and activities into classroom reading programs using a theme-based learning approach.

# (1) Know what is available for teaching

Ziptales assumes that the first major issue for offsite use of the website is teachers knowing what to use or 'set' for work.

We strongly recommend they check out the online 'page turning PDF' catalogue of all content – as shown. It is to be found on the home page *and* inside the Teacher Dashboard.

This manual or information booklet shows what Ziptales content is available for all levels of the primary school.



# The key to Ziptales: The Teacher Dashboard

The **Teacher Dashboard** page is an essential place to start. There you will find vital information on

- (1) **Ziptales Reading Levels** (the reading scheme and reading test 'engine')
- (2) story **Worksheets** (multiple exercise handouts for every story)
- (3) a **Full Guide to Ziptales** (a 'page turning' PDF manual for everything on the site)
- (4) and **Useful Videos** (a series of very short visual presentations on key content areas).

1

	RR levels	Lexia levels	Fleisch 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 - 960	5.0 - 6.5
Zip Stage 9		950 - 1100	6.0 - 7.0
Zip Stage 10		1100+	7+

2

3

4

# (2) How to monitor what children are doing

Ziptales assumes that the second issue for offsite use of the website is teachers keeping track of what children are doing. This is addressed explicitly in the new Off Site Schooling page.

The Off Site Schooling page shows four different ways teachers can track the work they have set.

- (1) Class tracking sheet (for teachers only)
- (2) Student tracking sheet
- (3) My Ziptales Record (simple tracking)
- (4) Story Map

All details and links are provided on the COVID-19 special page.



1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
2	ZIPTALES RECORD	STORY GENRES	FILL THE GAPS	MULTIPLE CHOICE	DATE					
3	Name of student:	Genre	Score	Choice	DATE					
4	Abby	Genre	Score	Choice	DATE					
5	Alphabet	Genre	Score	Choice	DATE					
7	Adventure	Galaxy Chase	4	1.7	2/20					
8		Good Dog	4	2.8	3/20					
9		The Eye of the Idol	5	2.5	2/18					
10		Frangipani Parakeet	5	2.6	2/17					
11		Dr Wow	5	3.1	3/20					
12		Dr Wow in Atlantis	5	3.4	4/20					
13		Problem Keepers	5	3.4	4/20					
14		Lee-Dinosaur Test	6	5.5	5/20					
15		The Pirates' Cave	6	4.7	5/20					
16		Last in the Rainforest	6	6.1	6/20					
17		Old Mary	6	4.9	7/20					
18		The Pirates' Prize	8	5.9	4/40					
19		Animal	4	2.4	2/20					
20		Who Will Save Puffy?	4	2.8	3/20					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
ZIPTALES LIBRARY	STUDENT RECORD SHEET	Category	Title	Brief description of the story or text	Words	STAGE	READ	FILL GAPS	MULTIPLE CHOICE				
7	Comedy	The Exterminator	A cat gets rid of a mouse. But how to get rid of the cat?	929	4								
8		Tails of Bears	A fantasy fable about a vain and greedy bear.	402	4								
9		Loo Blues	What to do when you find yourself locked in the toilet?	403	4								
10		Peashoan	A crazy peacock adopts a family. But it drives them mad.	518	4								
11		Tortured by Fairies	A boy finds himself trapped at an all girl party.	598	5								
12		Loose Undies	A girl finds her undies are slipping down - at school!	623	5								
13		Hiccups	A boy has chronic hiccups. How to cure them?	993	5								
14		Stinklers											

**My Ziptales Record**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Story Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Story Link: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Started: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Finished: \_\_\_\_\_  
 What I thought of the story: \_\_\_\_\_

**Test Results**

Fill the Gaps: 5/10  
 Attempts: 2

Multiple Choice: 4/5  
 Attempts: 1

Worksheet: Complete

### Ziptales Genre Stories

Colour each block once you have read the story

Storytime	Storytime	Easy Readers Short Novels	Easy Readers Constant Reads
The Three Little Pigs Zip Stage 3 (378 words)	Wendy and the Fairy Zip Stage 3 (473 words)	Let's Get Wet	The Little Green Crab
The Billy Goats Gruff Zip Stage 3 (476 words)	Wendy and the Pirate Zip Stage 3 (430 words)	Bob The Frog	At The Playground
Goldilocks and the Three Bears Zip Stage 3 (366 words)	Wendy and the Dragon Zip Stage 3 (560 words)	I Wish	Play All Day
Little Red Riding Hood Zip Stage 3 (422 words)	Wendy and the Genie Zip Stage 3 (530 words)	Bad Cat	Have You Ever...

# For F/K/Prep to Year 2 teachers

There are 12 categories of work that you can set for children in the early years.

The main 'story' modules are **Storytime**, **Timeless Tales**, **Puppet Plays** and **Junior Readers** (nearly 40 stories).

All details are provided in the 'Full Guide' teacher manual.

In addition, the **Easy Readers** are a full set of phonics based texts, each exploring a sound family (see next slide).

The screenshot shows the ZIPTALES website interface for 'Developing Literacy F-2'. The top navigation bar includes 'TEACHER', 'ZIPTALES', 'Welcome, Ziptales Master Admin', and 'LOGOUT'. Below the navigation bar, the main heading is 'Developing Literacy F-2'. The content area is titled 'Reading & Enrichment' and lists 12 resource categories, each with a search icon and a share icon:

- ABC
- Storytime
- Timeless Tales
- Puppet Plays
- Easy Readers
- Junior Readers
- Joke in a Box
- Puzzle Palace
- Rhyme Time
- Make and Do
- Happy Schools
- Specialised English Lessons (SEL)

Below the screenshot are three preview images for the 'Storytime', 'Timeless Tales', and 'Junior Readers' modules. The 'Storytime' preview shows a colorful forest scene with various characters. The 'Timeless Tales' preview shows a blue sky with a castle and a dragon. The 'Junior Readers' preview shows a child reading a book with various characters around them.

# Easy Readers (phonics practice)

The **Easy Readers** are phonics based – written specifically to develop phonemic awareness in the early primary years.

Ziptales takes a much broader view of developing literacy, and is very comfortable with a ‘whole language’ approach, but also deliberately provides an explicit phonics instruction module (*Easy Readers*) for beginning readers.

All major sound families are carefully represented in a series of funny texts, complete with text highlighting and voiceovers. Worksheets are provided.



The image shows the 'Easy Readers' app interface. At the top, the title 'Easy Readers' is displayed in large, blue, bubbly letters. Below the title, there are several cartoon characters: a woman sitting in a chair, a man and a child, a green frog, and a snail. Below the characters, there are several circular icons representing different phonics topics: 'Short Vowels', 'Consonant Blends', 'Simple Digraphs', 'Long Vowels', 'Vowel Consonant Digraphs', and 'Simple Vowel Digraphs'. A red arrow points from the 'Short Vowels' icon to a video player below. The video player shows a cartoon of a man in a blue shirt and yellow pants, holding a black bag, standing in a doorway. The text 'Dad was mad.' is displayed below the video. To the left of the video player, a text box contains the text 'Bad Cat - short vowel 'a''.



# For Year 3 to Year 6 teachers

For students in middle and upper primary years, there is a complete **Reading Library** of over 200 stories classified according to genre: Adventure, Animal, Comedy, Fairy Tales, Fantasy, etc.

Each story comes with a voiceover, animations, comprehension quizzes and worksheets (which can be accessed under each content icon).

*All details are provided in the 'Full Guide' teacher manual.*

The screenshot displays the ZIPTALES website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'TEACHER' and 'ZIPTALES' logos, and a user welcome message 'Welcome, Ziptales Master Admin!' with a 'LOGOUT' button. Below the navigation bar, the main heading is 'Extending Literacy 3-6'. The central content area is titled 'Reading Library' and contains a grid of 16 genre icons, each with a magnifying glass and a book icon. The genres listed are: Adventure, Animal, Children in History, Choose Your Own Adventure, Comedy, Fairy Tales, Fantasy, Graphic Classics, Interactive Readers, Mystery, Myths & Legends, People, Scary, True Tales, Yucky, and Advanced Library. A large red arrow points from the 'Adventure' icon to a preview image of an 'Adventure Land' story. The preview image shows a character in a jungle setting with the title 'ADVENTURE LAND' and a navigation bar at the bottom.

# Worksheets (Years 3 to 6)

The stories come with a variety of worksheets including **Learning Support, Spelling and Vocabulary, Word Work** and **General Worksheets**.

These are post reading exercises for use at the teacher's discretion. All can be checked online in a few minutes.

Here the teacher can make a conscious choice about what sort of exercise to set – a general one, a spelling one, one focussed on words, a Learning Support one.

Which ones are suitable will vary with the individual child.

Worksheets – Adventure

You will need Acrobat Reader to open and print out the scripts. If you do not have Acrobat Reader, click [here](#) to visit the Acrobat site and download it.

General Worksheets

- Live Dinosaur Tour
- Worksheet 1 – Have You Heard of Homographs?
- Worksheet 2 – Dinosaur Quiz – What Am I?
- Worksheet 3 – Dinosaur Research
- Worksheet 4 – My Life As a Dinosaur

Good Dog

- Worksheet 1 – Crazy Contractions
- Worksheet 2 – The Key to Mapping!

Lost in the Rainforest

- Worksheet 1 – Using Commas
- Worksheet 2 – Animal or Plant?
- Worksheet 3 – Writing a Recount

Dr Wow in Atlantis

- Worksheet 1 – Swapping Synonyms
- Worksheet 2 – Facts about Mammals

Galaxy Chase

- Worksheet 1 – Galaxy Spell Check
- Worksheet 2 – Story Sequencing
- Worksheet 3 – Character Profiles
- Worksheet 4 – Space Memories

Learning Support Worksheets

- Good Dog
- Dr Wow in Atlantis
- Galaxy Chase
- The Pirates' Cave
- Finders Keepers
- Dr Wow
- Old Minty
- The Pirate's Prize *Not available*
- The Eye of the Idol *Not available*
- The Forgotten Pharaoh *Not available*
- Lost in the Rainforest *Not available*
- Live Dinosaur Tour *Not available*

Word Work Worksheets (NEW)

- Live Dinosaur Tour
- Good Dog
- Lost in the Rainforest
- Dr Wow in Atlantis
- Galaxy Chase
- The Pirates' Cave
- The Eye of the Idol
- The Forgotten Pharaoh

Spelling and Vocab Worksheets

- Live Dinosaur Tour
- Good Dog
- Lost in the Rainforest
- Dr Wow in Atlantis
- Galaxy Chase
- The Pirates' Cave
- The Eye of the Idol
- The Forgotten Pharaoh
- Old Minty
- Finders Keepers
- Dr Wow
- The Pirates' Cave

Answers

- Cloze and
- General V
- Learning S



# Example of a story

The stories all have **Fill the Gaps** (cloze) and **Multiple Choice** comprehension activities for students to complete after reading the story.

These provide instant feedback on how well the story was understood. A low score sees the child prompted to 'Try again'.

It is these scores that can be recorded using the various tracking sheets mentioned earlier.

Zip Stage

Story: Marion Thomas  
Artwork: Kelvin Hucker

## Dr Wow

Zip Stage 5

**B**illy's uncle Dr Harry was an inventor. He lived on the top floor in what Billy's Dad called the Crankshop. Harry was an odd one.

You may have read in the papers about the madman who crossed the bay in a Volkswagen with floats attached. All went well until the Water Police motored up and asked if he had a licence for his "boat". It was just as well. By the time they got back, the car was half under water. Dad was forced to pay the fine. Harry had to promise to stay on land. Dad dubbed it the "Waterbomb".



And then there was his portable folding armchair. You pressed a button, and it inflated under you. Problem was the weight of a person caused the chair to topple over. Mum ended up sprawled on the floor with the chair still wrapped around her. Dad dubbed this breakthrough "Dr Floppy's Folly".

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Story: Marion Thomas  
Artwork: Kelvin Hucker

## Dr Wow

Zip Stage 5

"It's all sorted," said Billy.

"What?"

"I did the composition. And got an A."

"How?"

"Went back to last week. Did it. Handed it in."

"But how?"

"Dr Harry's 'sync your homework to the set date' machine."

"Wow!" said Dad.



**FILL THE GAPS** **MULTIPLE CHOICE**

You have reached the end of the story. Now, let's see how well you understood 'Dr Wow', by completing the quizzes to the right of screen...

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Story: Marion Thomas  
Artwork: Kelvin Hucker

## Dr Wow

Zip Stage 5

Billy's Uncle Harry was an actor. The TADIS was a time machine. The first place Billy travelled to was Paris. Unfortunately the locals thought that he was a king and tried to catch him. Billy only just escaped in time, when he pressed the red button on the machine's remote control. When he got back home, he told Harry that the past was too sad. On his next trip in the TADIS, Billy went to Sydney in 2050. Billy was amazed to see that everyone wore a little badge on their hats. Unfortunately, he got into trouble again because he didn't have a passport with him. The only good that Billy got out of the TADIS was when he used it to improve his appearance.

See My Score!

# Ziptales' reading levels scheme

A reminder that all Ziptales stories are levelled according to the unique **Ziptales Reading Levels** scheme.

Essentially, there are **10 Zip Stages**, mapped to the **Reading Recovery, Flesch** and **Lexile** reading difficulty systems.

For example, if a child is reading at Zip Stage 5, he/she is effectively in the Year 3-4 class level average. There is a special way of testing this – see following slide.

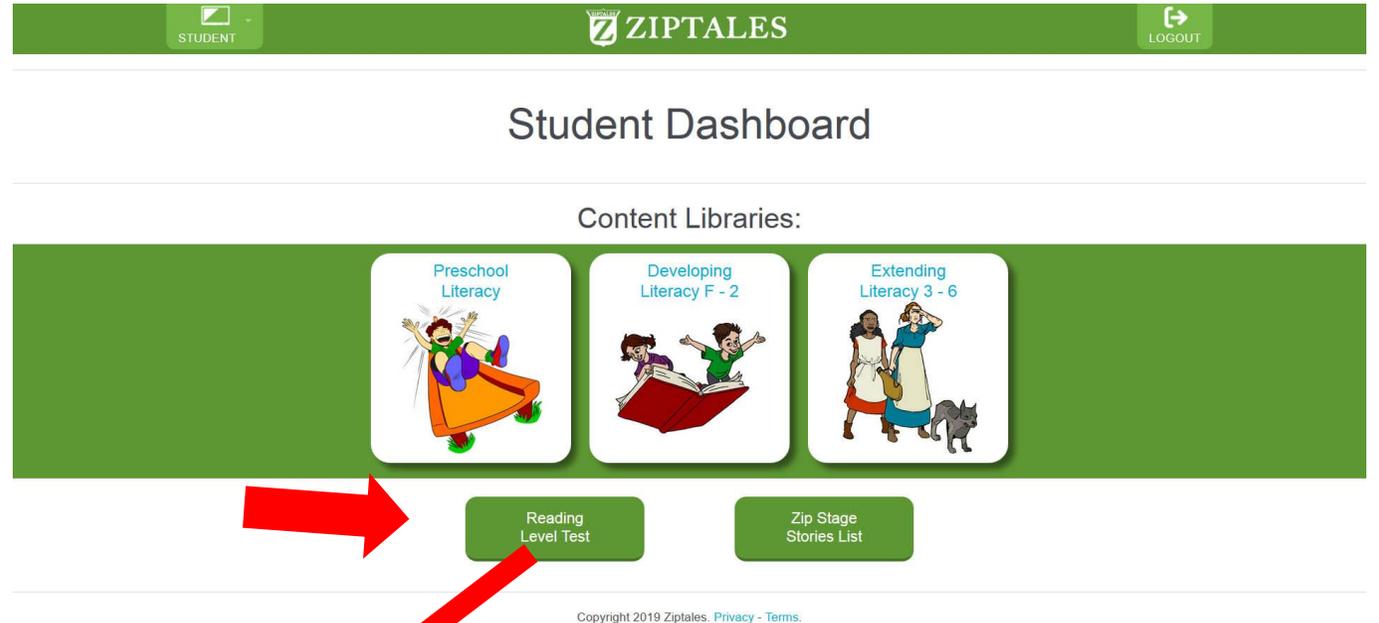
	RR levels	Lexile levels	Flesch levels
Zip Stage 1	5 - 10		Kindergarten
Zip Stage 2	11 - 15		Kindergarten
Zip Stage 3	16 - 22		0.1 - 2.5
Zip Stage 4	23 - 27	100 - 200	2.0 - 3.5
Zip Stage 5	28+	200 - 400	2.5 - 4.0
Zip Stage 6		400 - 500	3.5 - 4.5
Zip Stage 7		500 - 700	4.0 - 5.5
Zip Stage 8		700 - 950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

# Ziptales' Reading Level test

Students can access a specially designed **reading placement 'engine'** to pinpoint the Zip Stage suited to their reading ability.

Teachers need to guide students to the right story, if they have not already done this in class. The test, if you choose to do it, takes just a few minutes, and recommends an appropriate reading level – not too easy, not too hard.

All instructions for this test are provided in the 'Reading Levels' page on the Teacher Dashboard.



STUDENT

ZIPTALES

LOGOUT

### Student Dashboard

Content Libraries:

- Preschool Literacy
- Developing Literacy F - 2
- Extending Literacy 3 - 6

Reading Level Test

Zip Stage Stories List

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ZIPTALES

### Select Story

Click on the title of the story your teacher has given you to read.  
You should only read one story.

- Tom and the Mouse
- Bad Dog
- Three Wishes
- Over the Rainbow
- The Education of Amelia



ZIPTALES

### Result

Great effort! Your Ziptales Reading Level is **ZIP STAGE 5**.  
Please tell your teacher this result.  
We have some great stories just for you! Select one of them below or click [here](#) to see a full list.

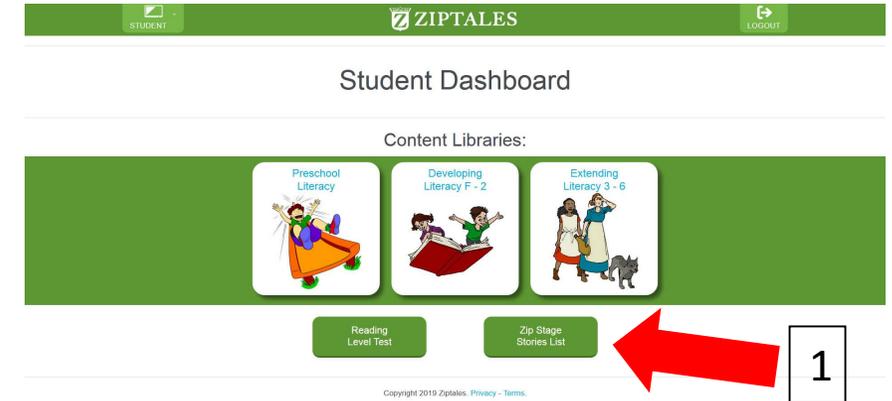
- Finders Keepers
- The Three Billy Goats Gruff
- A Ghost Story
- Loose Undies

# Ziptales' reading levels matrix

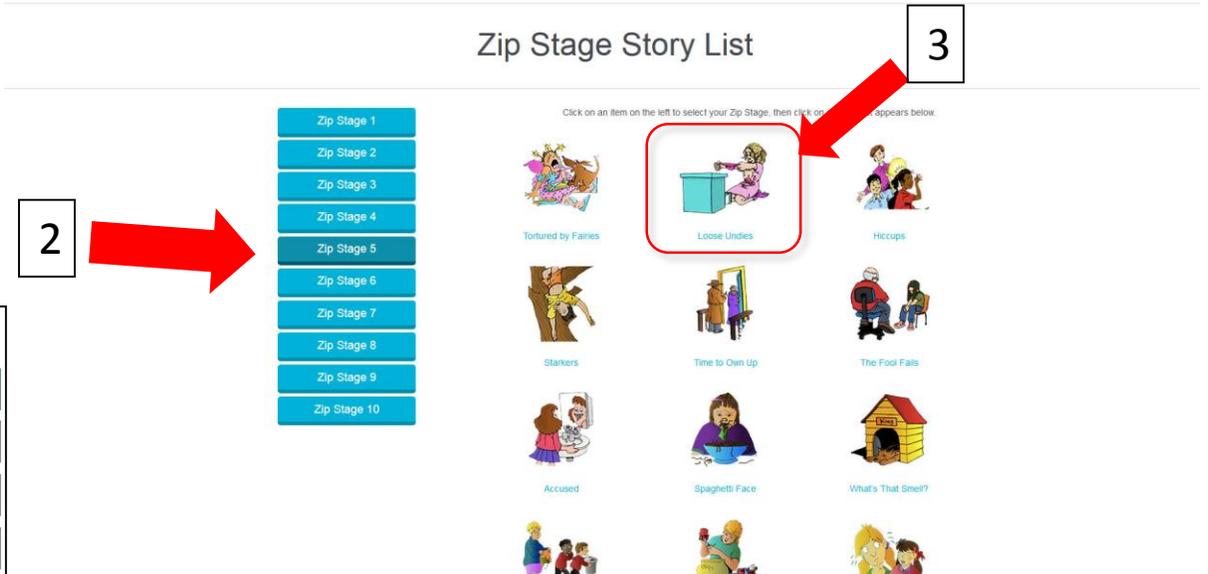
Once students have been assigned a **Zip Stage**, they can directly access level-appropriate titles using a list of stories sorted by reading difficulty (1).

For example, if a student is assigned **Zip Stage 5** – a list of stories suited to their reading ability appears for them to choose from (2).

Once the student chooses a text (3), under the teacher's guidance, the monitoring or tracking methods mentioned earlier come into play.



## Zip Stage Story List



Ziptales Genre Stories			
Colour each block once you have read the story			
Storytime	Storytime	Easy Readers 500 words	Easy Readers 1000 words
The Three Little Pigs <small>(Zip Stage 3 (375 words))</small>	Wendy and the Fairy <small>(Zip Stage 3 (475 words))</small>	Let's Get Wet!	The Little Green Crab
The Billy Goats Gruff <small>(Zip Stage 3 (475 words))</small>	Wendy and the Pirate <small>(Zip Stage 3 (500 words))</small>	Bob the Frog	At the Playground
Goldilocks and the Three Bears <small>(Zip Stage 3 (500 words))</small>	Wendy and the Dragon <small>(Zip Stage 3 (500 words))</small>	I Wish	Play All Day
Little Red Riding Hood <small>(Zip Stage 3 (400 words))</small>	Wendy and the Gnome <small>(Zip Stage 3 (500 words))</small>	Bad Cat	Have You Ever...

# Specialised English Lessons (SEL)

A reminder too about Ziptales' **Specialised English Lessons**.

These lessons cover all outcomes of the English curriculum from Foundation/Prep – Year 6. Each lesson is animated with a voiceover. Each offers follow up work activities, which could be set for home completion.

Lessons appropriate for each year level can be located quickly and easily via the red **Filters** button.

Teachers can select lessons suitable for their students. The children can read the lesson, listen to the voiceover, and then do the exercises for each.

The screenshot displays the Ziptales website interface for 'Specialised English Lessons (SEL)'. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'BACK' and 'ZIPTALES' logos. Below this, a blue banner reads 'Specialised English Lessons (SEL)'. A red arrow points to the 'FILTERS' button on the left. The main content area is divided into sections for 'YEAR LEVEL' and 'THEME'. The 'YEAR LEVEL' section has checkboxes for 'Foundation', 'Years 1 / 2', 'Years 3 / 4' (which is checked), and 'Years 5 / 6'. The 'THEME' section has checkboxes for 'Asking Questions', 'Authors Use of Language', 'Comprehension Skills', 'Digital Texts', 'Editing Skills', 'Expressing Opinions', 'Grammar', 'Language Features', and 'Multimodal Texts'. Below the filters, there is a grid of lesson cards. A red arrow points to the 'Different Texts, Same Theme' lesson card, which is highlighted with a red box. The lesson cards include titles like 'Better Writing', 'Capturing Readers', 'Conversations (Part A)', 'Conversations (Part B)', 'Describing a Setting', 'Developing Reading Skills', 'Did You? Didn't You? (Questions)', 'Digital Texts', and 'Enjoying Texts'. Each card also shows the year level and the skills it covers.

This screenshot shows the 'Extending Literacy 3-6' page on the Ziptales website. It features a grid of lesson cards under the heading 'Reading Library' and 'Enrichment & Skills'. A red arrow points to a lesson card in the grid.

# Ziptales' Curriculum Alignment matrix

The **Curriculum Alignment** link features a scope and sequence chart for each primary year level mapping every content description (Australia), or indicator (NZ), in the English curriculum to a related Ziptales activity.

The curriculum document (word for word) is displayed on the left. The appropriate Ziptales activity to help teachers achieve it is displayed (with live links) on the right.

Teachers can quickly assign suitable elements of the Ziptales content bank to achieve specific curriculum outcomes.

The image shows two screenshots of the Ziptales website's Curriculum Alignment feature. The top screenshot displays the main navigation menu with 'Curriculum Alignment' highlighted. Below the header, there are three options for curriculum selection: Australian Curriculum (Foundation to Year 6), NSW Syllabuses for the Australian Curriculum (Early Stage 1 and Stage 2/3), and New Zealand Curriculum (Level 1 to Level 3). A red arrow points from the 'Curriculum Alignment' header to the detailed view below. The bottom screenshot shows the 'Australian Curriculum - Year 5' page. It features a 'Language' dropdown menu and a 'DOWNLOAD PRINTABLE PDF' button. The page is divided into sections for 'Language variation and change' and 'Language for interaction'. Each section contains a 'Content Description' on the left and 'Related Ziptales Activities' on the right. A red arrow points from the 'Language for interaction' section to the 'Related Ziptales Activities' column.

**Curriculum Alignment**

The Curriculum Alignment is a direct connection between the Australian and New Zealand English curricula and Ziptales stories, activities, and **Specialised English**.

Please select your desired curriculum and year level below.

**Australian Curriculum:**  
Foundation | Year 1 | Year 2  
Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6

**New South Wales Syllabus:**  
Early Stage 1 | Stage 1  
Stage 2 | Stage 3

**New Zealand Curriculum:**  
Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3

**Australian Curriculum - Year 5**

Language: **English** | **Indigenous** | **Latin** | **Download Printable PDF**

**Language variation and change**

**Content Description:**  
Understand that the pronunciation, spelling and meanings of words have histories and change over time.

**Related Ziptales Activities:**

- Specialised English Lessons Oral Language: Spelling/Etymology (Yrs 5 & 6)
- Why is English Said So Strangely?
- Use Storyline module 4 'In Olden Times' to study the history of the English Language.

**Language for interaction**

**Content Description:**  
Understand that patterns of language interaction vary across social contexts and types of texts and that they help to signal social roles and relationships.

**Related Ziptales Activities:**

- Specialised English Lessons Oral Language Module: Speaking and Listening (Yrs 5 & 6) 'Who Are You Talking To?'
- Discuss how language use differs depending on the social context using an Extending Literacy Library entry such as 'The Capet Crosses' (Currency Open).

**Content Description:**  
Understand how to move beyond making base assertions and take account of differing perspectives and points of view.

**Related Ziptales Activities:**

- Specialised English Lessons Oral Language Module: Expressing Opinions (Yrs 5 & 6) 'Talking about Feelings'