



ZIPTALES®

Everything you want when reading matters most



The Full Guide

Fully aligned to the Australian and New Zealand Curricula



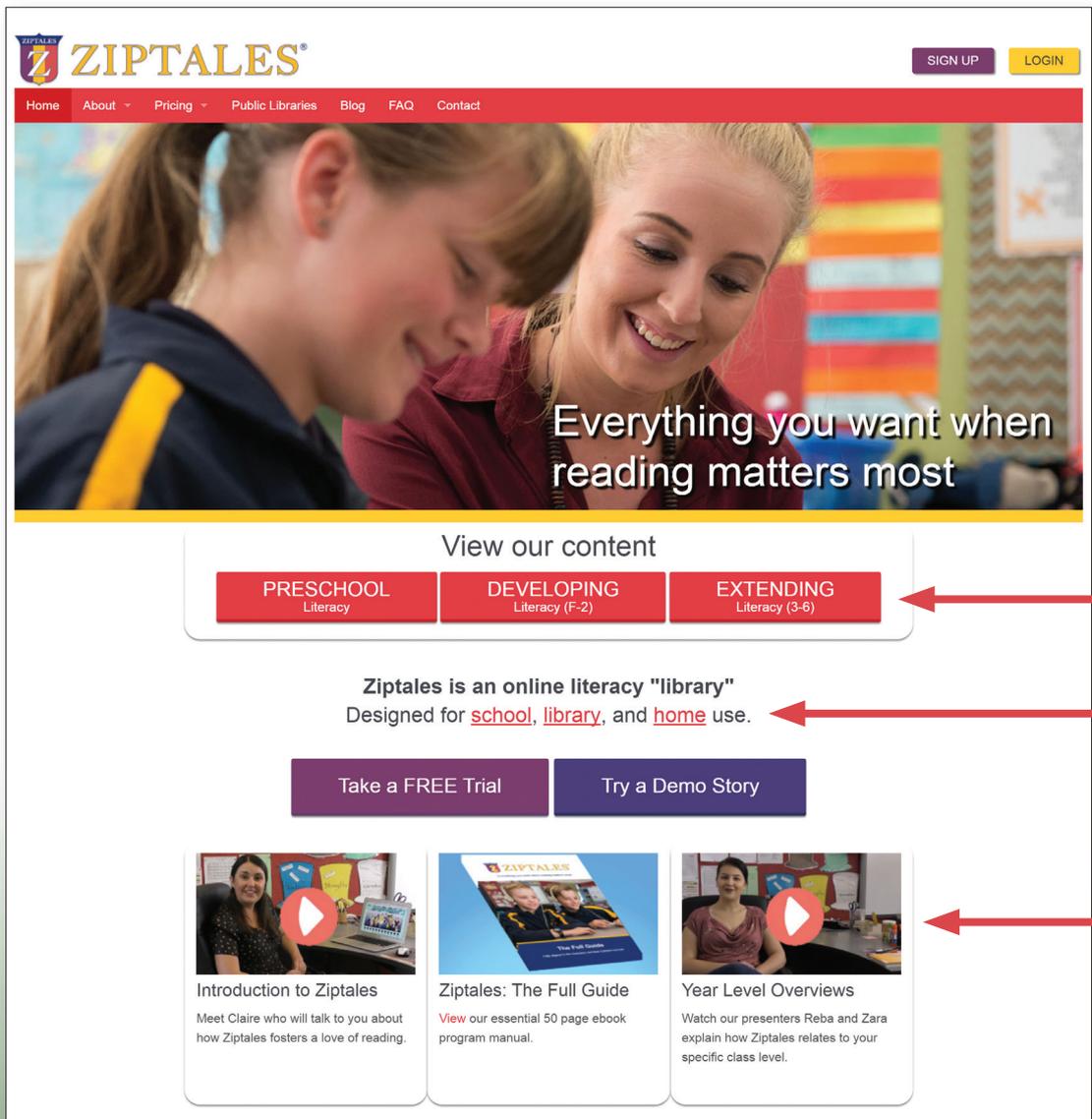
KIPTALES

Contents

Ziptales Home Page	02
Student Dashboard	03
Teacher Dashboard	04
Curriculum Alignment	05
Ziptales Readability Scheme	06
What's My Reading Level?	07
Digital Technology in Today's Classroom	08
Reading Modes	10
ABC, Letter Fun, My First Words	12
Nursery Rhymes	13
Storytime	14
Easy Readers, Puppet Plays	15
Timeless Tales	16
Happy Schools, Joke in a Box	17
Junior Readers	18
Puzzle Palace	20
Make and Do, Story Machine	21
Rhyme Time	22
Adventure Stories	23
Animal Stories	24
Children in History	25
Graphic Classics	26
Choose Your Own Adventure Stories	27
Comedy Stories	28
Fairy Tales	29
Fantasy Stories	30
Interactive Readers	31
Mystery Stories	32
Myths and Legends	33
People Stories	34
Scary Stories	35
True Tales	36
Yucky Stories	37
Advanced Library	38
Specialised English Lessons	42
NAPLAN Style Tests	43
Skill Builders	44
Write Time	46
Ziptales and Text Types	47
Classroom Worksheets	48

Home Page

The home page shows the three main Ziptales libraries.



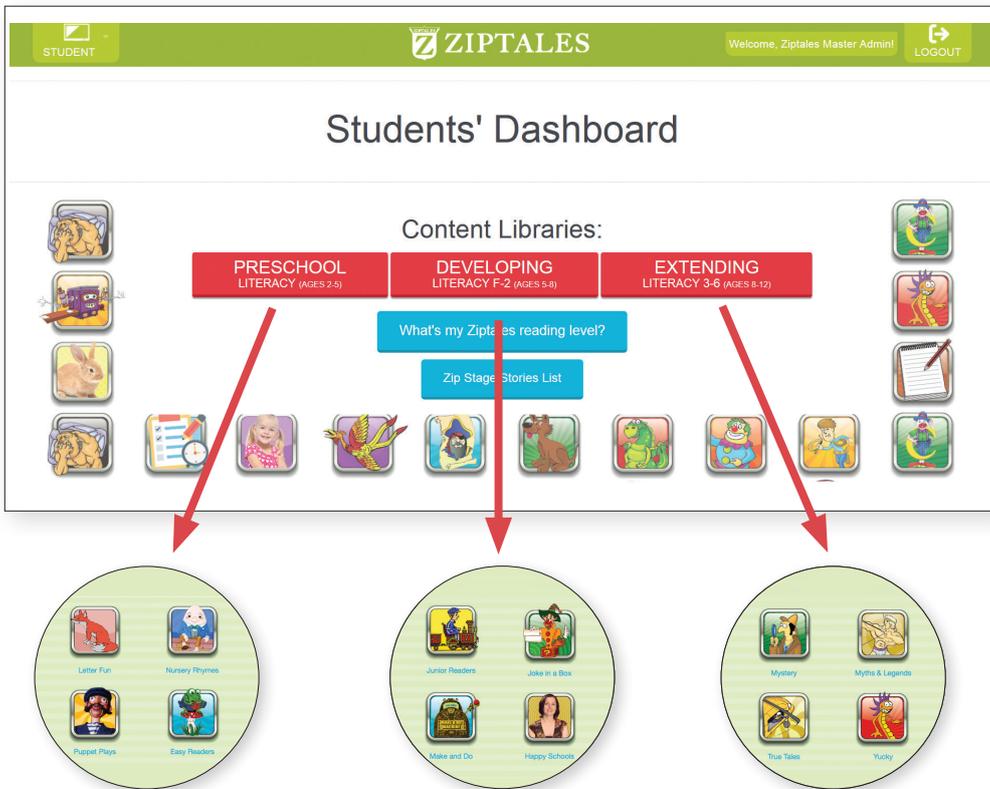
← Login at top right.

← Access the libraries via the red buttons.

← Pages explaining specific uses of Ziptales.

← Explanatory videos and a complete guide to Ziptales.

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.



Teacher Dashboard

✓ Overview of school and account status.

✓ Easy access to Teacher Resources, including our Curriculum Alignment charts, mapping Ziptales to your curriculum.

Access more teacher information using the special blue information buttons below each genre.

Teachers can quickly view all:

-  **Program Details**
-  **Worksheets**

 **Reading Levels** explains the Ziptales readability scheme (essential) and the reading 'engine' (highly recommended) - see page 7.

Curriculum Alignment



Reading for Meaning

Talk about

- What do you think the message of the story is?
- Share times in your life when you felt like Sammy or Emma.

Activities

Let's Look at Narratives

You have probably read or listened to lots and lots and LOTS of narratives. What is a narrative? Well, a 'narrative' is just another name for a 'story'.

Activities

TEACHER ZIPTALES Welcome, Ziptales Master Admin! LOGOUT

Dashboard Content Libraries Staffroom More Help / Support Contact

Curriculum Alignment

Australian Curriculum - Year 2

Language Literature Literacy DOWNLOAD PRINTABLE PDF

Language variation and change

Content Description: Understand that spoken, visual and written forms of language are different modes of communication with different features and their use varies according to the audience, purpose, context and cultural background

Related Ziptales Activities: Use the sentence 'Every night before putting them to sleep, Mrs Darling liked to read the children a story' (*Peter Pan*) to springboard a discussion about verbal storytelling traditions in own families/cultures (*Developing Literacy – Timeless Tales*).

Language for interaction

Content Description: Understand that language varies when people take on different roles in social and classroom interactions and how the use of key interpersonal language resources varies depending on context

Related Ziptales Activities: Specialised English Lessons Oral Language Module: Speaking & Listening (Yrs 1 & 2) Talking to Others; Study how the Queen's language in *Snow White* varies depending on the situation i.e. How does she speak to the mirror, the huntsman and Snow White when she is dressed as an old lady? Relate this to how we speak in different situations (*Developing Literacy – Timeless Tales*).

Identify language that can be used for appreciating texts and the qualities of people and things

Specialised English Lessons Oral Language Module: Expressing Opinions (Yrs 1 & 2) What Do You Think?; Explore the language used to describe characters and events in the *Timeless Tales* (e.g. the consequences of *Pinocchio*'s actions or the huntsman's moral dilemmas about being ordered to kill *Snow White*) to discuss right and wrong, fairness and unfairness themes embedded in each story (*Developing Literacy*).

Text structure and organisation

Old Mother Hubbard
Went to the cupboard
To get her poor dog a bone;
But when she came there
The cupboard was bare,
And so the poor dog had none.

Junior Readers

Timeless Tales

storytime



The Curriculum Alignment charts map every line of the relevant curriculum document (Australian or New Zealand) with one or more of the 500+ Ziptales content modules.

Ziptales Readability Scheme

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/Prep 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 teacher 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 teacher.**



The Reading Levels icon is to be found on the Teacher Resources page. It explains the Ziptales reading scheme and lays out the working of the ‘reading engine’.

Zip Stage 4 (36 Titles)		
Reading Recovery/ Flesch Grade/ Lexile Level Equivalent	Titles	Location – DEVELOPING LITERACY
<i>RR Levels:</i> 23 – 27 <i>Flesch Grade:</i> 2.0 – 3.5 <i>Lexile:</i> 100 – 200	Sleeping Beauty Snow White Peter Pan Pinocchio The Ugly Duckling Rapunzel Cinderella Puss in Boots	Timeless Tales Timeless Tales Timeless Tales Timeless Tales Timeless Tales Timeless Tales Timeless Tales Timeless Tales
	Titles The Exterminator Tails of Bears Loo Blues Peabram The Crying in the Dark Three Wishes Mr Moogle is Missing Extra Lucky Who Will Save Fluffy? Galaxy Chase Good God I'm Not Afraid The Bogeyman Danny's New Glasses Jack Likes Jam The Castle of Screams	Location – EXTENDING LITERACY Comedy Comedy Comedy Comedy Mystery Fantasy Fantasy Animal Animal Adventure Adventure Scary Scary People People Choose Your Own Adventure

What's My Reading Level?

Ziptales has a 'placement' test which allows teachers to easily determine what level of text (see page 6) is appropriate for a child. This is the **'What's my Ziptales reading level?'** assessment. The test can be accessed on the Student Dashboard. Full details of the test and our reading lists are provided on the Teacher Resources page.

Here's how it works. The teacher 'logs in' to the test instrument.*



The student, under the direction of the teacher, is offered a list of five story titles, aligned to broad age ranges:

Foundation/Year 1	Tom and the Mouse
Year 2	Bad Dog
Years 3 & 4	Three Wishes
Years 5 & 6	Over the Rainbow
Advanced readers	The Education of Amelia

Each story represents a carefully designed reading skills test for different age and ability ranges. For example, Test 1 (Tom and the Mouse) suits children in early primary who can read RR Level 10 guided reading texts. Alternatively, Test 5 (The Education of Amelia) suits children in senior primary who are reading at an advanced level.

The child reads a test story, **selected by the teacher**, that corresponds to their approximate level of reading ability. The child reads the story and answers the comprehension questions that follow. The engine then makes recommendations for reading on the basis of the child's level of accomplishment on the test.

A list of stories (eg Zip Stage 4 - with 38 titles) is then made available for the child to read. The child is told to advise the teacher about the Zip Stage level recommended by the test.

Like our overall readability scheme, this is a suggestion only. On the basis of a five minute assessment, the child will be given a recommendation to one of the Zip Stage levels. This recommendation should provide the child with a very 'comfortable' reading experience - not too simple, and not too challenging.

However, to repeat, Ziptales is an 'open' library, and a teacher can choose to direct the child wherever seems suitable to their interests and needs - to another level completely (up or down), if needed.

What's my Ziptales reading level?

*The password for the *What's my Ziptales Reading Level?* test is "**readability**". The test is password protected to prevent students from attempting to self test.

Digital Technology in Today's Classroom

Today's children, as we all know, are 'digital natives'. They grew up being able to almost spontaneously handle an iPad or smart phone. They are completely familiar with computers and various 'devices'. But is all this good for them?

The Research

Does online learning improve children's skill levels? The research tells us that it does. One literacy expert puts it this way: "readers are more engaged with online texts because they promote a more active orientation to reading ... [and] make reading a more creative and playful activity." (Donald Leu, *The New Literacies*, International Reading Association)

British research has shown that computer-mediated learning produces "positive motivational impacts" across a wide range of ability levels - 'learning support' children being just as likely to benefit as more able students. It is correlated to "a decline in performance avoidance" and has "a positive effect ... for boys, with no lowering of outcomes for girls". (*The Motivational Effect of ICT on Pupils*, Department for Education, UK) One American case study showed a boy whose print reading abilities were statistically "below average", but who excelled at online reading, because it was a more comfortable environment for him. (Maureen O'Neil, *What is New about the New Literacies?* National Council of Teachers of English)

What Educational Principles govern the Ziptales Program?

Ziptales draws on the latest research about what works for the effective delivery of literacy outcomes to all students. The key principles are these:

- (1) "Learners should have opportunities to work with whole meaningful texts. Content that offers learners a chance to process large chunks of related text, rather than bits of unrelated language fragments ... extends reading comprehension."* **(Ziptales is effectively a 'whole language' resource, focussing on the enjoyment of familiar literary genres, though *Easy Readers* adds the explicit teaching of phonics for beginning readers)**
- (2) "Learners should have opportunities to encounter a wide variety of text types ... a range of narrative and expository structures should be provided."* **(Ziptales offers well over 36 genre types for all primary levels)**
- (3) "Learners should have the opportunity to work with [texts] that use content and language that are within the range of children's conceptual development. Tasks should be challenging but not frustrating."* **(Ziptales offers ten bands of reading levels, aligned to all levels of the primary school, and maps these to three major internationally recognised readability measures)**
- (4) "Learners should have opportunities to monitor their own learning. Tasks that offer students the chance to self-correct and amend their own errors support the development of independent learners."* **(Ziptales offers immediate interactive feedback on comprehension, with the chance to reread and master a text in the child's own time)**

(* All quotes from Department of Education and Skills)

In short, digital online content should be exactly like traditional print-mediated reading - rich, properly contextualised, and integrated into the classroom reading program.

The Advantage of the Digital Book

The digital story 'books' on Ziptales have many added advantages. There are interactional features that expand the options, reading paths and experiences of young readers. The use of music is optional but it can be used as a topic of discussion, looking at comparisons among the genre categories. The voiceovers provide an optional read-aloud feature, useful for shared and guided reading and helpful in that it provides a model of correct intonation and sentence patterns for developing and struggling readers. There is also the dramatic element brought out by the experienced voiceover actors who can use different 'voices' to develop key characters. Such multi-modal features as animations, voice and music can provide opportunities to show how certain modes can alter or enhance the visual and verbal narrative.

Interactive Readers offers support for readers' developing vocabulary with click on definitions for more difficult words and coloured word by word roll out of the stories.

The interactivity prized by researchers also includes the two comprehension quizzes found at the end of all stories. These give children immediate feedback on their reading comprehension and the chance to re-read (an essential element in fostering reading skills). Similarly the *What's my Ziptales Reading Level?* test guides teachers and students towards the titles that they will find most appropriate and pleasurable.

The Ziptales Program

It helps to think of Ziptales as a very large online 'library' for all levels of primary school. Our philosophy is to make reading enjoyable - not a chore for which there are rewards or penalties.

The Ziptales program is not a 'reading machine', but an 'open' library. There is no 'lock step' progression, or any question of banning children from 'going on' if they 'fail' a test. We encourage children to reread in order to master a text. While the teacher is ultimately in charge of what children read, or what lessons they do, it is perfectly safe for children to browse the library, and find things that interest them. The Ziptales experience should be one of pleasure, as well as one to increase skill levels.

"Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift." (Kate DiCamillo, children's author)



Reading Modes

“The more that you read, the more things you will know.

The more you learn, the more places you will go.”

- Dr Seuss

Reading is undoubtedly the basis of all of the skills that children learn in school. To see the delight in the eyes of a 5 year old who sounds out the words on a milk carton for the first time, or the absorption of a 7 year old who can lose herself in a ‘chapter book’ is truly wonderful. And all of us, parents, teachers, and employers owe a debt to those early years’ classroom practitioners who transmit this skill to their charges.

From the very beginning, Ziptales has seen its mission as to encourage the **skills of reading**, but also the **love of reading**. Once children engage with reading, they have an exciting passport to the world outside.

The Ziptales ‘library’ seeks to support the development of a balanced reading program, from Pre-school through to Years 6 or 7. This involves several things: reading aloud, shared reading, guided reading and independent reading. Or, put succinctly, “reading to children, reading with children, and reading by children”.

While Ziptales is rich in reading material across all year levels (over 300 stories), there is much more. The Curriculum Alignment module maps content areas to the Australian and New Zealand Curricula, and the Specialised English Lessons, provide teachers with mini lessons designed to fit with grade level appropriate reading content and strategies. For example the voiceovers in *Easy Readers*, *Storytime* and *Timeless Tales* can be used to model fluent reading and correct phrasing during Shared Reading. These stories, when shown on an Interactive Whiteboard, become ‘big books’ and can be discussed, without the voiceover, showing various text processing strategies: prediction, monitoring reading, decoding, echo and choral reading. Choral reading can be further enjoyed using *Nursery Rhymes* from the Pre School section and the simpler poems from *Rhyme Time*.

A **Shared Reading** session with tablets can also make much use of the artwork illustrating all stories, inviting children to discuss facial expressions, the effect of animations and use of colours to enhance meaning. It also allows for the introduction of texts that children could not necessarily decode, offering the chance for language and thinking enrichment. This is particularly important for children with special needs who can be extended with the use of ‘challenging texts’ providing pleasure and enjoyment without stress.





The Ziptales program provides many resources for **Guided or Small Group Reading**. As children move towards the independent reading stage, the teacher's knowledge of individual students' reading and writing behaviours, are used to determine if they are ready for Guided Reading. The 10 level Zip Stage readability measures and the *What is my Ziptales Reading Level?* assessment allow groups to be easily formed. Students doing the test receive a list of approximately 30-40 stories appropriate to their age and reading ability. As with all Ziptales stories, the primary criterion has always been that the stories work as engaging narratives and not just words to prove a point of language.

Guided Reading, as well as providing the opportunity for collaborative group learning, can also be a fine way to develop children's comprehension skills. This may be a problem for many developing readers who may miss the cohesive devices used to connect information (from sentence to sentence). There is an opportunity for mini lessons to be used before a story is read, such as those found in *Skill Builders* and *Specialised English Lessons*, which can reinforce comprehension skills, grammar and punctuation. As well the 1500 reproducible worksheets (found in the Worksheet tabs under each genre category) are available with both skills based and open ended creative activities relating to all of the story content.

The full website collection is ideally suited to children ready for **Independent Reading** and caters for interest levels up to and beyond age 12. Using the *What's My Ziptales Reading Level?* assessment, teachers can provide students with a set of up to 40 possible choices all within their age and interest range. Many of the categories in the genre based story collection, such as *Scary*, *Yucky*, *Adventure* and *True Tales* were written to entice reluctant readers, often boys.

Michael Morpurgo, in an article entitled *When children want to learn they will*, puts it well: "We need to give our young people something no test can measure. That battle between what politicians demand of our schools, teachers and children, and the holistic needs of the child, can be fought with the passing on of stories, and the love of storytelling. The best teachers know that, and thank goodness, there are thousands upon thousands of those." (*Teach Reading and Writing*)

ABC

(Preschool & Developing Literacy F-2)



These lessons teach the ABC. Children are taught to recognise the letter (initial sound), to write or draw the letter, and to be able to see the letter inside a word. Worksheets are provided.

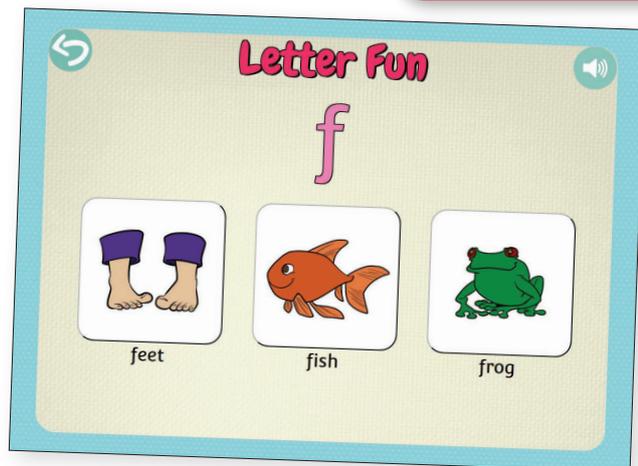
Letter Fun

(Preschool)



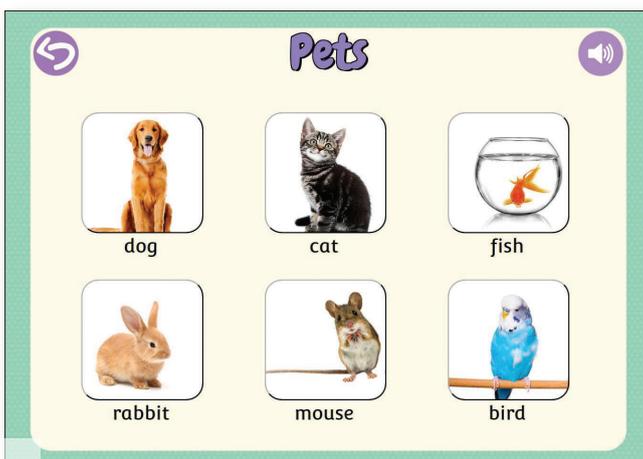
A simple introduction to the alphabet.

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.

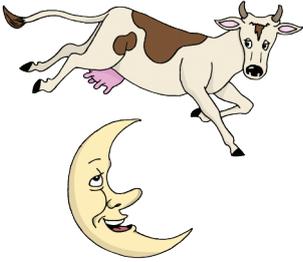
Children choose a category, such as 'Pets' and click on an example (eg dog). The word is said aloud and there is a simple animation.

Nursery Rhymes

(Preschool)



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



Hey Diddle Diddle



Humpty Dumpty



Jack and Jill



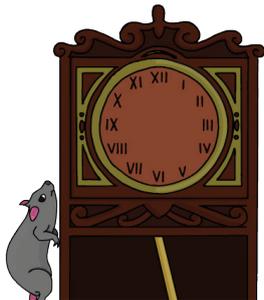
Little Bo Peep



The Grand Old Duke of York



Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat



Hickory Dickory Dock



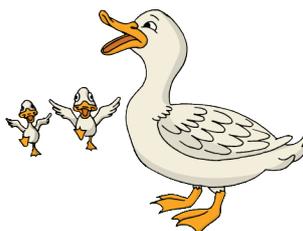
Incy Wincy Spider



Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star



Here We Go Round the
Mulberry Bush



Five Little Ducks



London Bridge

Storytime

(Preschool &
Developing
Literacy F-2)



Two sets of high interest stories specifically for Preschool & F-2 children. All come with follow up Black Line Masters for class work.

Puppet Stories

Familiar stories for beginning readers, brought to life with lovely 3D puppets.



The Three Little Pigs: The famous cautionary tale brought to life. **Themes:** Being careful, sharing and caring (378 words) (RR 16-22, Flesch: 1.1, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 3)



The Billy Goats Gruff: The goats outwit a bully. **Themes:** Resourcefulness, courage (476 words) (RR 16-22, Flesch: 1.2, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 3)



Goldilocks and the Bears: A little girl who goes where no one should go. **Themes:** Being cautious, being kind to animals (366 words) (RR 16-22, Flesch: 1.8, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 3)



Little Red Riding Hood: The wolf and the little girl. **Themes:** Taking care, being obedient, being caring (422 words) (RR 16-22, Flesch: 1.9, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 3)

Cartoons

Exciting original stories, featuring four 2D 'cartoons' of Wendy's adventures.



Wendy and the Fairy: Wendy finds a fairy – but how to protect her? (673 words) **Themes:** Compassion and caring. (RR 16-22, Flesch: 1.2, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 3)



Wendy and the Pirate: Wendy meets a pirate who is looking for a treasure. She helps him decode the clues and succeed. (630 words) **Themes:** Problem solving and kindness. (RR 16-22, Flesch: 1.2, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 3)



Wendy and the Dragon: Wendy hatches a dragon egg. Can she keep the dragon? (580 words) **Themes:** Caring and being responsible. (RR 16-22, Flesch: 1.3, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 3)



Wendy and the Genie: A genie gives Wendy three wishes. Is this a good thing? (530 words) **Themes:** Fantasy and gratitude. (RR 16-22, Flesch: 1.8, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 3)

Easy Readers

(Preschool & Developing Literacy F-2)



Research around the world has affirmed the importance of teaching phonics, as part of a blended and balanced approach to teaching reading.

This module teaches the major phonics 'families' - short vowels (a, e, i, o, u plus revision), simple consonant blends (l, r, s plus revision), consonant digraphs (th, sh, ch, wh and revision) and long vowels (a-e, i-e, o-e, u-e plus revision).

The approach is deliberately designed to be fun. Dr Seuss was a strong inspiration. As an example, for the short vowel 'a', a text called 'Bad Cat' is offered. In this, children follow the comic adventures of Max the cat, in rhyming verse, with text highlighting. The group or class can read through the text of 'Bad Cat', learning the pattern of the short vowel 'a' as it naturally arises in the humorous story.

Worksheets reinforcing the key teaching points are provided for all 'Easy Readers'.

 Worksheets are available for every story.



Puppet Plays

(Preschool & Developing Literacy F-2)



All the joy of live children's theatre, with beautiful rod puppets telling simple affirmative stories. (Suitable for Preschool to Year 2)



The Octopus: Little Joe and Captain Rocky C Rockbuster encounter an octopus. The captain mocks the octopus. Then the ship needs saving from a sand bar – and he learns to be grateful. (5 mins approx) Themes: The importance of animals, Consideration, Being grateful.

The Sea Monster: Captain Rocky C Rockbuster behaves badly. He refuses to 'see' a sea serpent. Then he falls overboard, and is rescued by the monster. He changes his attitude. (6 mins approx) Themes: Caring and sharing, Being grateful.

The Pirates' Treasure: Little Joe and the Captain find themselves on an island. So do the Pirate Queen and her crew. There follow a series of comic adventures. (7 mins approx) Themes: Mutual tolerance, Sharing.

Timeless Tales

(Developing
Literacy F-2)



Favourite stories from down the centuries, presented as graphic novels. Each has a set of worksheets for follow up classroom activities.



Sleeping Beauty: The famous story of the princess who comes under a curse. The only way it can be resolved is by one who finds her and wakes her with a kiss. (630 words) (RR 23-27, Flesch 1.2, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 4)



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs: The wicked queen is jealous of the beautiful Snow White and plots to kill her. The princess is rescued by the kindly dwarfs, but the queen is still determined to be rid of her. (604 words) (RR 23-27, Flesch 1.7, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 4)



Rapunzel: A lovely young girl is taken away by a terrible witch and imprisoned in a tall tower with no door. One day a prince comes by ... (700 words) (RR 23-27, Flesch 1.7, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 4)



The Ugly Duckling: The great Hans Christian Anderson tale about a 'duckling' whom everyone mocks because he is ugly. After many a trial, he grows up into a beautiful swan. (710 words) (RR 23-27, Flesch 1.6, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 4)



Puss in Boots: The old miller leaves his son nothing but the cat. But what a clever cat it is. Puss is so wily that he manages to befriend a king, outwit an ogre and arrange for his master to become a prince. (790 words) (RR 23-27, Flesch 1.2, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 4)



Cinderella: A kind and beautiful girl is mistreated by her stepmother and stepsisters. But on the night of the great ball, a fairy godmother comes to her rescue. (762 words) (RR 23-27, Flesch 2.1, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 4)



Peter Pan: The celebrated story of a boy who doesn't want to grow up. Wendy, Michael and John go off to Neverland - a fabulous place of fairies, mermaids, 'lost boys' and pirates. A timeless classic full of adventure, excitement and love. (2328 words) (RR 23-27, Flesch 2.3, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 4)



Pinocchio: Geppetto longs for a child, so he creates a puppet who looks like a real boy. However, Pinocchio is constantly running away and getting into trouble, despite being warned. A highly moral, and very moving, story. (2166 words) (RR 23-27, Flesch 2.4, Lexile 100-200) (Zip Stage 4)

Happy Schools

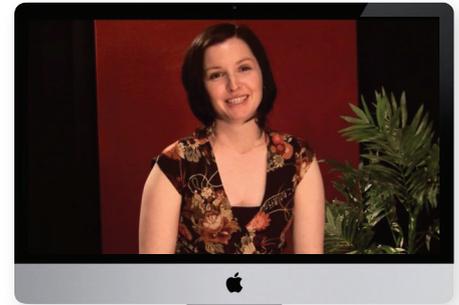
(Developing Literacy F-2)



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 background research for teachers.



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.





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.

Imaginary Worlds



The Lonely Giant: No one will play with Gumble the giant. The children all say he is ugly. Then one day, a boy is lost. Gumble goes to the rescue. (415 words) (RR 17-18, Flesch 0.8) (Zip Stage 3)



Pinky the Elephant: A shy elephant is embarrassed about her long trunk. Everyone laughs at her. But the trunk comes in handy in a series of challenges, and saves the day! (220 words) (RR 16, Flesch 0.9) (Zip Stage 3)



The Silly Mouse: Monty the mouse is very foolish. He thinks he's brave, but in fact he's silly and only just escapes a terrible fate, again and again ... (578 words) (RR 17-18, Flesch 0.7) (Zip Stage 3)



The Magic Suitcase: A little girl finds a magic suitcase which responds to her wishes. There are three wonderful wishes, and they all turn out very well. (610 words) (RR 19-20, Flesch 1.5) (Zip Stage 3)



Wheels of Speed: A boy is given a magical scooter which can fly off into the air. On this wonderful scooter, he explores extraordinary worlds. (710 words) (RR 21-22, Flesch 2.3) (Zip Stage 3)

People like Me



Tiny Ted saves Tilly: A little dog, the companion of an old lady, goes with her to the park every day. One day, a savage dog appears. (234 words) (RR 16, Flesch 0.2) (Zip Stage 3)



The Gold Ring: Sam's Mum has lost her gold wedding ring. It seems to have been stolen. But by whom? (550 words) (RR 17-18, Flesch 0.2) (Zip Stage 3)



Nobody loves me: Sally is having a bad day with Amy, her sister, and her two brothers Mark and Tim. But her Mum gets to the truth about what has really gone wrong. (588 words) (RR 17-18, Flesch 0.8) (Zip Stage 3)



Before, I was bad: Trish is tired of being 'a good girl', so she experiments with being a real nuisance. However, being rude to everyone is not such a good idea. (666 words) (RR 19-20, Flesch 0.9) (Zip Stage 3)

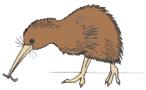


Poor Little Rich Boy: Freddie lives in a huge house surrounded by luxury. However he is lonely. One day he sees another little boy looking in through the gate, and longs to play with him. (748 words) (RR 19-20, Flesch 0.6) (Zip Stage 3)

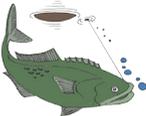
Stories from long ago



How the Kangaroo got her Pouch: A Dreamtime story about the kindness the kangaroo showed to the wombat, and how it was repaid with a brand new pouch. (604 words) (RR 19-20, Flesch 1.8) (Zip Stage 3)



How the Kiwi Bird lost its Wings: A traditional Maori story about how the kiwi came to live on the forest floor and became the most famous and revered bird in New Zealand. (820 words) (RR 19-20, Flesch 1.9) (Zip Stage 3)



Maui and the Giant Fish: A traditional Maori story about the ancestor who using magic caught a big fish. A strong moral tale from New Zealand. (670 words) (RR 21-22, Flesch 2.1) (Zip Stage 3)



The Magic Paint Brush: A traditional Chinese tale about the boy who has a magical paint brush, so that whatever he paints comes to life. (742 words) (RR 21-22, Flesch 2.1) (Zip Stage 3)



The Mouse Deer and the Cucumbers: A traditional Asian story about a clever mouse deer, who is captured by a farmer, but through cunning is able to escape a horrible fate. (682 words) (RR 21-22, Flesch 2.3) (Zip Stage 3)



The Thirsty Frog: A Dreamtime story about the frog who swallows up all the water in the land, and how the other animals need to find a way to get it to put the water back. (534 words) (RR 21-22, Flesch 2.8) (Zip Stage 3)

Fun facts



Fun Facts about Fun: Where do circuses come from? Why do clowns wear red and white makeup? Who created merry-go-rounds? Who came up with the roller coaster? (730 words) (RR 21-22, Flesch 2.1) (Zip Stage 3)



Fun Facts about the Body: Why can't you tickle yourself? Why is the left lung smaller, what's inside bones, when does the nose go to sleep? Lots of fun facts. (816 words) (RR 21-22, Flesch 2.4) (Zip Stage 3)



Fun Facts about Food: Learn about watermelons, food in space, how many bees make a teaspoonful of honey, chocolate money and accidental food inventions. Lots of fun facts. (760 words) (RR 21-22, Flesch 2.7) (Zip Stage 3)



Fun Facts about Animals: Learn about animals who sleep standing up, the colour of a polar bear's skin, the bird that can fly backwards, an octopus's hearts, and more. (668 words) (RR 21-22, Flesch 2.9) (Zip Stage 3)

Puzzle Palace

(Developing Literacy F-2 & Extending Literacy 3-6)



A module entirely devoted to interactive language and thinking puzzles. 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 jumbled pictures and text) and How Good is your Memory? (where they must reconstruct a scene from memory).

Lots of fun - and a great way of extending linguistic and mental skills.

Amazing Animals
Camel

T-REX

PUZZLE PALACE

The Skateboard Terror

Sammy nearly crashed into the fountain.

Fun and Games

T	G	T	E	U	Q	C	A	R	O
A	C	A	R	D	S	E	C	I	D
B	R	A	E	B	Y	D	D	E	T
S	K	A	T	E	B	O	A	R	D
W	K	P	P	P	E	T	A	R	
A	T	R	P	L	L	A	B	A	R
S	D	O	M	I	N	O	E	S	O
G	C	I	O	S	W	I	N	G	B
I	E	L	C	Y	C	I	B	N	O
J	G	S	C	O	O	T	E	R	T

- Skateboard
- Bicycle
- Dominoes
- Puppet
- Bat
- Racquet
- Jigsaw
- Teddybear
- Swing

Make and Do

(Developing Literacy F-2 & Extending Literacy 3-6)



Reading can be 'procedural' or 'instructional'. 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 create origami at the most challenging level. All projects come with a list of 'ingredients', photos, diagrams, text and an explanatory voiceover.



Story Machine

(Extending Literacy 3-6)



An interactive engine which allows children to pick characters, a setting and a plot for their story. They scan all the many options on the screen and select what they want. Then they can print out the selection to use as a scaffold for their writing, or for improvisation and group storytelling.



Rhyme Time

(Developing
Literacy F-2
& Extending
Literacy 3-6)



Old Mother Hubbard: The celebrated nonsense verse about an amazing dog. Comes with historical notes, teacher commentary and worksheets. (252 words) **Themes:** Politeness and Loyalty (Zip Stage 4)

The House that Jack Built: The well known cumulative poem (or round). Comes with historical notes, teacher commentary and worksheets. (387 words) **Theme:** The interconnectedness of all things (Zip Stage 4)

Limericks by Edward Lear: Five of the most enjoyable of Lear's ground breaking limericks. Comes with biographical notes, teacher commentary and worksheets. (157 words in total) **Themes:** Humour, Not taking life too seriously (Zip Stage 5)

The Rainbow and The Wind: Two of Christina Rossetti's most beloved poems for children. Comes with biographical and historical notes, teacher commentary and worksheets. (252 words) **Theme:** The beauty of Nature (Zip Stage 4)

Wynken, Blynken and Nod: Probably the best known of American children's verses – a charming fantasy about dreaming. Comes with biographical notes, teacher commentary and worksheets. (387 words) **Themes:** The importance of fantasy, the beauty of childhood (Zip Stage 5)

The Owl and the Pussycat: Edward Lear's immortal fantasy. Comes with biographical notes, teacher commentary and worksheets. (236 words in total) **Themes:** Love, the importance of our animal friends (Zip Stage 5)

A Poison Tree: William Blake's renowned parable about truth and betrayal. Comes with biographical notes, teacher commentary and worksheets. (102 words) **Themes:** Anger, Honesty (Zip Stage 6)

Jabberwocky: Lewis Carroll's great fantasy masterpiece – a comic reworking of the old heroic epic tradition – in which a young warrior finds and defeats a terrible monster. Comes with biographical and historical notes, teacher commentary and worksheets. (180 words) **Themes:** Heroism, Humour (Zip Stage 8)

Ozymandias: Shelley's immortal sonnet – about the ruined statue of a long dead king who once thought he was king of the world. Comes with biographical notes, teacher commentary and worksheets. (114 words) **Themes:** Pride, Self-delusion, The brevity of life (Zip Stage 10)

The Lady of Shalott: Tennyson's famous romance about Camelot. The 'Lady' falls in love with Sir Lancelot. However, she is under a fateful curse, and her love proves lethal. Difficult, but exceptionally beautiful. Comes with biographical and historical notes, teacher commentary and worksheets. (958 words) **Themes:** Love, Fate, Beauty (Zip Stage 10)

The Pied Piper of Hamelin: Browning's great retelling of the classic myth of the rats, the piper who is betrayed, and the revenge he takes. A very challenging work in places, but the story comes through loud and clear. Accompanied by biographical and historical background, teacher commentary and worksheets. (2121 words) **Themes:** Arrogance, Justice, Honesty (Zip Stage 10)



Adventure Stories

(Extending
Literacy 3-6)



Galaxy Chase: There are good guys and bad guys in this one – and lots of explosions in outer space. (543 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 1.7) (Lexile 220)



Good Dog: Two children row across to an island in the river. There is a flash flood and the river rises. Can the dog save the day? (1088 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 2.8) (Lexile 320)



The Eye of the Idol: Luke finds a map showing the way to a temple with the golden idol. Wonderful adventures (waterfalls, crocodiles, caves) follow. (1071 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.5) (Lexile 210)



The Forgotten Pharaoh: Luke finds the lost tomb of a forgotten pharaoh. There are hair-raising adventures (scorpions, booby traps) and a surprise ending. (1083 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.6) (Lexile 270)



Dr Wow: Billy has an uncle who has invented a time machine. Billy goes into the past, and then the future, with amazing sights and challenges. (1068 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 3.1) (Lexile 350)



Dr Wow in Atlantis: Billy goes with Uncle Harry to find the legendary city of Atlantis. Very exciting, but things don't go smoothly. (1224 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 3.4) (Lexile 400)



Finders Keepers: Jake accidentally releases pirate Captain Sirhoy from a three hundred year old curse. Now he's stuck with him. (990 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 3.4) (Lexile 640)



Live Dinosaur Tour: Children find their way into a live dinosaur park. Will they escape this extraordinary adventure in one piece? (805 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 5.5) (Lexile 560)



The Pirates' Cave: Finding a cave full of what appears to be pirate treasure is the plot of this one. It has a surprise ending. (650 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 4.7) (Lexile 590)



Lost in the Rainforest: Two children crash in the rainforest. There they encounter snakes, ants, and threatening creatures, but also kindly natives. (894 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 6.1) (Lexile 650)



Old Minty: Billy's playing with his friend Minty the cattle dog when he's bitten by a snake. Minty saves the day. (766 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 4.8) (Lexile 770)



The Pirate's Prize: Luke is on the trail of Blackbeard's treasure. Luke has to go underground, and brave skeletons, fire, water, sharks and more. (1645 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 5.9) (Lexile 590)

At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.

Read to a _____ and
has got _____ hair
at the back of his
_____ Ankle is
_____ of Fred

Who is _____?
 Father than Adam
 Mother than Adam
 A football player
 A teacher

Animal Stories

(Extending
Literacy 3-6)



Extra Lucky: Lucky the dog dies. Todd's parents try and console him. Finally, they get him a new pup (Extra Lucky). A positive treatment of a difficult subject. (732 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 2.4) (Lexile 200)



Who Will Save Fluffy?: Fluffy the cat gets stuck up a tree. Several people try to get her down, but only one has the solution. (375 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 2.8) (Lexile 360)



Boris, Bonnie and Greedy: A new puppy (Greedy) comes to stay, causing Boris to be wildly jealous. (948 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 3.1) (Lexile 270)



Little Duck Wants To Play: Little Duck wants to play, but not with the otter who offers to play with him. Who can he play with? A lesson in gratitude. (348 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 3.1) (Lexile 550)



Cookie the Shoe Chewing Dog: Cookie, like most puppies, often does what she's not supposed to – especially chewing shoes. How do the family deal with this problem behaviour? (979 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 2.6) (Lexile 500)



Toffee in Trouble: An abandoned puppy turns up on their doorstep. Emily calls him Toffee, but Mum doesn't want to keep him. She changes her mind when Toffee saves Emily's little brother from drowning. (997 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.7) (Lexile 500)



Copy Frog: A wacky story about a very special frog that is a brilliant mimic. The owner enters him in a contest held by the teacher – with amazing and hilarious consequences. (1141 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 4.5) (Lexile 440)



Princess Nightmare: A child has a pet snake (Princess), which his long suffering friend has to hide for him. (810 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 4.2) (Lexile 550)



Percy and Claude: Claude the cat always gets his way, and poor Percy the dog feels neglected. However the tables turn when Percy gets a special treat. (502 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 3.6) (Lexile 590)



Multiplying Mice: A child brings a mouse home for a school project. It disappears. A replacement is found. The new replacement disappears too, and so on. (839 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 4.2) (Lexile 610)



Kafoops' Zoo: A lady who is crazy about animals starts a zoo in her house, with most amusing consequences. (594 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 5.0) (Lexile 680)



Bill and the Kitten: Bill has a new kitten, which is very mischievous. It is always getting him into trouble. (1025 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 5.6) (Lexile 800)

At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.



Children in History

(Extending Literacy 3-6)



The Bell and the Bushrangers: Three children overhear a pair of bushrangers plotting a robbery. When they tell the police, however, they are not believed. Can they identify the scoundrels and prevent the crime – without harm to anyone? An adventure story set in the gold rush period of Australian history (1857), featuring live child models dressed in period costume, in an authentic setting. The story is the vehicle for conveying large amounts of historical information. (1591 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 2.7) (Lexile 500-700)



Secret Journey: A boy sets out to find his long lost father. His journey takes him by riverboat, coach and on foot through the Australian countryside – but always he seems to just miss his father. Can we hope for a happy ending? A 'road movie' set in the inland pioneering and riverboat period of Australian history (1890), featuring live child models dressed in period costume, in an authentic setting. The story is the vehicle for conveying large amounts of historical information. (1493 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 2.7) (Lexile 500-700)



Runaway: A naughty boy accidentally starts a steam engine, which rapidly becomes a dangerous 'runaway' – and the boy is trapped on board! Can his school mates catch the engine and rescue him before there is a terrible crash? A 'thriller' set in 1915, featuring live child models dressed in period costume. The story discreetly conveys large amounts of historical information, not only about everyday life but about the 'Great War' and Gallipoli. (1596 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 2.3) (Lexile 500-700)

Digital documentaries:

* **The Real History behind 'The Bell and the Bushrangers':** an overview of life on the gold fields, bushrangers and the Eureka Stockade. (3064 words) (Zip Stage 9) (Flesch 6.4) (Lexile 950-1100)

* **The Real History behind 'Secret Journey':** a documentary on life in pioneering times, the riverboat era, the coming of the railways. (2946 words) (Zip Stage 9) (Flesch 7.0) (Lexile 950-1100)

* **The Real History behind 'Runaway':** a detailed depiction of life in 1915, the First World War and Gallipoli. (3475 words) (Zip Stage 9) (Flesch 6.8) (Lexile 950-1100)

At the end of every story is a true and false comprehension test, for immediate feedback.

Johns is taller than Adam
 True
 False

But having Arthur home again was more complicated than she had thought. There was the piece of metal in his head. It was too dangerous to operate on, and it gave him terrible headaches.

Also, there was what he had seen in the war. He had told Robbie some things. Many others, she knew, he was not telling anyone.

A number of his friends had been killed at Gallipoli.

He was strangely silent. He never laughed – like before.

He seemed to feel guilty about being back home, when others were still in the trenches, fighting for their lives.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

"There's going to be a robbery," James breathlessly told the police sergeant.

"Now just calm down," he said. "Let's have it all nice and slow."

"We overheard bushrangers talking about a hold-up," said Sarah, "and it involves a store in town!"

"Which one?"

"Don't know."

"What do these men look like, at least?"

"We didn't see their faces."

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Billy felt himself grabbed.

He was pulled out of the water.

Someone wrapped a blanket around him.

"What are you doing, son? Trying to drown yourself?"

"No, sir. I'm looking for my Dad."

"Billy!"

Someone put their arm around him.

Billy opened his eyes.

"Dad!"

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

Graphic Classics

(Extending Literacy 3-6)



The Happy Prince: Oscar Wilde's immortal fairy tale of love and loyalty. A swallow lands at the feet of a golden statue (the prince). The prince, guilty for his callousness while alive, begs the swallow to do good deeds on his behalf. The bird obliges, but its extraordinary generosity comes at great cost. (1160 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 2.6) (Lexile 550)



Beauty and the Beast: Madame de Beaumont's celebrated story of moral challenge and love triumphant. A beautiful young girl is forced to become the companion of a frightening beast, but her initial dismay turns to tolerance, and then to something far more wonderful. (1251 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.2) (Lexile 580)



Aladdin: The famous tale of magic and daring. Aladdin becomes the master of a magical lamp and a powerful genie, and in due course marries the beautiful princess. However, the evil sorcerer is plotting a terrible revenge. (1340 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 3.6) (Lexile 730)



King Arthur: From his humble beginnings as the squire who pulls the magic sword Excalibur from the stone, through the golden years of Camelot, to Arthur's sad end, this is a shortened version of the greatest of chivalric tales. (1107 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 3.5) (Lexile 650)

Digital documentaries:



* **The History of Comics:** A historical survey of one of the most popular of all text types – from early beginnings, including the 'Bayeux Tapestry', through the golden age of Superman and others, to the current 'Manga' style. (1264 words) (Zip Stage 10) (Flesch 9.2) (Lexile 1100+)



* **The Real Story of Fairy Tales:** What are fairy tales, what are the most common story archetypes, and what do they mean? (1236 words) (Zip Stage 10) (Flesch 7.0) (Lexile 1100+)



* **Marvellous Myths and Legends:** A survey of some of the greatest of all stories, plus a simple deconstruction of the cultural values they express. (1766 words) (Zip Stage 10) (Flesch 7.1) (Lexile 1100+)

At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.

Read to a _____ and
how get _____ hair
on the back of his
_____ Auntie is
_____ of Proud

Read to a
1) taller than Adam
2) shorter than Adam
3) a football player
4) a teacher



Choose Your Own Adventure

(Extending Literacy 3-6)



The Castle of Screams: The reader is on a quest for the treasure hidden somewhere in the strange castle of Dr Frank N Stein. Every choice involves a possible confrontation with unimaginable horror – or the treasure. Which way to go? (2948 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 2.0) (Lexile 150)



Pirate Island: The reader must decode the cryptic inscription on a treasure map to find the way to the hidden treasure on Pirate Island. A fantasy story with endless narrative options. (2532 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 3.1) (Lexile 210)



The Black Knight's Castle: The reader is looking for a kidnapped princess, for whom a reward has been offered. Can he/she find the princess without being caught? (4090 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 5.0) (Lexile 610)



The Greatest Moments in History: The reader is invited to a journey through time, using a marvellous time machine which actually offers information about the various moments visited (eg the dinosaurs, the building of the pyramids, Pompeii, the Black Death, the Titanic, Gallipoli, etc). A fantasy adventure based on real historical facts and figures. Great fun and highly educational. (6767 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 5.4) (Lexile 510)

Story by: Sonya Stoneman Artwork by: Caanan Grall Level: ●●●● Not too hard

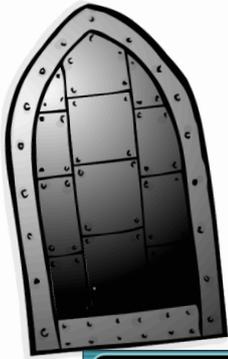
The Black Knight's Castle

As you are afraid of heights, you decide to try the window. After heaving yourself up, you manage to squeeze through the gap in the shutters and drop softly onto the floor.

When you have adjusted to the gloom, you examine the room closely. A straw bed is in one corner, and a rickety old dresser in another. There are cobwebs everywhere. Beady-eyed black spiders dangle in front of you. Ugh! You hate spiders.

All of a sudden, you notice a trapdoor in the middle of the floor. Should you find out what's under the trapdoor, or go out through a door near the bed?

Option A Lift up the trapdoor **Option B** Open the door



Story by: Richard McRoberts Artwork by: Caanan Grall Level: ●●●● Not too hard

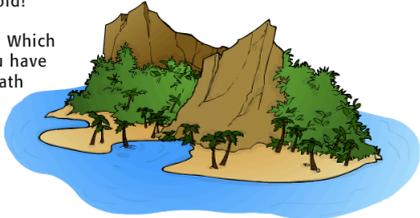
Pirate Island

Here you are at last on pirate island. What brought you here? A treasure map of course - one that was so old that only the outline of the island was clear. From that, you know that you've come to the right place. But everything else is completely faded. However, at the bottom, you can read these words:

The treasure's hid from prying eyes
In darkness lit by nature's fires
Beware the crocs and pirates bold
If you desire to find the gold!

You climb ashore on the island. Which way to go first? It looks like you have two choices. On your left is a path which leads off up into the mountains. On your right is a lake. At the edge of the lake is a boat.

Option A Take the path up the mountains **Option B** Take the boat




Comedy Stories

(Extending
Literacy 3-6)



The Exterminator: A cat is brought in to get rid of the mouse – then the cat has to be got rid of by a dog – then the dog has to be got rid of, and so on. (929 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 3.3) (Lexile 170)



Tails of Bears: A fantasy story about the way bears lost their tails. (402 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 1.6) (Lexile 310)



Loo Blues: A girl locks herself in the toilet, and can't get out. Her Dad has to rescue her. (403 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 2.7) (Lexile 300)



Peabrain: A peacock comes to live with a family and causes all sorts of trouble. They aren't too happy about it until the peacock shows them he's more than just a Peabrain. (918 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 0.8) (Lexile 220)



Tortured by Fairies: A boy finds himself the only male at an all-girl fairies party. He is suffering until a funny event breaks the ice and he feels much better. (598 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.4) (Lexile 320)



Loose Undies: A girl finds her undies are slipping down all the time at school. She is terribly embarrassed until a teacher lends her spares and the situation is saved. (623 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.5) (Lexile 480)



Hiccups: Freddie has to present a science project, but he has the hiccups! Everyone has ideas on how to cure them, but will any of them work? (993 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.9) (Lexile 490)



Starkers: A boy climbs a tree, but accidentally rips off first his shorts, then his undies. He is rescued, but is mightily embarrassed. (737 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.8) (Lexile 590)



Snow White Super Rat: Snow White is the best rat in the world, but it's chaos when she turns up at school uninvited. Will she make it through the day? (954 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.6) (Lexile 660)



Gobwit: Two school friends, forced to do yard duty, discover a monster living in the garbage skip at school. They feed it and make friends with it. When the school goes into recycling, the supply of rubbish goes and Gobwit vanishes. (1031 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 4.3) (Lexile 710)



The Caped Crusader: Billy wants to be a Caped Crusader. He practises in his ordinary day-to-day life with hilarious consequences. (1200 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 4.4) (Lexile 770)



Sitting on Sophie: The little sister (Sophie) is irrepressible. It's necessary to sit on her to keep her from spoiling the Christmas surprise. (1185 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 5.2) (Lexile 930)

At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.

Frank is a _____ and
has got _____ hair
on the back of his
_____ arms is
_____ of Fred

□ taller than Adam
□ shorter than Adam
□ a football player
□ a teacher

Fairy Tales

(Extending
Literacy 3-6)



The Three Billy Goats Gruff: The old favourite about the goats and the troll. A celebrated Norse story about trickster heroes and the downfall of the evil one. (543 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.7) (Lexile 630)



The Flower of Happiness: A little known Chinese tale with a powerful moral. The narrative follows the classic quest sequence, with impossible tasks and an unthinkable goal. It is also a charming love story. (1378 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.3) (Lexile 480)



The Frog Prince: A spoilt princess unkindly makes a promise to a (magical) frog which she never intends to keep. It has a delightful happy ending. (875 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 4.6) (Lexile 540)



The Garden of Enchantments: A lovely Persian fairy tale about three orphans. It combines all the classic elements – cruelty (and its reward), enchantment which can only be broken by love, magical animals, a long journey, a final reconciliation and a happy ending. (1955 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.4) (Lexile 580)



The Fisherman and his Wife: When the fisherman earns magic wishes in return for his kindness, he thinks he can please his wife. Except that her insatiable greed knows no bounds. (1094 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.6) (Lexile 640)



The Twelve Dancing Princesses: A mystery needs to be solved – where do the princesses go every night? Only the poor but wise hero can discover the answer (before he loses his life) with the aid of his wits and an invisible cloak. (1217 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.8) (Lexile 640)



Thumbelina: Hans Christian Anderson's magical tale about a tiny person. The heroine's perilous adventures fortunately lead to a happy ending. (1369 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 4.0) (Lexile 600)



Cinderella: The most famous fairy tale in the world – a tried and true classic about transformation and the rewards of goodness. (1112 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 4.0) (Lexile 610)



The Enchanted Princess: A morally uplifting story about two brothers (a good one and a bad one), a mysterious castle, magical tasks (which are tests of character), and a happy ending. (1852 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 3.7) (Lexile 610)



The Little Mermaid: Hans Christian Anderson's immortal heartbreaker, about the mermaid who falls in love and gives up everything to become human. (2000 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 3.7) (Lexile 620)



The Luck Child: A boy is born lucky. The evil king has been told that he will inherit the throne, so the king sets out to be rid of the child by any means. However, the child is a 'luck child'! (2054 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 3.4) (Lexile 700)

The Magic Arrow: An Indonesian story. The princess is separated from her prince, a villain comes on the scene and all is looking decidedly grim, until divine intervention saves the day. (1143 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 5.1) (Lexile 750)

At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.



Fantasy Stories

(Extending
Literacy 3-6)



Three Wishes: A retelling of the folk tale about the foolish things people wish for. (529 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 2.1) (Lexile 290)



Mr Moogle is Missing: The monster in Kate's wardrobe, Mr Moogle, is missing! Kate just wants him to come back, but no one seems to understand. (606 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 2.3) (Lexile 600)



Chalk and Cheese: A little alien (Al) is stranded on Earth. Only the nice boy who befriends him can help Al find the bizarre ingredients he needs to restart his spaceship. Very amusing. (836 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.9) (Lexile 310)



Bubble Gum: A girl blows a bubble so huge it lifts her off the ground and she floats over the neighbourhood. Cheery and with a happy ending! (654 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.2) (Lexile 310)



The Wizard's Staff: A boy finds a wizard's staff. He uses the staff, but the wizard appears to claim it back. There is a standoff until they compromise. (585 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.2) (Lexile 350)



The Bravest Knight: A young knight must rescue the princess's necklace, taken by a dragon. How is he to beat so fearsome a monster? The solution is surprising and amusing. (794 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.5) (Lexile 400)



Talent Quest: Granny is an eccentric inventor. She gives her granddaughter a special microphone for her birthday – it makes her sound wonderful. However there is a catch (as always). There is one thing the machine should not be asked to do, and guess what...? (771 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.6) (Lexile 400)



Welcome to Fairyland: A girl acquires a magic book, which whisks her off to Fairyland. There she sees unicorns, fairies and a dragon. This one features a surprise ending. (746 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 4.4) (Lexile 400)



Witch Upon a Star: Winkle loses her magic, and wants to get it back. She needs help from others before all is well again. (930 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.5) (Lexile 480)



The Marble of All Seasons: Lily is at the carnival when she encounters an old lady who shows her a magical crystal ball. To Lily's surprise, she offers the wonderful ball to her. A tale of real charm and mystery. (868 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.1) (Lexile 490)



One Wish: When a Genie has a hearing problem, all the children's wishes get muddled up. Can anyone sort this mess out? (1086 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 3.7) (Lexile 680)



The Wonderful Wacky Walnut Trick: Alice Matilda wants to master the Wonderful Wacky Walnut Trick, but no matter how hard she tries it just won't work! Who can help her? (893 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 6.4) (Lexile 790)

At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.



Interactive Readers

(Extending
Literacy 3-6)



Eight of the most popular Ziptales stories, across a wide range of genres, rewritten for Learning Support and ESL students. These stories are deliberately 'hi-low' (high interest/low readability). Special features include:

- interactive pre-reading and post-reading exercises
- text lights up to match the voiceover (to aid recognition and decoding)
- art on every page
- game add-ons to test comprehension, as well as motivate and reinforce.



Spiders: Katrina is scared stiff of spiders. And there are spiders everywhere she turns. (527 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch: 2.2) (Lexile: 270)



The green ghost: Johnny agrees to spend the night in a haunted castle. (542 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch: 1.8) (Lexile: 150)



Pop star: Julie has been given a wonderful invention - a microphone that turns her voice into that of a pop star. But there's a catch. There are some songs she cannot sing. (523 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch: 2.8) (Lexile: 410)



Where's that rat?: Roger the rat keeps escaping from his locked cage. But how? (614 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch: 2.9) (Lexile: 340)



Paddy saves the day: Paddy the dog is in real trouble - when a life-threatening crisis allows him to save the day. (692 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch: 1.8) (Lexile: 290)



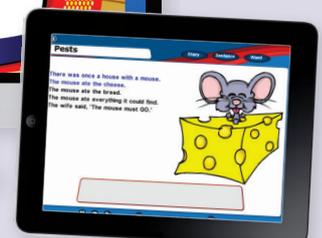
Pests: There's a mouse in the house. The owner calls a mouse exterminator. He brings a cat, which gets rid of the mouse. But how to get rid of the cat? And so on. (710 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch: 2.5) (Lexile: 200)



Treasure! Luke finds a map showing a cave full of treasure. But he is not the only one looking. A high adrenalin adventure story. (732 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch: 2.2) (Lexile: 170)



The three tests: A folk tale about two brothers, a magic castle, a princess and a set of life or death tests. (1096 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch: 1.8) (Lexile: 300)



Mystery Stories

(Extending
Literacy 3-6)



The Crying in the Dark: A little dog is discovered when its cries are heard. But who is the owner? The people finding the dog track down the happy family and there is a reunion. (688 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 2.0) (Lexile 190)



Time to Own Up: A theft has taken place. There are four suspects – all boys who live in the same boarding house. Who did it? (728 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 3.3) (Lexile 250)



The Fool Fails: Four children are the suspects responsible for a rude message about the teacher written on the whiteboard. Who did it? (789 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.8) (Lexile 350)



Accused: Someone ate the chocolate cake, but who? Everyone thinks it was Emily, but after a while even she's not sure. (754 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.7) (Lexile 370)



The Attic: A curious girl is mystified by the forbidden locked attic. One night she enters, and accidentally starts a fire. It turns out the mystery wasn't sinister, and she learns her lesson. (748 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.8) (Lexile 510)



The Fancy Dress Fiend: Someone has trashed the room of the birthday girl during the party itself. Who did it? Sally Sherlock investigates and solves the mystery. (1923 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 4.2) (Lexile 480)



The Midnight Raiders: It's a hot summer, perfect for sneaking ice cream in the middle of the night. The freezer however objects to being raided, or does it? (802 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.6) (Lexile 680)



Run, Roger, Run: A rat called Roger keeps escaping from his cage. How did he get out? (927 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 4.5) (Lexile 520)



The Battered Bully: Bradley the bully, who has been terrorising all the children, is discovered beaten up. Who did it? Sally Sherlock investigates and solves the mystery. (2606 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 5.1) (Lexile 520)



Fishy Business: Can fish really fart? Fin seems to be, but why? (960 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 4.3) (Lexile 890)



The Bread Thief: Scott's dog Bounce goes missing, and bread is stolen from Jake's family bakery. What a day! Is there a connection? (1108 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 4.7) (Lexile 810)



Crazy Codes: Someone has been writing abusive messages that children in the computer lab find on their machines. But the culprit teases everyone by using a code. Who did it? Sally Sherlock investigates and solves the mystery. (3224 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 6.6) (Lexile 630)

At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.



Myths & Legends

(Extending
Literacy 3-6)



The Mermaid: A lovely one about a fisherman who saves a mermaid, and then needs help himself. (952 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.7) (Lexile 330)



Why Do Dogs Sniff Tails?: A folk tale from Papua New Guinea. During a meeting with the Dog Chief all the dogs must remove their tails. The hut catches on fire, and in the commotion most dogs end up with the wrong tail or no tail at all! To this day they are still trying to find their lost tails. (643 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.3) (Lexile 570)



The Pearl Dragon: A lovely myth about a boy with a quest and a magic dragon which rewards his kindness. (971 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.4) (Lexile 460)



Rip Van Winkle: The classic Washington Irving yarn about a man who goes to sleep for twenty years. (1167 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.2) (Lexile 410)



The Minotaur and the Maze: Theseus sets out to save the people from the monster of the maze. (744 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.5) (Lexile 450)



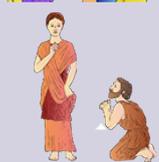
The Rainbow Serpent: A simplified retelling of the Aboriginal classic. (829 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.7) (Lexile 480)



The Pied Piper: A retelling of the famous tale about the piper, the rats, and the children. (983 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.8) (Lexile 440)



Medusa: Perseus is set an impossible challenge: bring back the head of the snake-haired monster whose very gaze is death. (1168 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.7) (Lexile 430)



The Magic Statue: Pygmalion scoffs at love, but is overheard by the goddess Aphrodite. She decides to teach him a lesson and he falls in love with the statue he carves of a woman. Eventually Aphrodite takes pity on him and turns the statue into a real woman. (864 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 4.2) (Lexile 410)



Hercules: A simplified retelling of the twelve impossible labours of the Greek hero. (1885 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 4.3) (Lexile 620)



Eliza and the Troll: A troll knocks on their door one night looking for help – his wife is having a baby. Eliza agrees to trust the troll and goes to help them. Their trust and bravery is handsomely rewarded with a sack of gold. (965 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 4.2) (Lexile 630)



The Faithful Prince: A traditional Indian folk tale about a prince who because of a vow agrees to marry a monkey. But is the monkey all she seems to be? A charming story of love and loyalty rewarded. (1175 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 4.7) (Lexile 790)

At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.



People Stories

(Extending
Literacy 3-6)



Danny's New Glasses: A story about bullying, with a happy ending. (825 words)
(Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 2.5) (Lexile 140)



Jack Likes Jam: Jack is the new baby, but nothing seems to stop him crying until they find out by accident one day that Jack likes jam. (698 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch: 3.6) (Lexile: 450)



A Laugh a Day: Another bullying story, in which the factor that fixes things is laughter. (838 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.1) (Lexile 320)



The Luckiest Catch: A sibling rivalry story, with a happy ending. (905 words)
(Zip Stage 6) (Flesch: 3.1) (Lexile: 430)



Crash: A sensitive and complex tale about a bus crash, and a little girl who saves a man's self esteem. (1200 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch: 3.4) (Lexile: 490)



Jamie's Secret: The secret is that Jamie can't read, though he pretends to. Only a sensitive teacher can solve the problem. (983 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch: 4.2) (Lexile: 530)



The Big Sister: A story of sibling rivalry, until the despised sibling is in danger. (528 words)
(Zip Stage 7) (Flesch: 3.8) (Lexile: 530)



Don't Mess With Jess: Jess and Lucy sit together in class, but they don't get along. That is until after messing up a class project on purpose they have to do detention together. (820 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch: 3.6) (Lexile: 560)



The New Girl: Jess has started at a new school while her Mum is recovering in hospital from an accident. However, she's being bullied by a group of girls. Then one of the bullies is involved in an accident outside Jess' house. She promises the bullying will stop. (991 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch: 3.6) (Lexile: 600)



Two Hours from Town: An outback family story, with a snake drama in the middle, and a lovely warm ending. (791 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch: 4.0) (Lexile: 690)



A Hug for Harriet: Harriet loves hugging people - though they don't necessarily like being hugged. A feel good story. (756 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch: 5.7) (Lexile: 740)

Meg's Mum Can't Fly: Meg is embarrassed because her Mum doesn't seem to have any special talents, so she makes one up. That she can fly. (1351 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch: 3.3) (Lexile: 790)

At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.



Scary Stories

(Extending
Literacy 3-6)



I'm not Afraid: Johnny agrees to spend the night in a castle which is said to contain a terrible monster. But Johnny is not afraid. Sure enough, the monster appears. (643 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 2.5) (Lexile 150)



The Bogeyman: Tom is a bad boy. One night, the Bogeyman turns up and puts him in a bag. Tom is about to be eaten, but manages to escape. This should teach him a lesson, but Tom goes back to his bad ways. The monster captures him a second time. (738 words) (Zip Stage 4) (Flesch 2.5) (Lexile 240)



A Monster at the Window: Kate is left on her own when her parents go out for the night. She reads her little brother Tim a scary story about a monster. But the story puts Kate in a susceptible mood. Soon she believes there is a monster at the window. What is it really? (370 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 3.9) (Lexile 610)



A Ghost Story: Dolph accepts money to stay the night in a haunted house. Sure enough, a ghost appears. However, it seems harmless and is eager to show him something important. This is a wonderful story, with daring, treasure and a love story as well. (1362 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.8) (Lexile 310)



In your Sleep: A scary yarn about spiders – who take their revenge! Beth is about to kill a spider when her father stops her. He explains by telling her the chilling story of what happened when he was a kid and the spiders taught him and his family a terrible lesson. (653 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 3.0) (Lexile 370)



There's a Train Coming!: A retelling of a true life train disaster. Two men were crossing a railway track when their truck became lodged. A train was approaching and the driver didn't know about the obstacle ahead. (900 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 3.4) (Lexile 370)



The Old House: Suzy is intrigued by an old house which is said to be haunted. She stays away, until one day when her cat goes inside. Not wanting to seem frightened, she and her sister Linda venture inside. Then Linda disappears! (546 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 4.0) (Lexile 480)



The Ghost Train: Katie and Jason go on the ghost train. There are various scary apparitions, but then a strange boy joins them in the car. Who is he and why does he suddenly disappear? (574 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 4.1) (Lexile 490)



Mad Tom: Ellie, Jess and Midge are staying the night in an old shearing shed. They begin to tell ghost stories. One is about the resident ghost of the property, 'Mad Tom'. Then the ghost appears, in person! (1469 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.7) (Lexile 440)



The Graveyard Ghost: Three boys, Pete, Mike and Joey, take a short cut through the graveyard. To their horror, they realise they are being followed. They run for their lives. What is it? (829 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 4.2) (Lexile 760)



The Hitchhiker: Jessica and her family pick up a strange girl. She says nothing – and then, incredibly, disappears. Later the shocking truth is revealed. (502 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 5.6) (Lexile 660)



The Toy Dragon: Bobby is a horrible child. One day, in a toy shop, he insists on having a toy dragon. The toy turns out to have an amazing secret, and Bobby gets his just deserts. (1362 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 6.1) (Lexile 790)

At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.





The Great Houdini: A simplified account of the life and stunts of the great escape artist, who risked his life in incredible ways. (924 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 4.3) (Lexile 400)



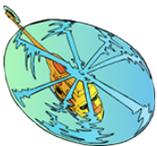
Subway Hero: A little girl falls onto the underground subway track, just as a train is coming. Who is brave enough to save her? Very exciting. (876 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 4.6) (Lexile 480)



Snake!: A man camping out in the jungle finds a deadly snake has crawled into his sleeping bag. How can he possibly get out? (1111 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 4.3) (Lexile 340)



Castaway!: The story of the man who inspired Robinson Crusoe – British sailor Alexander Selkirk, who was left alone on an island for years. Why was Selkirk abandoned, and how did he survive? (1037 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 4.6) (Lexile 500)



No Second Chances: Two people are trapped at the bottom of a cliff as night falls. If not rescued, they will freeze to death. A helicopter crew takes on the challenge, though it involves impossible risks. (932 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 4.6) (Lexile 530)



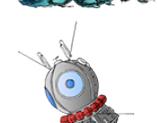
Capsize!: A retelling of the famous rescue of Tony Bullimore, whose yacht capsized far from the Australian mainland. (1068 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 5.1) (Lexile 510)



Kay Cottee's Adventures: The incredible voyage of Kay Cottee – a female hero. (972 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 5.2) (Lexile 580)



The Ghost Ship: This is a retelling of the most famous of all maritime mysteries – that of the 'ghost ship' 'Mary Celeste'. Why was the ship abandoned? What happened to its crew? Is the famous Fosdyk explanation believable? (1008 words) (Zip Stage 7) (Flesch 5.2) (Lexile 610)



Blast Off!: Yuri Gagarin was the first person to travel through space. He orbited the Earth for ninety minutes before surviving a dangerous re-entry. Yuri Gagarin became a hero around the world. (610 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 6.0) (Lexile 720)



The Titanic: A retelling of the famous maritime disaster. (1208 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 6.3) (Lexile 600)



The Mummy's Curse: The celebrated finding of Tutankhamen's tomb by Howard Carter – and the legend of the curse that went with it. (1046 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 6.4) (Lexile 520)



Blackbeard the Pirate: Blackbeard the pirate sailed the seas during the 1700's. Renowned for his cruelty, he terrorised other ships and his own crew. Until at last the British navy tracked him down and defeated him. (591 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 7.4) (Lexile 920)

At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.



Yucky Stories

(Extending
Literacy 3-6)



What's that smell?: Why call the family dog 'King'? Because he is the 'King of Farts'. The family finally work out who was making terrible smells, and find a way to deal with it. (370 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.4) (Lexile 370)



Spew: One day, Pat throws up in class. Fortunately the teacher remains calm and cleans up. She then finds creative ways to take the children outside for their lessons. Far from being horrified, the children are delighted. (500 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 2.8) (Lexile 500)



Arachnophoebe: Phoebe hates spiders. She has 'arachnophobia'. She is terrified when a spider falls on her book, and when a log her dad is chopping is full of spiders, and when she gets a doll as a present – with its own spider. How will she cope with a school project on spiders? (817 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 3.3) (Lexile 400)



The Gremlin Vine: Mum buys a new pot plant. It likes eating things, and has a nasty streak. As the vine gets bigger and meaner, it becomes a major problem. It bites. It fights with people. What to do to stop it? (1203 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 3.0) (Lexile 350)



Delicious: The narrator of this story wants to test out whether her family can tell the difference between human food and dog food. To her horror, her deception works. But while she has got away with her trick, there is a surprise ending waiting for her. (370 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 3.9) (Lexile 350)



Spaghetti Face: A girl enters a competition to eat strange things blindfolded. She can cope with dunking her face in spaghetti, but the next test involves live worms! Will she be able to go on? (705 words) (Zip Stage 5) (Flesch 3.7) (Lexile 705)



Slime soup: Sybil the witch is making slime soup. They make the soup, but the snails escape. What to do? Make soup from sneezes instead! (373 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 2.9) (Lexile 520)



Dog Poo: Anna stands in some dog poo. No matter what she does it won't go away, and the smell is awful. What will happen next? (570 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.1) (Lexile 570)



Dead Meat: The boy is madly in love with Elanora. How to get to her heart? She loves animals, so he buys Billy the goat. But Billy is not an easy pet. When Billy eats the ring he has bought for Elanora things seem to be getting completely out of hand. (1003 words) (Zip Stage 6) (Flesch 3.4) (Lexile 460)



Instant Spew: Tyson comes up with the wild scheme of making fake spew to sell in class. However, all is not going to go smoothly in Tyson's crazy scheme. (669 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 5.2) (Lexile 740)



Maggots: Jason has a huge problem with his next door neighbour, Travis, who is a liar and a thief. Jason sees a use for some custard tarts that have gone off. The maggots in the tarts might be a cure for Travis. (524 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 5.4) (Lexile 880)



Simon's Secret: Simon is a 'Phantom Farter'. The teacher seems powerless to stop Simon's smells. But the Principal finds a quick way to fix Simon's hobby. (689 words) (Zip Stage 8) (Flesch 6.1) (Lexile 870)



At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.

Read it a _____ and
has got _____
on the back of his
_____ from his
_____ of Fred

Simon is
O better than Adam
O smarter than Adam
O a football player
O a teacher



Comedy



Fractured Fairy Tales: Grandpa is begged by his granddaughter to tell a story. Reluctantly he starts off, and almost immediately gets the stories hopelessly mixed up. Cinderella meets the Billy Goats Gruff and Snow White, with snatches of Greek myth thrown into the ramshackle potpourri of mismatched narrative details. Funny and clever. (1435 words) (Zip Stage 9)



The Blog Monster: George's Dad is trying to be helpful by putting postings on a family blog. But it's more embarrassing than he can imagine. How to stop Dad wrecking George's life? (1925 words) (Zip Stage 9)



Get Away!: A simple retelling of Henry Lawson's famous yarn 'The Loaded Dog' (but without the nasty end). Three gold diggers make a 'bomb' to use in their mining operations. But their lovable mutt accidentally sets it alight in the camp fire. As the men scramble to get out of his way, the dog runs from one to the other to offer it as a gift. (2567 words) (Zip Stage 9)



Getting Even: Simon is bored and dangerously creative. To get back at his overbearing Maths teacher, he works up a spectacular act of revenge. It succeeds so well that he soon goes into business as 'The Avengers' (a one man vigilante operation). However, his skill draws the attention of the bully boys. Soon Simon finds himself pushed into acts of vengeance that are not so innocent. (3780 words) (Zip Stage 10)

Mystery



The Missing Angel: A fabulously expensive golden angel carved by Renaissance artist Donatello is being exhibited in the museum. Security is extraordinarily tight, with closed circuit TV and laser alarm systems. However, incredibly, the statue vanishes. This is the story of how the criminal and his accomplices are uncovered. (3350 words) (Zip Stage 10)



The Case of the Deadly Orchid: A group of people gather at a country mansion to hear about what a very wealthy but disliked man will leave his dependents. But he never appears. He is soon discovered dead. Who and why? A classic whodunit with multiple suspects and a secret motive. (3500 words) (Zip Stage 10)



Cell 13: A brilliant Professor accepts the 'impossible' task of escaping from a locked cell inside a maximum security prison. In the process he amply demonstrates the power of deduction and improvisation. This is a famous 'closed room' mystery. (4955 words) (Zip Stage 10)



The Dancing Men: A retelling of a Sherlock Holmes story. A distraught husband turns up to see Holmes, bringing with him pieces of paper bearing an odd, and indecipherable, code. The man knows his wife is under threat. Holmes works on the puzzle, until he realises that the man is himself in the most terrible danger. Holmes and Watson go to try and save the day, and to unmask the culprit. (5992 words) (Zip Stage 10)

At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.

Read to a _____ and
see get _____ hair
on the back of his
_____ nose in
_____ of Paul

Who is
() taller than Adam
() shorter than Adam
() a football player
() a teacher

Horror



The Open Window: A nervous young man has been sent to the countryside to recuperate after a nervous collapse. He presents himself at a grand house. While he is waiting to be received, he is told a series of harrowing stories by a young girl – with hilarious consequences. (998 words) (Zip Stage 9)



Trapped: A boy is playing on the beach, while his mother sunbathes. He discovers a sea cave and decides to explore it. What he doesn't expect is that the rising tide will prevent him going back the way he has come. Will this be a fatal adventure? (1230 words) (Zip Stage 9)



Three Wishes: A soldier returns from India with a mysterious mummified foot. It has magical properties – the power to grant wishes. Reluctantly he gives it up, warning that the wishes come true in strange ways, and often with a sinister twist. The rest of the story sees the working out of one set of fatal wishes. (2402 words) (Zip Stage 9)



Black Knight: A young couple have bought a beautiful house in the country. It has a long and dark past. Gradually they learn about the local legend of a black knight, whose effigy lies in the church on top of the hill. On Halloween, the knight is said to rise from the dead. A chilling and really spooky tale. (2766 words) (Zip Stage 10)

People and Values



Mimi's Gift: Rosie finds herself lost in Paris. She's annoyed with her family, who seem uninterested in her. However the crisis causes a major and welcome change in her life, and her relationships. (1216 words) (Zip Stage 9)



The Stones: Myra is the new girl at school and it turns out that she has magical powers. To everyone's surprise she sees off the class bully and saves the life of a classmate. A charming story of magic realism. (1603 words) (Zip Stage 9)



Nan: Nan is forgetting things. Her family are worried and take her to the doctor. Sure enough, she is diagnosed with dementia. This gentle and revealing story charts the fatal progress of a common disease with moving insight. (2375 words) (Zip Stage 9)



The Drifter: The time is the First World War. Meredith Burgess' husband is away fighting. One day a stranger appears. Meredith treats him kindly. He is grateful, and eventually goes. Then terrible news comes. However, Meredith's kindness is rewarded in the most extraordinary way. (2211 words) (Zip Stage 9)

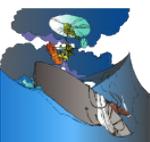
True Tales



The Vanishing Author: Agatha Christie is known around the world as the creator of Hercule Poirot, and the author of 80 bestselling detective stories. She has sold more books than anyone else in history. But the author herself once disappeared, in a bizarre story that could have come from one of her own novels. (1060 words) (Zip Stage 9)



Runaway Ghost Train: One night in New Jersey, a locomotive was mysteriously started. The 'ghost' loco, with no one in charge, came out of the railway yards and jumped the points, beginning a frightening journey down the main line. How could the authorities stop it before it caused massive casualties? (2045 words) (Zip Stage 9)



Mayday: One night, a yacht was rolled and dismasted in a freak storm. The skipper was seriously hurt in the accident and the only other crew, his wife, radioed for help. But who could possibly rescue them in such conditions? (2211 words) (Zip Stage 10)

At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.

Read to a _____ and
ask your _____ to
ask the teacher of his
_____ from the
_____ of that

Read to a _____ and
ask your _____ to
ask the teacher of his
_____ from the
_____ of that

Adventure



Sinbad: Sinbad's adventures take him to many exotic lands, and involve innumerable close calls with death. We read about the roc (giant bird) which carries Sinbad off, flesh eating monsters, being trapped in a cage and saved up for dinner. (2211 words) (Zip Stage 9)



The Lost Sword: Max, Jo and Brian are invited to an exhibition in Paris at which the fabled and priceless sword of Joan of Arc is unveiled. To everyone's horror though, the sword is suddenly stolen from under their very eyes. What follows is a breakneck race through the city as the kids try and track down the thieves. (5486 words) (Zip Stage 10)



Nightmare Island: Max and his friends are in a light plane flying back from a tropical resort in the China Sea when the plane crash lands on an island. However, the island is also home to a band of bloodthirsty terrorists. Can the kids escape the island and somehow defeat the bad guys? (5244 words) (Zip Stage 10)

Family and Friends



The Best of Both Worlds: Amy is aware that her mother Laura has been depressed ever since Amy's father left her for another woman. She decides that she needs to act as a matchmaker. When Laura finds the right man Amy is delighted, except that this will have a major impact on Amy's own life. (2020 words) (Zip Stage 9)



Romeo and Juliet: Shakespeare's immortal play – the most famous romance in history. Romeo loves Juliet, but is unable to marry her, since their families are at war. She becomes his wife in secret. Then tragedy strikes. When Romeo accidentally kills Juliet's cousin, he is banished. A plot to reunite them goes terribly wrong. (2022 words) (Zip Stage 10)



Sisters: Mardi has a big sister, Bella, who is restless to get out and experience life. Her mother is trying to protect her from harm, but Bella sees her mother's care only as interference, and wishes to rebel. One night, Bella sneaks off to a party which she has been forbidden to attend. (2500 words) (Zip Stage 10)

Fantasy and Sci Fi



The Magic Shop: A father takes his small son to a magic shop. The very strange shopkeeper does some wonderful, indeed unbelievable, tricks. But there is something really odd about this man, and the shop itself. Could it be that the magic is real? (2820 words) (Zip Stage 9)



The Sphinx and the Riddles: Out in space, an alien craft sends out an emergency signal. A squad of men go to check it out. There, they discover a sinister robot, 'Sphinx', guardian of a massive treasure. He will yield entry to it only to whomever can correctly answer his three riddles. (3172 words) (Zip Stage 10)



Dream Maker: Dan is in New York when he meets a strange man. The man offers him access to a wonderful virtual reality program. In this dream world, Dan meets a beautiful woman, Galatea. He falls for her. However, he must come back. And in returning, he accidentally destroys the dream machine. (4660 words) (Zip Stage 10)

At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.



Information



Superstitions: Why do we worry about Friday the 13th? Why is breaking a mirror a problem? What's wrong with black cats? Why do actors say 'break a leg' and everyone says 'Touch wood'? (2012 words) (Zip Stage 9)



Body Language: Did you know that people can recognise 250,000 different facial expressions? Or that there are clear signals that a person is lying? What's the difference between 'piggy eyes' and dilated pupils? A trip into the most ancient language of all. (2632 words) (Zip Stage 10)



Serendipity: Most people are not exceptionally 'lucky'. But occasionally someone will make a world-changing breakthrough. This is the story of 'happy accidents' that have improved our lives. (2560 words) (Zip Stage 10)

Biography



The Real Mother of Harry Potter: Joanne Rowling was a single mother living in poverty when she started 'Harry Potter'. Against all the odds, she finished the story that would make her famous and rich. (1790 words) (Zip Stage 9)



The White Mouse: During the Second World War, Nancy Wake volunteered for service in France which was controlled by the Nazis. Joining the 'resistance' movement, she sabotaged arms trains and helped cripple the enemy. The story of a great Australian hero. (2063 words) (Zip Stage 9)



Walt Disney: The world of entertainment was completely changed by the 'father of the cartoon', Walt Disney. Yet Walt's story shows that he succeeded only through a combination of talent and remarkable persistence. (2848 words) (Zip Stage 9)

Argument



Computer Games: Computer games have a bad press. Do they encourage violence? Are they 'bad for you'? Or it is all fearmongering? (2000 words) (Zip Stage 10)



Animal Rights: Many people believe that we treat animals badly. Some act on their beliefs and refuse to eat meat. Others say it is silly to worry, since animals are 'not human'. (2050 words) (Zip Stage 10)



Body Image: Why are girls expected to be 'beautiful'? What is the effect of all the constant images in magazines and on TV of gorgeous looking models and actresses? Does it harm girls' self esteem? (2211 words) (Zip Stage 10)

Expository



Urban Myths: An urban myth is a story that you've heard told, which is so weird that it couldn't possibly be true. Yet people believe it. Such legends include the 'Hook' (a lunatic sneaking up on lovers), the 'Babysitter' story (a madman upstairs), 'The Hitchhiker' and even crocodiles in the sewers. (1345 words) (Zip Stage 9)



The Pyramids: How did the ancient Egyptians build the pyramids, the only remaining 'Ancient Wonder of the World', with such primitive tools? This explains how they were built, and why they are significant. (1810 words) (Zip Stage 9)



What's so funny?: Why do we laugh? What are the various types of humour? How do tastes in jokes change between cultures and between men and women? A hilarious and insightful study of comedy in all its forms. (2200 words) (Zip Stage 9)

At the end of every story are two interactive comprehension tests, for immediate feedback.



Specialised English Lessons

(Developing Literacy F-2 & Extending Literacy 3-6)



Arguments

Argument texts are used to present a point of view. The argument is usually directed to a specific audience. Arguments have a set structure.

Let's look at an example. You have been asked to write an argument on the topic: 'Why Australians need to be tolerant of individual differences'. What things do you need to know about constructing the argument?

Asking Nicely

Activities

Filter for year level or curriculum content.

Create a Digital Text

A digital text is one created using a computer. You can create digital texts by using a special program on a computer called a "word processing" program. This lets you put words and pictures on a screen. You use a keyboard and mouse and then print it out using a printer.

Activities

Effective Group Work

Working together with others on a task can be a really effective learning experience. To participate effectively in a small group there are a number of things you can do. Here are some key ideas to make sure the group works well.

Getting involved:

- Offer your ideas clearly and confidently
- Don't expect others to agree with everything you are saying
- Be aware of how your comments may affect others
- Be considerate and respectful of the feelings and emotions of others in the group

Listening to others:

- Listen carefully to what others are saying
- Take turns to offer ideas
- Respond in a positive manner to others' ideas even if you don't agree
- Try to reach a consensus about different opinions
- If the discussion starts to go 'off track' try to redirect the conversation back to the task at hand

How can you work effectively in a small group?

Activities

Ziptales offers a Specialised English Lessons library – 150 lessons, all with text, voiceover and classroom activities – written by our educational consultants to explicitly teach the major concepts of the English curriculum. All compatible with PCs, Macs, tablets and interactive whiteboards. These SEL lessons are to be found in the Preschool library (*Ready, Set, Learn*), the Developing Literacy library and the Extending Literacy library.

NAPLAN Style Tests

(Extending
Literacy 3-6)



The Ziptales NAPLAN Style Tests are a way to prepare and diagnose children for the NAPLAN. This module emulates the real test in range of questions, level of difficulty and the overall look.

There are eight tests in this module:

Year Three READING TEST - two fully interactive tests (36 items each)
LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS TEST - two fully interactive tests (46 items each)

Year Five READING TEST - two fully interactive tests (35 items each)
LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS TEST - two fully interactive tests (50 items each)

Each test is a live, interactive, 'real time' exam, where the student responds to questions and chooses answers from those shown onscreen. He/she completes the test, and the teacher instantly gets an emailed print out of the results (a line by line breakdown of correct and incorrect answers). This allows the teacher to determine what areas of reading and language conventions need remedial action.

Also included are multiple lessons on spelling, grammar, punctuation, reading and writing.





Grammar

Nouns: What are nouns? Common nouns, proper nouns and those difficult to remember irregular plurals are covered. (491 words) (Flesch 4.0)

Pronouns: Subject pronouns (eg I), object pronouns (eg me), possessive pronouns (eg yours) and emphatic pronouns (eg myself). (888 words) (Flesch 3.9)

Verbs: Why use verbs? The lesson covers finite verbs (eg ran), infinitives (eg to run), auxiliary verbs (eg have), participles (eg running) and tense. (638 words) (Flesch 3.4)

Adverbs: What are adverbs? The differences between adverbs of manner (eg angrily), time (eg now) and place (eg here). (460 words) (Flesch 3.8)

Adjectives: Common adjectives (eg beautiful), adjectives of quantity (eg whole), distinction (eg this) and question adjectives (eg which). (598 words) (Flesch 4.2)

Prepositions: Prepositions of time, place, direction and other variations are explained, together with common mistakes (to avoid). (706 words) (Flesch 3)

Sentences: What is a predicate? How do you make a 'simple' sentence into a 'complex' sentence (conjunctions and other devices). (1000 words) (Flesch 4.2)

Punctuation

Capital letters: Why we need capitals: beginning sentences, marking proper nouns and the special case of 'I'. Common mistakes are reviewed. (810 words) (Flesch 4.9)

Full stops: Uses of the full stop - to end a sentence, as well as abbreviations, question marks, exclamation marks and ellipsis. (556 words) (Flesch 3.6)

Commas: The major uses of commas are explained: for lists, adjectives, clauses, to separate out a name and for quotations. (414 words) (Flesch 4.8)

Quotation marks: This lesson explains marks for direct speech. How they are dealt with inside sentences is described in detail. (872 words) (Flesch 4.2)

Apostrophes: Apostrophes of contraction (eg don't) and of possession (eg Jane's), as well the most common mistakes. (750 words) (Flesch 5.7)

Comprehension

Text Types: a series of lessons about key text types

Reading about facts: Two text examples are analysed - using six common questions to sift the key facts out of all the detail. (1372 words) (Flesch 6.2)

Reading narratives: How to break narratives down into the basics? This unit explains how, with two complex examples. (1931 words) (Flesch 3.3)

Reading arguments: This lesson breaks argument down into its essentials, and offers clues for analysing what a writer or speaker is saying. (1585 words) (Flesch 5.6)

Skill Builders

(Extending
Literacy 3-6)



Visual literacy: How do we decode diagrams, tables and cartoons? This lesson visits the essentials of visual communication. (873 words) (Flesch 5.3)

Key Reading Strategies

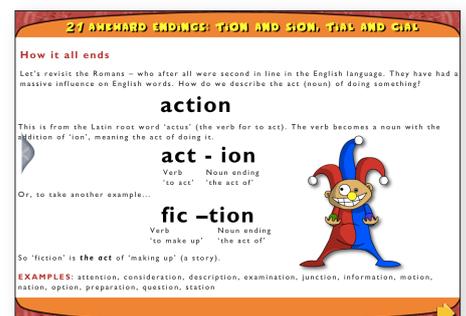
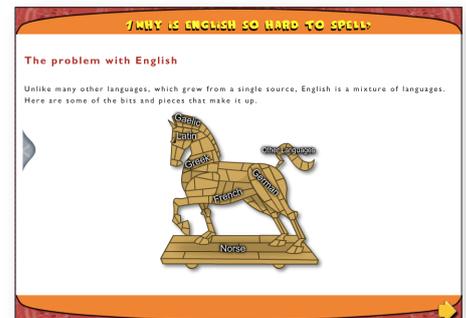
A set of lessons for 'higher order' or 'advanced' comprehension, featuring explicit teaching of concepts, with multiple text passages, comprehension quizzes to gauge understanding and follow up analysis.

- 1 How to Connect Ideas (1036 words) (Flesch 4.5)
- 2 How to Sequence Events (1020 words) (Flesch 4.3)
- 3 How to Find the Main Idea (1264 words) (Flesch 5.0)
- 4 How to Identify Cause and Effect (1118 words) (Flesch 6.0)
- 5 How to Interpret Ideas (1120 words) (Flesch 3.6)
- 6 How to Separate Fact from Opinion (1130 words) (Flesch 5.0)
- 7 How to Make Predictions (1066 words) (Flesch 5.2)
- 8 How to Recognise the Author's Point of View (1112 words) (Flesch 6.0)



Spelling

- 1 Why is English so hard to spell? (740 words)
- 2 Short and sweet (short vowels) (146 words)
- 3 The magic 'e' (280 words)
- 4 Magic endings ('er' or 'ing') (282 words)
- 5 Double trouble (ball, bill, etc) (296 words)
- 6 Double headers (eg accident or innocent) (260 words)
- 7 At the double ('l' before an ending) (128 words)
- 8 The problem of c and g (280 words)
- 9 Predictable plurals (218 words)
- 10 Weird plurals (222 words)
- 11 Time travel – tense endings (eg play – played) (550 words)
- 12 What goes before – prefixes (318 words)
- 13 What goes after – suffixes (430 words)
- 14 The problem of 'y' endings ('ice' and 'icy') (290 words)
- 15 The twins able and ible (225 words)
- 16 The famous case of 'i' before 'e' (170 words)
- 17 Disappearing letters (eg 'glamour' and 'glamorous') (250 words)
- 18 Problem consonants ph and gh (304 words)
- 19 Problem consonants – wh and th (320 words)
- 20 Problem consonants ch and tch (200 words)
- 21 Awkward endings – tion and sial, tial and cial (340 words)
- 22 Problem vowels – ee, ea, ai and ay (476 words)
- 23 Tricky clusters – au, aw, or, oa, our and oor (340 words)
- 24 Tricky clusters – air, are and ear (280 words)
- 25 Tricky clusters – ou, ow, ue and ew (340 words)
- 26 Silent initial letters – kn, gn, wr and wh (266 words)
- 27 Silent letters – b, d, g, h, l, p, u and w (340 words)
- 28 Homophones (964 words)
- 29 Really odd spellings (eg 'cough') (486 words)
- 30 The fearful fifty – 50 problem words to master (334 words)



Write Time

(Extending
Literacy 3-6)



Deconstructing a story: How does a story work? This animated 'digital documentary' 'models' the classic ingredients in storytelling, using a full length story and detailed point by point commentary. (1300 words) (Flesch: 5.3)



How to write a story: This lesson introduces students to the three P's of story writing (People, Problem and Plot), with examples, and then explains how the three S's (Show it, See it and Surprise them) can make any story far more exciting. (1198 words) (Flesch: 5.2)



How to write arguments: This lesson explains contentions, arguments and proofs - using 'Saving the environment' as its example. Also covered are paragraphing and language use. (855 words) (Flesch: 5.1)



How to write an Essay: This lesson introduces students to topic analysis, planning, drafting and editing an essay. (1712 words) (Flesch: 6.4)



How to write about Information: This lesson introduces students to organising, researching and presenting information - and how to make the material 'come alive'. (1083 words) (Flesch: 5.4)



How to write instructions: This lesson introduces students to common procedural writing types - with copious examples. (512 words) (Flesch: 5.5)



How to write poetry: This set of lessons looks at twelve popular and easy-to-use techniques for generating original poetry. In each case, a poem models the technique, which students then put into practice themselves. (2868 words in 12 separate units) (Flesch: 4.6)



How to write a Recount: This animated 'digital documentary' introduces students to common recount forms. (1550 words) (Flesch: 5.1)

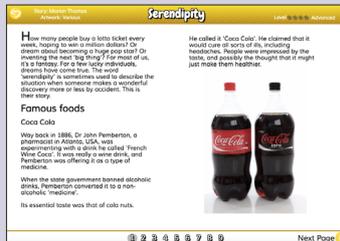


Ziptales and Text types

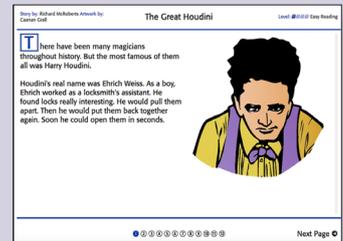
Ziptales covers a wide range of text types mandated for study:



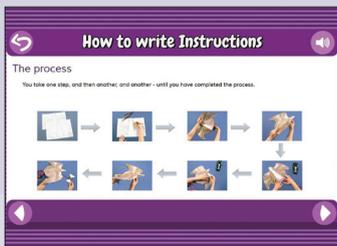
Narrative recounts - fiction across 28 genres at all levels



Informational reading



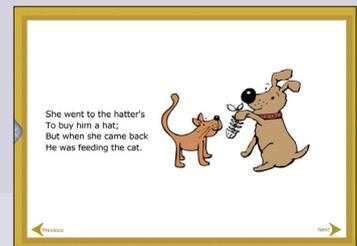
Narrative recounts - non-fiction



Procedural reading



Interactive Puzzles



Poetry / verse



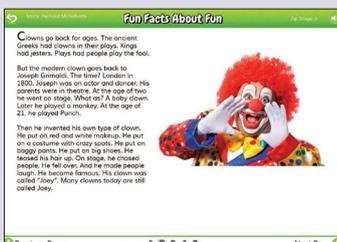
Visual text types - 'graphic novels'



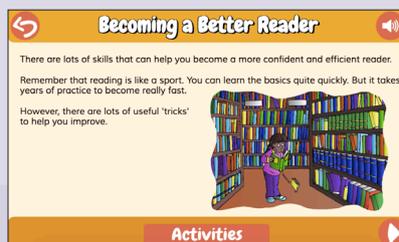
Argument



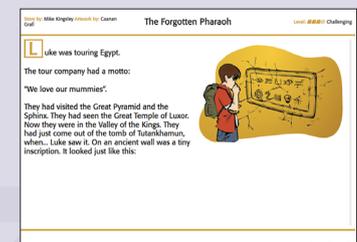
Biography



Factual texts



Expository



Description - all stories

The Write Time, Skill Builders and Language Arts Lessons modules (200+ texts) are all expository in nature.



ZIPTALES

7

ZIPTALES



ZIPTALES®