

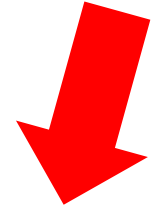
# Professional Learning Guide

How to use Ziptales in your school



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

# What does Ziptales offer our school?



*(1) Open the Ziptales Home Page.*

**Ziptales is an Australian online literacy resource offering teaching and learning tools for students and teachers in all levels of the primary school.**

*(2) Log in to Ziptales via the top right hand yellow Login button. (The Students' Dashboard will appear.)*



# Student Dashboard

There are two main home pages – the **Students' Dashboard** as seen here – accessible by both students and teachers.

*(3) Open the drop down box under the green STUDENT button in the top left hand corner and select TEACHER (one of the four alternative views).*



# Teacher Dashboard

And a **Teacher Dashboard** – for teachers and administrators only.

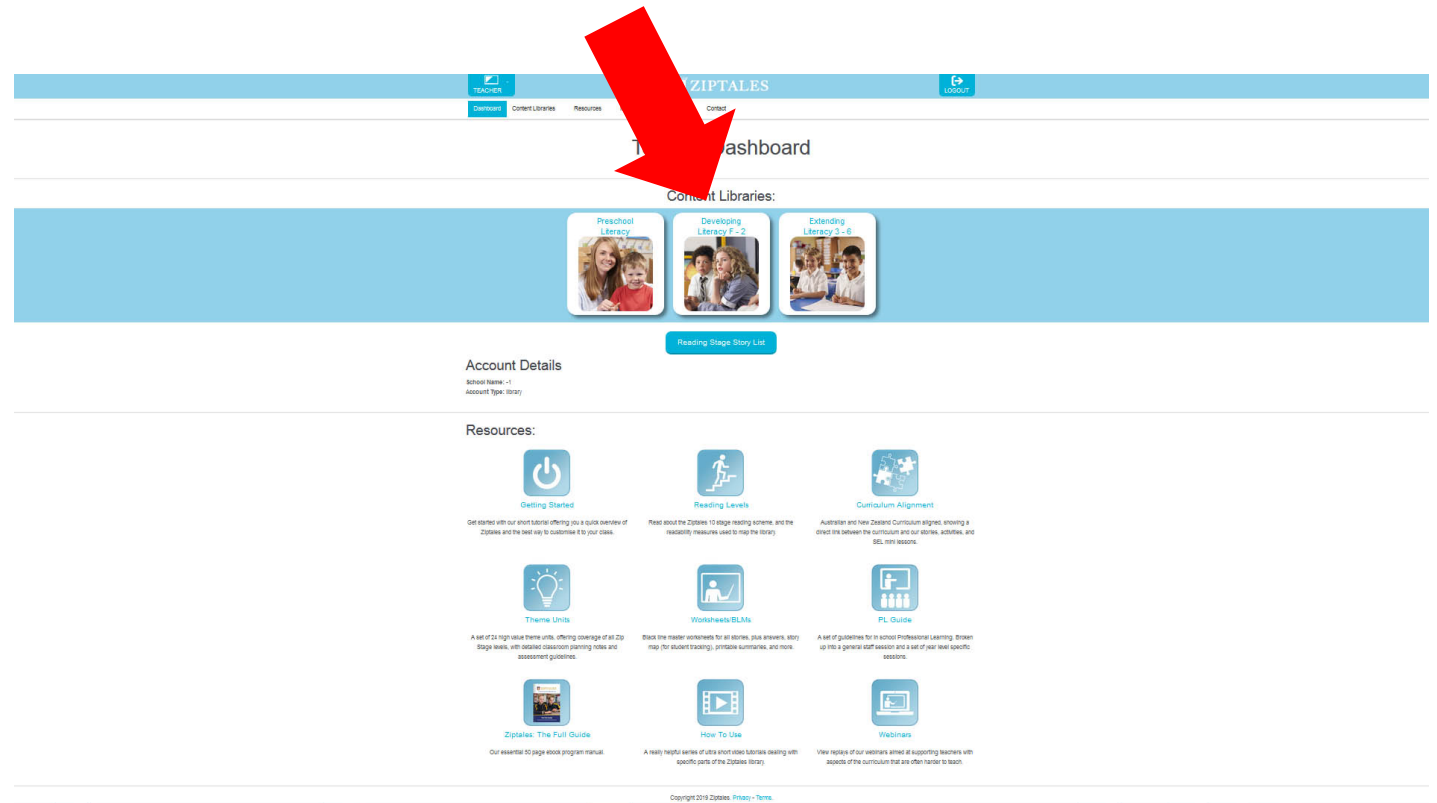
(4) Look at the three content or 'library' buttons under the Content Libraries heading.

There are three main content libraries:

- **Preschool Literacy**
- **Developing Literacy (Foundation\*/ Prep/Kindergarten – Year 2)**
- **Extending Literacy (Years 3 – 6).**

These content libraries offer a variety of online stories and helpful teaching resources.

(5) Open the Developing Literacy (F-2) link.



\* Ziptales uses the Australian Curriculum name for the first year of school

# Developing Literacy (F-2)

For example, students in lower primary can access a variety of animated stories in **Storytime**, **Timeless Tales**, **Easy Readers** and **Junior Readers**.

All have voiceovers and come with follow up worksheets.

Let's look at an example.

(6) Open Easy Readers – Short Vowels, **Bad Cat**.

The screenshot shows the ZIPTALES website interface. The top navigation bar includes a 'TEACHER' tab, the ZIPTALES logo, and a 'Welcome, Ziptales Master Admin!' message with a 'LOGOUT' button. Below the navigation bar, the main heading is 'Developing Literacy F-2'. Under this heading, there is a section titled 'Reading & Enrichment' with a description: 'These resources are designed especially for Developing Literacy F-2 (Year 1 and Year 2). These are the early years, where children are being taught to read, and can deal with simple texts. The texts here vary from learning to read, phonics based texts, and on to more complex texts. There are a more than 250+ texts in this section.' To the right of the text is a grid of 12 resource icons, each with a magnifying glass and a share icon. The icons are labeled: ABC, Storytime, Timeless Tales, Puppet Plays, Easy Readers, Junior Readers, Joke in a Box, Puzzle Palace, Rhyme Time, Make and Do, Happy Schools, and Specialised English Lessons (SEL). A large red arrow points from the 'Reading & Enrichment' text area to the 'Easy Readers' icon.

# Example of Developing Literacy (F-2)

(7) Note how to turn the voiceover on and off via the speaker button in the top right hand corner.

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

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

(8) Navigate via the red back arrows back to the Developing Literacy Page.



# Worksheets

(9) Click on the Worksheets link under the Easy Readers icon (blue button showing an earmarked paper icon). Scroll down to display full list.

**Worksheets** are available for each story and can be accessed under each of the content icons. These are photocopiable masters for use at the teacher's discretion.

(10) Click on the blue cross in the top right corner of the Worksheets pop up page (to close it). Click on the Extending Literacy (3-6) button (bottom of page).

The screenshot shows the ZIPTALES website interface. The top navigation bar includes 'TEACHER', 'ZIPTALES', 'Welcome, Ziptales Master Admin!', and a 'LOGOUT' button. The main content area is titled 'Developing Literacy F-2' and features a 'Reading & Enrichment' section. This section contains a grid of 12 content icons: ABC, Storytime, Timeless Tales, Puppet Plays, Easy Readers (highlighted with a red arrow), Junior Readers, Joke in a Box, Puzzle Palace, Rhyme Time, Make and Do, Happy Schools, and Specialised English Lessons (SEL). Below the grid, a 'Worksheets – Easy Readers' pop-up window is open, displaying a list of stories categorized by phonics and literacy skills. The categories and stories listed are:

Short Vowels	Consonant Blends	Simple Digraphs	Long Vowels
Bob the Frog	Crazy Dreams	Shower Fun	Would You Like?
I Wish	Play All Day	When I Was One	Follow The Rules
Oh No	At The Playground	What is Bigger Than?	Five White Mice
Bad Cat	Have You Ever...	Charlie the Chatterbox	The Amazing Ape
Is It Fun	Little Green Crab	The Three Little Blackbirds	Close Your Eyes
Let's Get Wet		Thumps and Thuds	The Lonely Dragon
Yum, Yum, Yum			



# Extending Literacy (3-6)

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

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

(11) Click on the Worksheets link under the Adventure icon. Scroll down to display types of worksheets available.

The screenshot shows the ZIPTALES website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Dashboard, Content Libraries, Staffroom, More, Help / Support, and Contact. The main heading is 'Extending Literacy 3-6'. Below this, the 'Reading Library' section is displayed, featuring a grid of 16 genre icons. A red arrow points to the 'Adventure' icon. Each icon has a magnifying glass and a book icon, indicating that resources like quizzes and worksheets are available for each genre.



# Worksheets (Years 3 to 6)

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

These are photocopiable masters for use at the teacher's discretion.

(12) Click on the blue cross in the top right corner of the Worksheets pop up page to close it, and then open the Adventure icon.



## Worksheets – Adventure

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

### General Worksheets

**Live Dinosaur Tour**  
[Worksheet 1 – Have You Heard of Homographs?](#)  
[Worksheet 2 – Dinosaur Quiz – What Am I?](#)  
[Worksheet 3 – Dinosaur Research](#)  
[Worksheet 4 – My Life As a Dinosaur](#)

**Good Dog**  
[Worksheet 1 – Crazy Contractions](#)  
[Worksheet 2 – The Key to Mapping!](#)

**Lost in the Rainforest**  
[Worksheet 1 – Using Commas](#)  
[Worksheet 2 – Animal or Plant?](#)  
[Worksheet 3 – Writing a Recount](#)

**Dr Wow in Atlantis**  
[Worksheet 1 – Swapping Synonyms](#)  
[Worksheet 2 – Facts about Mammals](#)

**Galaxy Chase**  
[Worksheet 1 – Galaxy Spell Check](#)  
[Worksheet 2 – Story Sequencing](#)  
[Worksheet 3 – Character Profiles](#)  
[Worksheet 4 – Space Navigation](#)

### Learning Support Worksheets

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

### Word Work Worksheets (NEW)

[Live Dinosaur Tour](#)  
[Good Dog](#)  
[Lost in the Rainforest](#)  
[Dr Wow in Atlantis](#)  
[Galaxy Chase](#)  
[The Pirates' Cave](#)  
[The Eye of the Idol](#)  
[The Forgotten Pharaoh](#)

### Spelling and Vocab Worksheets

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

### Answer Sheets

[Cloze and](#)  
[General V](#)  
[Learning S](#)

### Worksheet 2

## Dr Wow

### The Thrill of Time Travel

*But his best invention was the TADIS. Like Dr Who's TARDIS, it involved a box that travelled in time. "It stands for Time and Date in Sync," said Uncle Harry, wiping his glasses with excitement.*

One of the most exciting ideas in Science Fiction has always been the concept of travelling in time.

The two best known examples of this are "The Time Machine", a short novel by HG Wells (published in 1895), which has since been made into two films – and "Dr Who", the world famous British television series which was first broadcast in November 1963 – and is still running 50 years later.

There are other stories too. Some say that the story of "Rip van Winkle" (by Washington Irving, 1819) is a "time slip" story, and that the celebrated novel "A Christmas Carol" (by Charles Dickens, 1843) is another, as is "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" (by Mark Twain, 1889) – though they are all strictly speaking fantasies as opposed to "science fiction" (there is no explanation scientifically in any one of them for how the characters get around in time).

(\* "Rip van Winkle" appears in Ziptales, under Myths and Legends)

**Your task:**

1. Find out as much as you can about one of these stories with research (in books and online).
2. Write out a short summary of the story you have chosen (50-100 words), or in the case of Dr Who, of a typical episode.
3. Find some pictures to illustrate the story.
4. Present your summary and pictures to the class.

© Ziptales

# Example of a story

(13) Select the story Dr Wow and click to begin. Turn the sound off (via the speaker icon in the top right corner) and click on Page 10 of the story using the list of numbers at the bottom of the page. Point out the **Fill the Gaps** and **Multiple Choice** links.

The stories all have **Fill the Gaps** (cloze) and **Multiple Choice** comprehension activities for students to complete after reading the story. These provide instant feedback on how well the story was understood. A low score sees the child prompted to 'Try again'.

(14) Note the Zip Stage 5 reference in the top right corner of Page 10.

# Ziptales reading levels scheme

All Ziptales stories are levelled according to the unique **Ziptales Reading Levels** scheme.

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

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

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

*(15) Use the back arrows to return to the Extending Literacy home page. Select the STUDENT tab (top left) to open the Student Dashboard home page.*

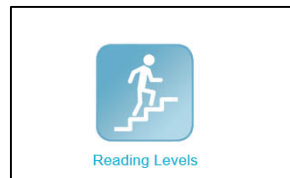
# The Reading Level Test

(16) Point out the Reading Level Test button.

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

This takes just a few minutes, and recommends an appropriate reading level – not too easy, not too hard.

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



# Ziptales reading levels map

(17) Check out the Zip Stage Stories List underneath the Content Libraries buttons.

Once students have been assigned a **Zip Stage**, by the test, or the teacher, they can directly access level-appropriate titles using this list.

(18) Click on the Zip Stage Stories List. Then select the Zip Stage 5 button.

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

(19) Scroll down to see the titles available for Zip Stage 5.

The image shows two screenshots of the Ziptales website interface. The top screenshot is the 'Student Dashboard' with a green header containing 'STUDENT', 'ZIPTALES', and 'LOGOUT'. Below the header, it says 'Student Dashboard' and 'Content Libraries:'. There are three content library buttons: 'Preschool Literacy', 'Developing Literacy F-2', and 'Extending Literacy 3-6'. Below these are two buttons: 'Reading Level Test' and 'Zip Stage Stories List'. A red arrow points to the 'Zip Stage Stories List' button. The bottom screenshot is the 'Zip Stage Story List' page. It has a green header with 'STUDENT', 'ZIPTALES', and 'LOGOUT'. Below the header, it says 'Zip Stage Story List'. On the left, there is a vertical list of buttons for 'Zip Stage 1' through 'Zip Stage 10'. A red arrow points to the 'Zip Stage 5' button. To the right of the buttons, there is a grid of story thumbnails. A red arrow points to the 'Loose Undies' story thumbnail, which is highlighted with a red border. The thumbnails include titles like 'Tortured by Fairies', 'Loose Undies', 'Hiccups', 'Starkers', 'Time to Own Up', 'The Fool Falls', 'Accused', 'Spaghetti Face', and 'What's That Smell?'.



# Specialised English Lessons (SEL)

(20) Return to the Teacher Dashboard. Open the Extending Literacy link, scroll down and click on the Specialised English Lessons (SEL) icon.

Ziptales also offers detailed **Specialised English Lessons**. These lessons cover all outcomes of the English curriculum from Foundation/Prep – Year 6. Each lesson is animated with a voiceover and offers follow up classroom activities.

(21) Click on the red Filters button (on the left hand side) and select a year level.

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

(22) Return to the Teacher Dashboard.

The screenshot shows the Ziptales Specialised English Lessons (SEL) interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'BACK' and 'ZIPTALES Specialised English Lessons (SEL)'. Below this is a 'FILTERS' button and a 'Close' button. The main content area is divided into sections: 'YEAR LEVEL' (Foundation, Years 1 / 2, Years 3 / 4, Years 5 / 6) and 'THEME' (Asking Questions, Authors Use of Language, Comprehension Skills, Digital Texts, Editing Skills, Expressing Opinions, Grammar, Language Features, Multimodal Texts). The 'YEAR LEVEL' section has 'Years 3 / 4' selected. The 'THEME' section has 'Different Texts, Same Theme' selected. The main area displays a grid of lesson cards, including 'Better Writing', 'Capturing Readers', 'Conversations (Part A)', 'Conversations (Part B)', 'Describing a Setting', 'Developing Reading Skills', 'Did You? Didn't You? (Questions)', 'Different Texts, Same Theme', 'Digital Texts', and 'Enjoying Texts'. A red arrow points to the 'Different Texts, Same Theme' card.

# Ziptales Curriculum Alignment matrix

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

The curriculum document (word for word) is displayed on the left. The appropriate Ziptales activity designed to help teachers satisfy that outcome or goal is displayed (with live links) on the right.

(23) Return to the Teacher Resources section of the Teacher Dashboard. Open the Webinars link. Scroll down to display the webinar titles.

The screenshot shows the Ziptales website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'TEACHER' and 'ZIPTALES' logos, and links for Dashboard, Content Libraries, Staffroom, More, Help / Support, and Contact. Below this is the 'Curriculum Alignment' section. It features three columns for different curricula: Australian Curriculum (Foundation | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6), New South Wales Syllabus (Early Stage 1 | Stage 1 | Stage 2 | Stage 3), and New Zealand Curriculum (Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3). A large red arrow points from the 'Year 5' link in the Australian Curriculum column to the 'Australian Curriculum - Year 5' page. On this page, another red arrow points from the 'Language variation and change' section to the 'Related Ziptales Activities' list, which includes links to 'Specialised English Lessons' and 'Why is English Spelt So Strangely?'. A 'DOWNLOAD PRINTABLE PDF' button is also visible.



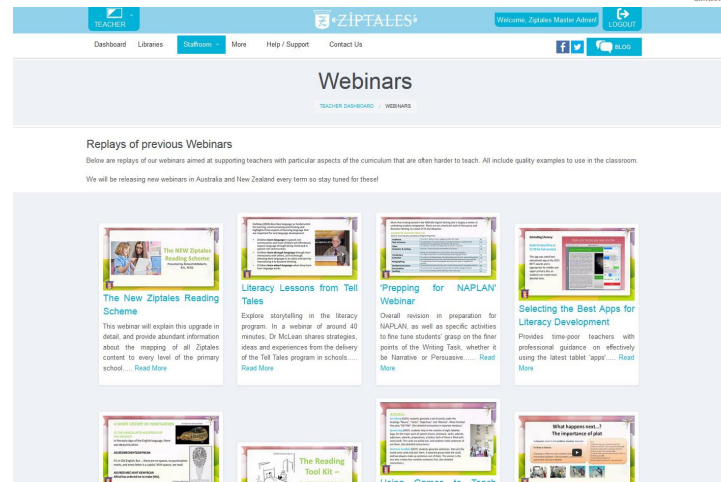
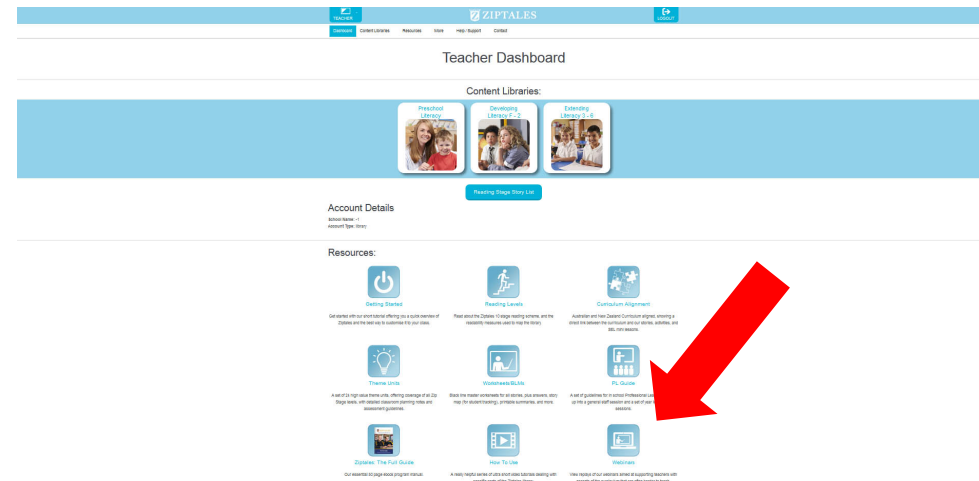
# Ziptales teacher education webinars

Also available is a selection of **Webinars** on a wide range of literacy related topics.

The webinars run for approximately 25 minutes and are ideal for professional development sessions.

They are presented by a range of professional teachers and academics on subjects of relevance to practising teachers. Each webinar comes with a downloadable PDF summary.

(24) Return to the [Teacher Dashboard](#).

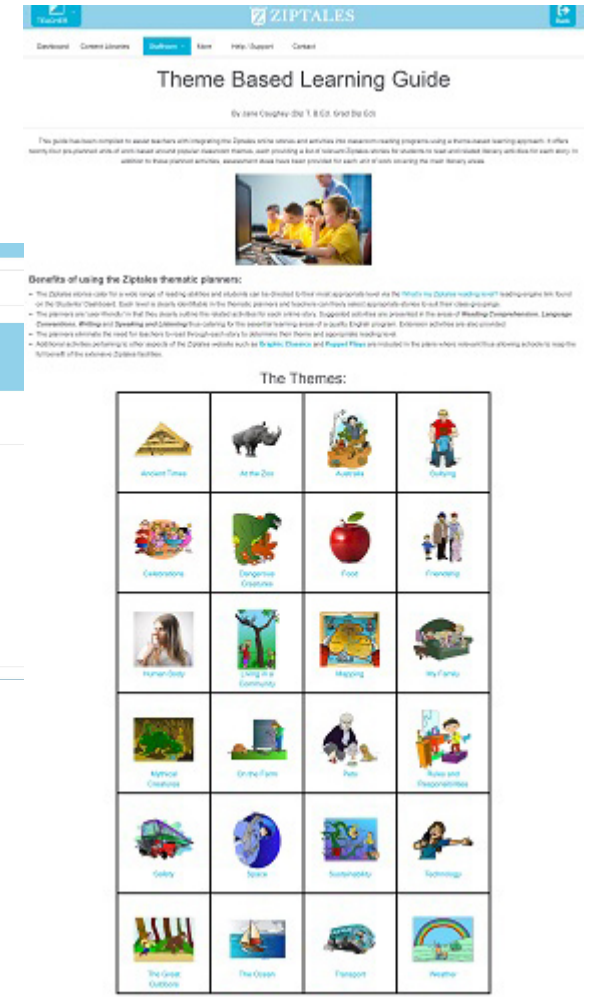
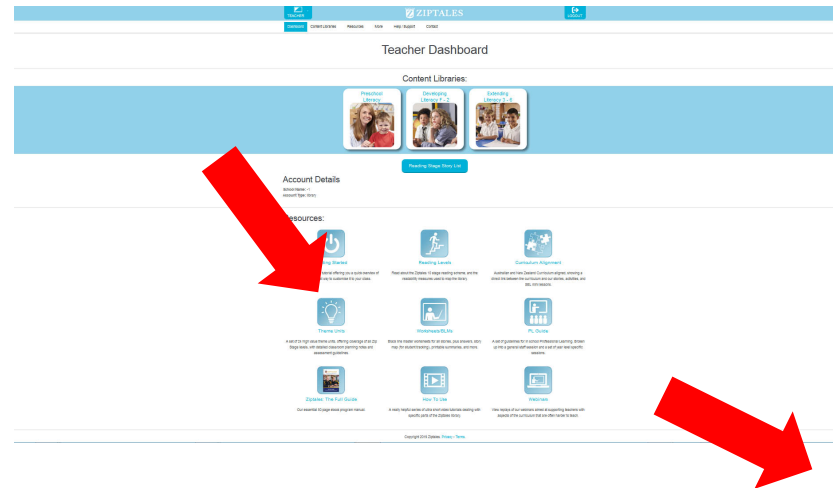


# Using Ziptales with classroom Themes

(25) Open the Theme Units link. Scroll down to display content.

The **Theme Units** link offers 24 pre-planned units of work based on popular classroom themes such as Sustainability, the Human Body and Dangerous Creatures. Each unit identifies Ziptales story titles relevant to the theme and provides group reading activities for comprehension, language conventions, writing and oral language. Assessment tasks are also included.

(26) Return to the Teacher Dashboard.



# Important teacher information

On the **Teacher Dashboard** page, you will also find important information on

(1) **Ziptales Reading Levels** (the reading scheme and reading 'engine')

(2) story **Worksheets** (multiple photocopiable handouts for every story)

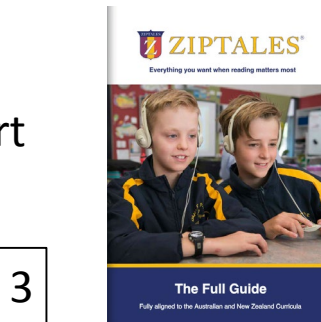
(3) a **Full Guide to Ziptales** (a 'page turning' PDF manual for everything on the site)

(4) and **Useful Videos** (a series of very short visual presentations on key content areas).

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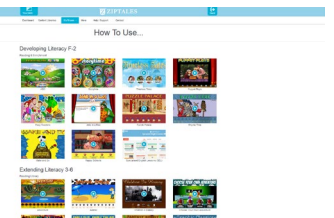
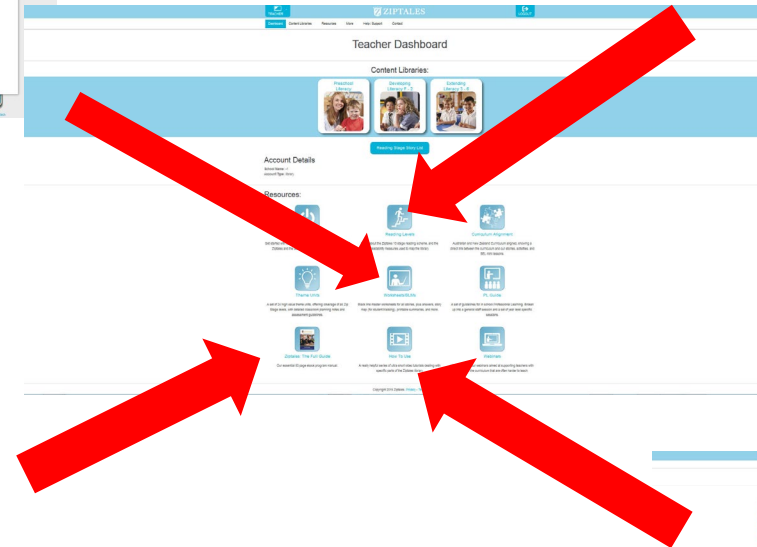
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Zip Stage 7		500 - 700	4.0 - 5.5
Zip Stage 8		700 - 950	5.0 - 6.5
Zip Stage 9		950 - 1100	6.0 - 7.0
Zip Stage 10		1100+	7+

2



3

4



# And for more information...

You can access this **Contact** link to ask questions or provide feedback to Ziptales staff (including an educational consultant) via phone (1800 004 442) or e-mail ([admin@ziptales.com](mailto:admin@ziptales.com)) if required.

***Thank you for taking the time for this overview of Ziptales.***

***End of presentation***

