

"At least 50% of a phonics lesson should be spent on applying a skill to reading and writing. It's in the application that the learning sticks. Decodable texts are the critical application tool."

— Wiley Blevins, Ed.M.
Literacy Expert and Benchmark Education Author

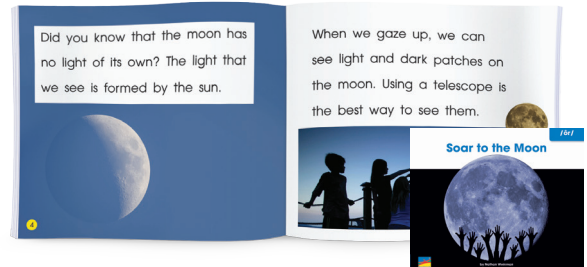
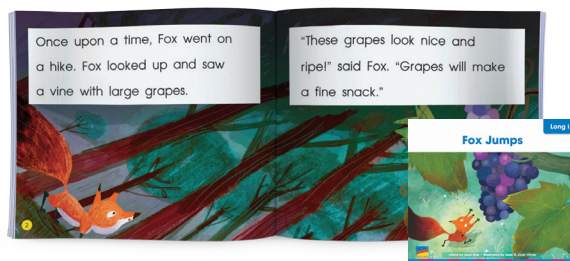
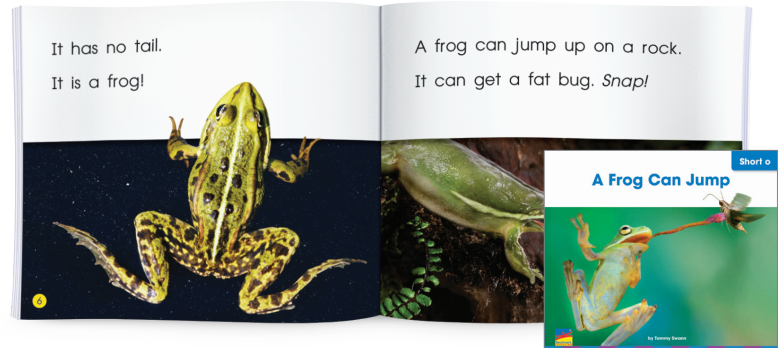


Decodable Readers

Decodable texts are a necessary instructional tool during phonics lessons.

It is crucial that they be well-written, quality texts with the following characteristics:

- Instructive—A high percentage of words can be sounded out to develop mastery of basic phonics skills.
- Comprehensible—Text is natural-sounding and includes common English sentence patterns.
- Engaging—Stories are fun and informative, and worth reading, talking about, writing about, and rereading to develop fluency.
- English and Spanish



Guided Reading Level	Recommended Phonics Skill	Recommended Phonics Skill	Benchmark Education Decodable Readers
A	Alphabet (basic letter sounds and introducing the alphabet principle)	Children read patterned text to learn concepts of print and some basic high-utility sight words such as <i>I, can, see</i> .	KINDERGARTEN The ABC Train
B	Alphabet (basic letter sounds, highlighting awareness of short vowel sounds, and securing knowledge of all consonant sounds)	Children read patterned text, but the phonics instruction includes the reading of simple 2- and 3-letter short vowel words.	KINDERGARTEN A to Z Animals • On the Farm
C	Alphabet (basic letter sounds and introducing the concept of blending sounds to read words using one or more short vowels)	Children read patterned text with a few short vowel VC and CVC words.	KINDERGARTEN I Can Do It • I Am Max
D	Short vowels a, i (full blending is expected from here on)	Children begin reading texts that contain larger numbers of decodable words. Instruction can also include inflectional endings, consonant blends, and plurals.	KINDERGARTEN I Am Big • Who Am I? • Sam Likes the Farm • Sam Likes the Town • We See • Tam and Sam See • We Go, Go, Go! • We Sat • Nan Nat, and Sam • We Like to Plant • In School • A Fat Pumpkin • Pat and Pam • It Can Pop • Cam the Cat • It Is Hot! • Bob Can Go GRADE 1 Pals Help • We Like to Bat • Get a Big Pot • A Cub Is Fun

Using Decodable Readers at Home or School

Guided Reading Level	Recommended Phonics Skill	Recommended Phonics Skill	Benchmark Education Decodable Readers
E	Short vowels o, u, e	Instruction can also include consonant digraphs.	KINDERGARTEN What Is It? • Rob at School • Red Hens • Meg Likes Bugs • Where Is Dan? • We Have Fun • Lin Can See • Jim and Jan Have Fun • Look at the Kids • Mom and the Cubs • Val and Vic • Mr. Max's Job GRADE 1 Crops for Us • A Frog Can Jump • When Red Hen Fell • Red at the Vet • Big Bus Gets Stuck • Bud, Gus, and Dot • Let's Sled! • Glenn the Robot • Mr. Drake's Plan • Make It Safe • Shop for Socks • Kids Can Fix It • Grant's Coat • Let's Clean It Up! • I Wish, I Wish • Trish's Birthday • Chad and Patch • A Picnic Lunch • Splat and Sprat • Splash on the Pond
F	Final e (use minimal contrasts to help students grasp the new concept: hat/hate)	Reinforce consonant blends and consonant digraphs.	KINDERGARTEN At Work • Mr. and Mrs. Mole • Ned Makes a Home • It Can Go Up! GRADE 1 At the Lake • Blake and Shane Play Around the Globe • All Kinds of Holes • Mole City • We Live in Space • Five Kittens • Fox Jumps • A Hat for Pete • Zeke's Garden
G	Long vowels a, e (multiple spellings from here on)	Contrast short and long vowel sounds.	GRADE 1 Painting in May • Gail and Gram • Grandpa's Party • Bees, Bees, Bees! • Lee, Dee, and Zee • Beach Fun
H	Long vowels o, i, u	Instruction can also focus on introducing simple multisyllabic words.	KINDERGARTEN It Is Time to Tug GRADE 1 How We Go • Toad's Big Boat • Coaches Help Us • Window Washers • Way Up High • Bright Lights • Flying High • Why?
I	r-Controlled vowels er, ir, ur, ar, or, ore Diphthongs oi, oy, ou, ow Variant vowels oo, au, aw	Instruction can also focus on introducing simple multisyllabic words.	GRADE 1 Mark and the Stars • Sparkling Stars • Search for Food • The Sun Is Important • The North Wind Blows • Soar to the Moon • Red Bird Flies • Thunderstorms • Our Planets • Stars in the Sky • Our Town • All Around Town • Roy and Joy • Earthworm's Soil • One Cool Day • Brooms Sweep • All About Storms • Food Grows • What Does Paul See? • Crows Caw • The Hermit Crab • In the Woods • Lights at Night • The Sounds of the City

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