

# Jolly Phonics Readers and Book Bands

The Jolly Phonics Readers are a series of decodable reading books which provide the best start for children just starting to read. At every stage the words are within reach of the children as they use their letter sound knowledge and the tricky words already taught. Each level of the readers builds on knowledge and skills previously learned so that they are able to practise blending until it is the automatic response to working out new words.

Gradually the 42 letter sounds, main 19 alternative letter sounds and more frequently-occurring tricky words are taught, which prepares the children to read more complex books.

Once there is fluency with reading and the decoding of new words, at this level, the children are able to read anything that interests them and is within their understanding: they become free readers.

Book Bands were created for an entirely different method of teaching, based on the number of words and the difficulty of these words, many of which are not decodable. The philosophy of this method was to encourage the children to read books by memorising the words and using picture clues, predictable text and some incidental phonics to support their reading.

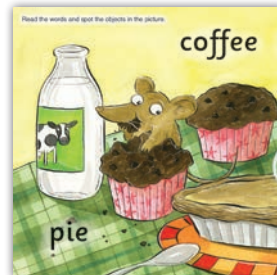
The *Read and See* books use single regular words and are perfect for blending and sounding practice. The *Little Word Books* and *Orange Readers* give children the opportunity to blend and sound words in the order that the sounds are taught.

Once children have mastered these early skills they are then ready to move to the *Jolly Phonics Readers* Level 1. Each level of the readers builds on the previous, gradually introducing more tricky words and the main alternative vowel spellings.

- 149 books for children to explore
- Tricky words are shown in each book
- Light type is used as a guide for those few letters that should not be sounded out, such as the <b> in lamb
- Reading comprehension topics included in each book
- Handy checklist which details the skills and knowledge requirements for each level of reader is included in every book



From *Read & See, Pack 1: First Words*



From *Little Word Books: Mmm, Snacks*



From *Orange Readers: Dad's Red Tent*

From Level 1: *Drums and Drummers*

From Level 2: *Running*

From Level 3: *The Fox and the Stork*

From Level 4: *Beach Rescue*

From Level 5: *Rainforest Birds*

Progression Chart	Books per pack	Pages per book	Tricky words per book	Alt. spellings per book	Sentences per page
<b>Read &amp; See</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 word</b>
<b>Little Word Books</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1-3 words</b>
<b>Orange Readers</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7*</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Level 1</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Level 2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Level 3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Level 4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Level 5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>

\* Tricky words only in set 7 of the Orange Readers

Research clearly shows that the highest results are achieved with synthetic phonics and decodable readers. Fewer children need remedial help, boys are as good as girls and EAL students are able, on average, to read and write as well as other children. While some children can learn to read well using readers in book bands, all children can learn to read well using phonics and decodable readers.

If it is necessary to use non-decodable books then we recommend waiting until the children have reached a good level of fluency and decoding has become the automatic response to unknown words. Ideally, this should be after the children are confidently reading the Jolly Phonics Green Level Readers, or equivalent decodables. At this point they are also able to read book bands Level 5 and above easily.

Many libraries contain a wealth of both decodable reading books and banded readers. Where the mixing of decodable and banded readers is unavoidable, we suggest the Jolly Readers can be loosely matched to the book bands as follows:

The diagram shows a grid of book covers for different reading levels, with colored ovals on the left and right indicating the corresponding book band colors:

- Level 0:** Pink Band or Band 1
- Level 1:** Pink/Red Bands or Bands 1 & 2
- Level 2:** Yellow Band or Band 3
- Level 3:** Blue/Green Bands or Bands 4 & 5
- Level 4:** Orange/Turquoise Bands or Bands 6 & 7
- Level 5:** Purple Band or Band 8

Students who learn to read through phonics can rapidly progress with confidence to banded readers but it is important to note that they are two very different methods of teaching and it is not easy to draw a comparison.

It is important to make sure that the children know any tricky words which are not decodable before you ask them to read them, and do not ask them to do anything which is beyond their skills. This can undermine their confidence and take the enjoyment out of reading.