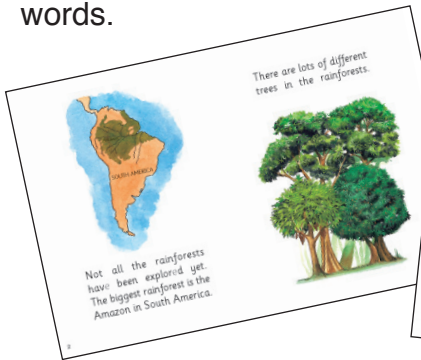


Jolly Phonics Readers and Book Bands

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, then the children are able to read anything that interests them and is within their understanding: they become free readers.

	Books per pack	Pages per book	Tricky Words per book	Alternative Spellings per book	Sentences per page
Read & See Pack 1 & 2	24	8	0	0	1 <small>word per page</small>
Level 1	18	8	11	0	1
Level 2	18	12	20	0	2
Level 3	18	16	40	5	4
Level 4	18	16	61	18	4

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.

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.



In the *Read and See* books, words can be decoded and then the pictures revealed for enjoyment and comprehension.

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:



Pink/Red Band or Band 1 & 2

Yellow Band or Band 3

Blue/Green Band or Band 4 & 5

Orange/Turquoise Band or Band 6 & 7

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.