

STORYBYTES

FREE Samples



RA 10-11 yrs

LEVEL 5

1 USER LICENCE: For use by one person (the buyer) only

StoryBytes - Level 5 - RA 10-11 yrs

CONTENTS

#	TITLE	SYNOPSIS	PAGE
1	Bart and Orville	There was a special bond between Bart and his cat Orville. So when Orville died...	4
2	The Rabbit	Strange happenings in the rabbit warren.	5
3	A Long Lost Father	Charlotte's father left home before she was born. Now it seems she is going to meet him...	6
4	Tim's Torment	A few days ago Tim barely knew girls existed. Now he has these strange feelings.	7
5	Baby Hoatzin	What is this strange creature slithering along the branch towards the baby Hoatzin's nest?	8
6	The Washing Machine	No one treats Harvey the 50" Plasma TV the way they treat the washing machine.	9
7	Do What You Are Told	Chilling consequences for a young girl who doesn't like being told what to do.	10
8	Pet Problems	Claudine and Ashley have overcome their terrible track record with pets...or have they?	11
9	Princess Penelope	Princess Penelope is not your ordinary princess...	12
10	Sam	Interesting things always happen when Sam goes on one of his history binges.	13
11	My iPhone	A young girl alone in a foreign city and someone has just stolen her iPhone...	14
12	The Vampire Bat	The feeding habits of a vampire bat - yes they do exist!	15
13	Batman	The Caped Crusader is not feeling his usual self. All he wants to do is sit at home and	16
14	The Hunter	A young boy, hunting in the forest for his family, hears a distressed cry...	17
15	My Mother is a Spy	I can prove it. My mother really is a spy, a secret agent, a trained assassin...	18
16	Going Home	A young man living in a foreign culture, weighs up his future.	19
17	My Friend Neil	After staying the weekend, Neil no longer wants to be the storyteller's friend.	20
18	Oscar	No one can withstand his charms ... and he's only 11 months old.	21
19	The Wave	A frightening insight into the power of the sea for a young swimmer.	22
20	Aliens	If you know what to look for you will see them everywhere - aliens!	23
21	Arnie Armadillo	Showcasing some of the truly remarkable features of the armadillo.	24
22	Diary of a Cat	The life and times of a family cat from the cat's point-of-view.	25
23	Middle Ages - Part 1	A family's struggle for survival in the Middle Ages.	26
24	Middle Ages - Part 2	Continued ...	27
25	Facing the Music	Making a start at a new school is always tricky. Sometimes it helps if you have a plan.	28
26	Acid, Teeth and	Everything is in place for the school Science Fair and then at the last minute, disaster	29
27	HouseMaid	Steve finds that the new app he downloaded is a bit more than he bargained for.	30
28	The Silver Dragon	Dad gets to ride the Silver Dragon - one of the longest surf rides ever.	31
29	Herman's Fireworks	Herman isn't going to be put off by Mum's fireworks ban this year.	32
30	The Yeti is Coming	All winter, signs have been appearing around town warning about a coming visitation ...	33
31	Ruler of the Universe	Sometimes even the Supreme Ruler of the Universe needs a day off.	34
32	Earth Hour	Earth Hour has been a great success - but now the power has not come back on!	35
33	Comic Commitment	A chance to go to the infamous Comic-Con Conference. But has the storyteller gone too	36
34	The Hoods	When it comes to Little Red Riding Hood it seems there has been a distortion of the facts.	37
35	Flying	Imagine what might happen if you really convinced yourself that you could fly.	38
36	The Tortoise	Kindly Mrs Maple is very concerned about Mandy's missing tortoise.	39
37	Parents	Aunty Alice is mysterious about the twins' parents. Were they really killed in a car crash?	40
38	Muffy	Muffy the 'wonder dog' turns out to be a bit of a disappointment.	41
39	Lou on the Farm	Life on the farm was very difficult for Lou and her dad. Maybe things are about to change.	42
40	Marcel Mouse	Marcel Mouse goes looking for his missing father and encounters his worst nightmare.	43



© **SharpReading - 1 USER LICENCE**

These resources are licenced for use by 1 person (the buyer) only.

Use outside of this licence is prohibited.

What are StoryBytes and InfoBytes?

These resources were originally developed to provide teachers with short pieces of text that could be completed in one guided reading session. They are especially formatted for our SharpReading approach to reading instruction but can be used in all sorts of reading approaches.

Our SharpReading Guided Reading lessons for Stage 3-6 are aimed at habituating deep processing skills, so four paragraphs usually take around 25 minutes, an ideal timeframe for a guided reading lesson. Follow-up activities provide independent responses for the students who have processed the text deeply. Visit our website for a more extensive explanation of the way you can use StoryBytes and InfoBytes.

Why no illustrations?

Our understanding of the developmental progression of the reader is that it generally takes about two years of instruction before the beginning reader develops true fluency with decoding strategies. During this time it is important for the text they are reading to include picture prompts which helps to scaffold the constructing of meaning.

However, once decoding strategies have been habituated, (often at a reading age of around 7-8 yrs) the reader is now free to work on the skills required to construct meaning at a deep level. This is what we aim for in SharpReading Stages 3-6 and our research tells us that this process is aided by the absence of picture prompts.

What do the levels mean?

There is a lot of debate about the validity of 'Reading Ages'. We maintain that, despite the controversy, they still provide a quick, understandable benchmark for measuring achievement. The levels referred to here coincide with the levels in our Informal Prose Inventory testing procedure and line up with PAT Levels (Progress Achievement Test - NZCER and ACER).

These levels assigned to the text allow for the quick identification of appropriate reading material once an instructional reading age (or level) has been identified.

Why are there only some levels?

You will notice that the even numbered levels are not included. While this means that there are some jumps between levels (eg 10-11 yrs to 12-13 yrs) we think this is a realistic progression. Besides, trying to write nine levels of difficulty for a story would have been excruciating!

For more about our SharpReading approach to reading instruction visit our website www.sharpreading.com. We specialise in teacher workshops or you can do the training online.

Characteristics of the Levels

Level 1 (RA 7-8 yrs): Mainly simple sentences with one or two compound sentences included. Familiar vocabulary. Concepts are clearly explained without the need for much inference.

Level 3 (RA 8.5-9 yrs): The progression from Level 1 is that the content remains similar but the sentence structure becomes more varied thus slightly more challenging. There are still usually only two ideas in a sentence for the reader to hold onto but some more challenging vocabulary.

Level 5 (RA 10-11 yrs): Text at this level reflects the ability of the reader to hold onto more complex ideas over longer sentences. Vocabulary challenge is increasing and meaning may be spread over several sentences. This level is the most often used for students with a 10+ reading age as it provides variety and interest in sentence construction while not overwhelming the student who is developing Stage 3 SharpReading skills - constructing meaning at a deep level.

Level 7 (RA 12-13): This text provides a challenge for the more able primary aged children without putting them in the cognitive overload that can occur with Level 9. Sentence structure is more varied and complex with increasingly challenging vocabulary.

Level 9 (RA 14+ yrs): Here we have attempted to provide **very** challenging text to test your most able readers. Text at this level includes complex sentence structures and high end vocabulary. However, just because a student can read text at this level, it doesn't mean they can process and understand it adequately. Guided reading should not be a vocabulary lesson so use this level with some caution.

Bart and Orville by Hilton Ayrey

Orville was Bart's much-loved cat. From the very first day, when Bart found him curled up in a basket beside his bed, Orville made it very obvious that he was different from other normal, everyday cats. When Bart arrived home from school, Orville would be lying in wait in the tree overhanging the driveway. He would pounce on Bart and they would tumble to the ground in a wild play fight. When Bart collapsed into his favourite bean bag to watch TV after a hard day at school, Orville always sat on his head, purring loudly. They both seemed happy about that.

Orville was also a very curious cat. Many, many times he had to be rescued from the strangest places. He was fearless and never thought for a moment about the consequences of his actions. There was the time Bart's mum went on a shopping trip to the supermarket. She got out of the car and found Orville clinging to the car roof with a wild look in his eyes. His fur was swished back against his body from the ride. Then there was the time he took a nap in the tumble dryer. Someone loaded it up and turned it on without noticing him. He seemed to be delighted by that.

Unfortunately, Orville's colourful life came to a sudden end one day when he was run over by a car. Bart decided to do something special to celebrate Orville's adventures. After a few days of mourning, Bart began work on his project. Many may think that there is something seriously wrong about stuffing a beloved cat and turning it into a remote controlled helicopter. But Bart was sure that Orville would have approved.

This wasn't such a difficult project once he got started. Bart took his dead cat to the taxidermist and explained that he wanted Orville to be stuffed with his legs spread wide apart. Then he fixed Orville to a frame for stability and attached upwards-facing propellers on each of Orville's outstretched paws. After a number of trials the day came when Orville lifted off. With Bart manning the controls, Orville hovered above the ground and then rose into the sky. The legend of Orville the cat would live on.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

1. Make up your own title for this story.
2. Make a flow chart for the story
Characters - Setting - Problem - Feelings - Action - Outcome
3. Write about what you think will happen next to Orville.
4. Story Map - draw a map of the settings in this story showing where all the action happens.
5. Design your own remote controlled pet helicopter with labels showing all your interesting ideas.

The Rabbit by Hilton Ayrey

The rabbit twitched his nose and sniffed the morning breeze. All around him other rabbits were feeding, nibbling at the grass. Now and then a rabbit would sit up on its hind legs with its ears up, checking for danger. If there was anything wrong they would all scatter back to their burrows. From where he was sitting in the entrance to his burrow, the rabbit could see no sign of danger.

But something was out of place. The rabbit felt anxious. He wasn't worried about the heavy fog clinging to the valley below him. That was normal for this time of the year. There was no smell of predators to worry about and no warning flap of hawk wings. It was the silence that bothered him. Where was the sound of the birds singing as they hunted for worms? And what was that ominous rumbling noise that had now broken the silence and was getting closer and closer!

Everyone else had heard it now. The rabbits had stopped feeding and were upright, alert, looking in the direction of the sound. And then they reacted, their white tails flashing as they raced to the safety of their burrows. The rabbit didn't move from his spot. He was too curious. He had to know what this strange noise was all about. Why was the earth shaking in his peaceful valley? What was causing this grey smoke to billow into the sky and why was it getting nearer every minute?

Suddenly he could see it all. Over the hill came strange machines that he had never seen before, roaring and gleaming in the sun. They stopped not far from his rabbit hole and the men riding them climbed down and gathered around with lots of talking and waving of arms and large pieces of paper. One of the men banged a sign into the ground. If the rabbit had been able to read he would have known that life in the valley was going to change forever. The sign said, "New Housing Project".

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

1. Make up your own title for this story.
2. Make a flow chart for the story.
Characters - Setting - Problem - Feelings - Action - Outcome
3. Write about what you think will happen next to the rabbit.
4. Story Map - draw a map of the setting in this story showing where all the action happens.
5. Design a rabbit warren that can't be destroyed by earth moving equipment. Use diagrams with labels to show your interesting ideas.

A Long Lost Father by Hilton Ayrey

A tall, thin man was behind the shop counter deep in conversation with a lady customer. Once again, Charlotte examined the photograph in her hand and made a comparison to the man in the shop. Maybe he used to have plenty of hair. Maybe his old looking face had once been smooth and unwrinkled. Maybe when he was a lot younger he had looked like the man in the photo standing next to her mother - the man she now knew was her father.

She lingered outside and then slid into the shop through the open door as the customer left. She browsed some items on a sale table while sneaking a closer look. The man looked up from his work and smiled.

"Good morning. Having a good day?" he said pleasantly. She reddened as she nodded a quick yes and ducked behind a bookshelf to try and calm her nerves but that was impossible. She waited for a few minutes, pretending to look at some books, and then made a quick exit back out into the street.

On the other side of the road she found a table and some chairs outside a cafe and collapsed into one. She was bewildered and confused by the way she was feeling. She was angry with this man who had abandoned her before she was born. But her mind also wandered back to all those days sitting under the counter at her mum's work. She had played with Peggy her doll while her mother made sandwiches and served coffee. And she had always hoped that she would one day meet her father.

Her scattered thoughts were interrupted by someone approaching her table. The man from the shop had followed her across the road and now he stood there, shuffling nervously from one foot to the other. "Excuse me ... you're Charlotte aren't you?" he mumbled. An awkward silent followed, neither one knowing what to do next. She had imagined this moment so many times and now it had happened. This man, her father, was standing right there in front of her. Her mind drew a complete blank...she didn't know what to think or what to say.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

1. Make up your own title for this story.
2. Make a flow chart for the story.
Characters - Setting - Problem - Feelings - Action - Outcome
3. Write the next paragraph in this story. What will happen next?
4. Story Map - draw a map of the setting in this story showing where all the action happens.
5. Design a wanted poster for Charlotte's missing father.