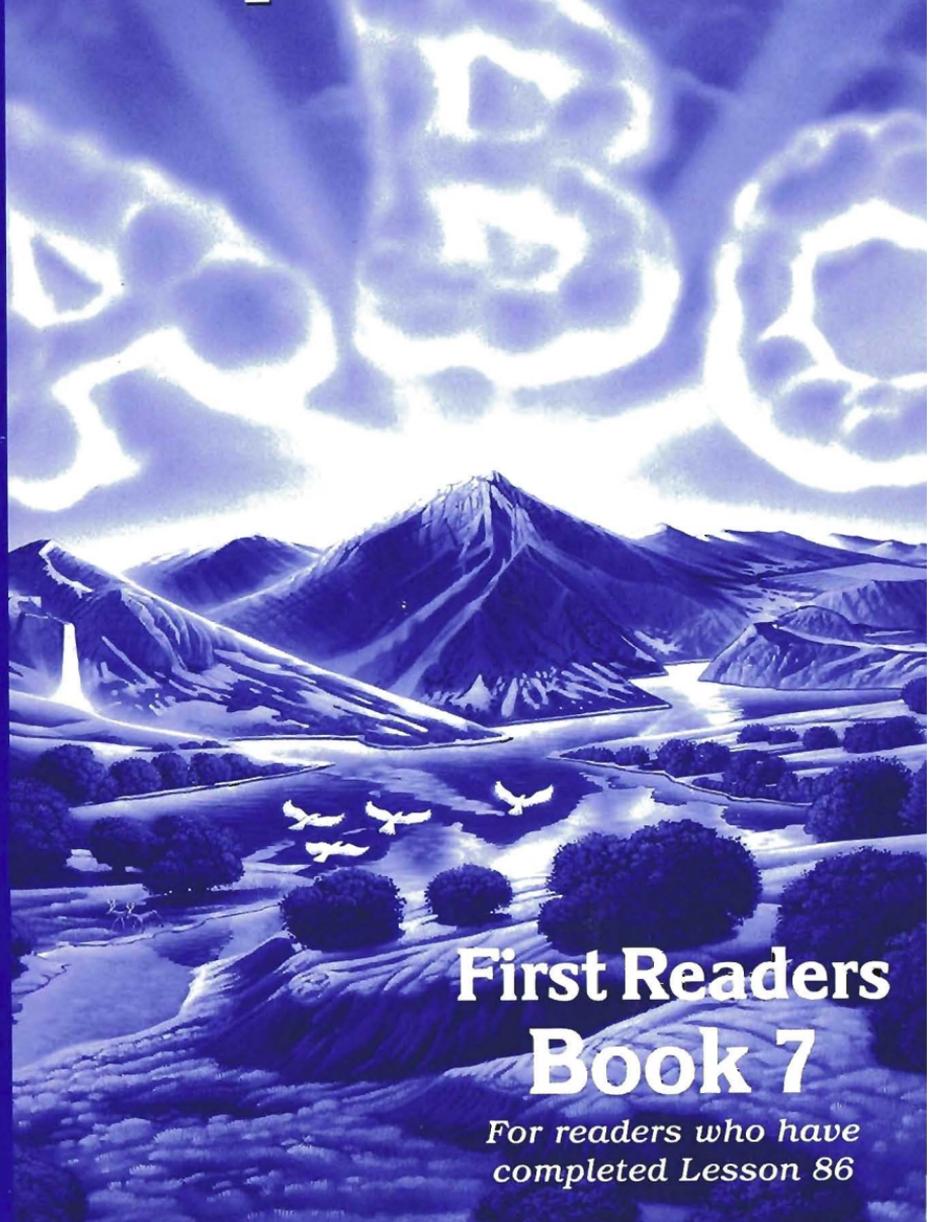


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*Blumenfeld's*  
**Alpha-Phonics<sup>®</sup>**



**First Readers**  
**Book 7**

*For readers who have  
completed Lesson 86*



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**FIRST READERS**

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## ***For Parents and Tutors***

The words in this reader comprise all of the letter sounds and spellings learned in Lessons 1 through 86 in *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics*.

When the learner has trouble with a word, have him or her spell it aloud and then read it. Spelling the word forces the reader to look at the letters in their proper sequence and is usually enough to evoke a correct reading. If the reader is still unable to read the word, have him or her sound it out. When the word is irregular, such as *were* or *you*, tell the learner what the word is and point out that it is irregular and does not follow the usual letter-sound rules. If the reader is having difficulty with a word of more than one syllable, have the reader break up the word into its separate syllables and then have him or her read it.

We have inserted some words with spelling forms the reader has not yet been taught but which are easily decoded. These words are added to ease the flow of narrative.

## **Rambo the Cat**

Kate has a cat named Rambo. She gave that name to him when she saw that he chased a barking dog away. Rambo is a brave cat.

Rambo plays a lot with Kate and her brother Dave. Rambo also naps a lot under a blanket on Kate's bed. Kate runs after Rambo on the lawn. Rambo will crawl under the porch to get away. But Kate will tempt Rambo with a can of cat dinner which Rambo can smell. He can't resist a can of cat dinner.

Rambo can catch a rabbit in the dark. The rabbit has no chance to get away when Rambo is set to get him.

## **At the Lake**

We have a cabin at the edge of Lake Clare. A lake is much bigger than a pond and it has lots of fish in it.

Lake Clare is the largest lake in our state. Dad and I sail on Lake Clare a lot in the summer months. We start sailing in May when there are warm winds to fill our sails. But there are windy days when big waves rock our craft and make the sails shake. We can swim in the lake when it is placid. Then it's as if the lake were a mirror and you can see your face in it.

## **Jake's Birthday Party**

Kate and Jane are twin sisters. They like to bake cakes. Their small brother, Jake, will be eight in May and they are planning to bake a large birthday cake for him. They expect a lot of their friends to attend Jake's birthday party. They are planning to play games, sing songs, and dance.

They expect that Jake will get gifts from his friends, not big gifts, but small gifts. His mom and dad may get him a big gift, maybe a train set. It's fun to be eight, but you can be eight only once.

## **A Baseball Game**

Jake and Dave will take the train on Sunday to visit their friend, Gabe, in Boston. They will all go to a baseball game at Fenway Park.

The Red Sox are playing a big game against the White Sox. After the game, they will have pizza at Pizza Hut.

Summer days are grand for baseball. The days are warm and the sun does not set until after eight. The fans can watch pitchers pitch, batters bat, and catchers catch. It's a great game. When a batter hits a home run, the fans jump up and cheer the player as he runs home.

## **A Visit to Grandma and Grandpa**

Gail and Wade went to visit their grandma and grandpa on their farm in Kansas. They went with their mom and dad. The farm has a large lawn up front and a big back yard with a set of swings. Their grandma always bakes a big cake for the kids and a big dinner for all. She can also bake muffins. Their grandma and grandpa are their mom's parents. Their grandma's name is Maud, and their grandpa's name is Paul.

They came to visit by car from Memphis. It was raining when they got there, but they did not complain. The crops must have rain if they are to grow.

## **Uncle Mark**

Mom's brother, Mark, came to visit us. Uncle Mark is a mailman and he collects stamps. He gave Jane and Dave a set of airmail stamps. He also gave them stamps from France and Spain. Uncle Mark gave them stamp albums as gifts. With Uncle Mark's help they will fill their albums with lots of stamps from far off lands.

Uncle Mark came from Dayton in his red Mustang. He can go fast in that car, but he can get a ticket if he is not careful.

## **Taking a Trip**

If you want to take a trip, you can go on an airplane, or a train, or a bus. The airplane is the fastest way to get to where you want to go. The train can be a fun way to travel if you do not have to get there fast. You can relax and watch as the train travels past farms and dwellings and forests.

On the other hand, a bus travels with all the traffic and cannot go as fast as a train. But you can relax in a bus and take a nap so that when you wake up, the trip has almost ended.

## **Hunting in a Cave**

Jake and Dave went on a rock hunt in a cave. A cave is not the best place to hunt for rocks because it is dark and damp. But Jake and Dave think that the rocks in the cave are made of stuff that you can't obtain elsewhere.

Jake and Dave almost got lost in the cave. But their pal, Wade, gave them a string which he held in his hand and which Jake and Dave unrolled as they went into the cave. But they dropped the string along the way. Later, they came across the string and made their way back to their waiting friend.

"Thanks for the string," said Dave. "You saved us from getting lost."

## **When a Watchdog Barks**

When a dog barks in the dark, that's a signal to stay away. It is the job of a watchdog to cause a person to stop in his tracks. If you do not want to get bitten by a watchdog you had better back away, but not in such a manner as to bring the dog after you.

A smart, well-trained watchdog will take care of property and family. A watchdog is a brave dog, and it will not harm you if you are careful and do not panic.

It is said that a dog is a man's best friend. A pet dog will accept you as you are and will always stay with you.

## **Going Into Space**

Jane wants to go into space in a spaceship. She thinks it will be lots of fun in space where you do not weigh a thing. But if you want to go into space, you must go into training. That may take up to seven months.

To travel in space a cadet must be brave and must obey all the commands he or she is given. You may think that space is fun, but there are things you must watch for. There is no air in space, so you must bring your air with you. Air can be taken into space in an air tank which you must put on your back.

## **The Salesman**

Dad is a salesman. He sells cars. He is a star salesman and sells lots of cars because he is smart and can tell what a person wants. The cars travel on a freight train to get to where Dad sells them. From the train they are put on trucks which are driven to Dad's place.

Dad will explain what makes the car run well to the person who wants it. He will help them obtain credit. You must get credit if you can't pay cash for a car. Credit is when you ask the bank to lend you cash. You can take the car with you, but you must make payments to the bank for a number of months.

## **A Soccer Match**

Dave and Gabe went to a soccer match in the park. In soccer you kick the ball. You can also hit the ball with your head.

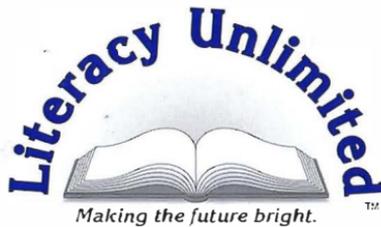
Soccer is a fast game, with players running back and forth, kicking the ball as they go. The trick in soccer is to kick the ball so that the other players miss it. That part can be fun, but it's hard to do when the other players have the skill to get the ball away from you. You can win the game if you can get the ball into the other players' net more than they can get it into yours.

Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics  
**First Readers**

Book 1	— Lessons	1 - 14
Book 2	— Lessons	15 - 28
Book 3	— Lessons	29 - 37
Book 4	— Lessons	38 - 39
Book 5	— Lessons	40 - 49
Book 6	— Lessons	50 - 71
Book 7	— Lessons	72 - 86
Book 8	— Lessons	87 - 100
Book 9	— Lessons	101 - 117
Book 10	— Lessons	118 - 128
Book 11	— Poetry	







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