Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics

ABCDEFGH-JKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

First Readers Book 8

For readers who have completed Lesson 100

Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics[®]

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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 100 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*, *ready*, 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 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.

A Visit from a King and Queen

The King and Queen of Greece came to visit our city. The mayor was there to greet them, and he gave them the key to the city. The key to the city is not a real key. It is a means of saying to the King and Queen that the city is open to them and that the people are glad to see them.

The King and Queen spent a week seeing the sights. They had many lunches and dinners with the best people in the city and gave gifts to many children. When the King and Queen were ready to leave, the children sang a song of farewell. The King and Queen were pleased.

1

Going for a Ride

Gary likes to drive his car. It is bright cherry red and has white seats. It also has a white stripe and white walled tires. He gets twenty miles with a gallon of gas. His wife, Betty, thinks that he paid a high price for the car but she likes the way it drives, and she can drive it as well as Gary.

They like to go on rides on nice weekends. They visit friends in the city and the country. They also like to go to the shopping mall for a treat. Last week they met Betty's niece Sally at the mall. They all had ice cream and candy and pie. But Sally had to hurry home to study. She thanked her aunt and uncle for the treat and said goodbye with a smile.

2

Penny Has Puppies

Jean's dog had five puppies last week. The dog's name is Penny, and Jean watched Penny lick her little puppies clean. Jean wanted to keep the puppies but her mother said, "No. We don't have the space for five puppies, but you have friends who will be happy to have one or two of the puppies. You must give them away."

Her mother was right. You can't keep all of the puppies a dog may have. They must be fed and trained, and only a person who wants a puppy will do all of that. Jean wanted to do all of that, but she wanted to obey her mother. "It isn't always easy to do what I ask," said her mother, "but there is no other way."

The United States

There are fifty states in the United States. It takes time to visit all fifty states. You can fly across the United States in less than a day, but you do not see much from the air. If it is a clear day you can see the land below. But if it is not clear, you can only see the sky from your airplane window.

It is much better to drive across the country if you wish to see all the sights from sea to sea. You can visit the Grand Canyon or Disneyland or one of the great parks along the way. All in all, the summer is the best time to drive across America.

A Forest Fire

You cannot predict where a forest fire will take place. Most forest fires are caused by lightning striking a tree and causing it to burn. Some fires are caused by careless campers who drop a match on dry leaves or build a campfire that gets so big that the wind carries the sparks into the trees.

Be careful when you are in a forest. Do not make big campfires, and do not drop lit matches on dry leaves. Also, tell your friends to be careful and to always obey the forest ranger. He is in charge of the forest and his job is to see to it that people do not do careless things.

East and West

The sun rises in the east and sets in the west. If you live in the east at the edge of the sea, it seems at dawn as if the sun were rising from the sea and going higher and higher in the sky.

If you live in the west at the edge of the sea, it seems as if the sun were sinking into the sea at the end of the day. But it isn't the sun that passes across the sky. It is this planet that is turning. It takes a full day and night for the planet to make a complete turn. The sun is much bigger than our planet and it turns on its own axis. It is in the center, and it is this planet as well as other planets that are revolving around it. It takes us a year to go around the sun. In fact, we are turning and revolving at the same time.

We are a very small planet going around a very big sun. The sun gives us light and life. With no sun, all would be dark and lifeless.

Hiking

Mike and his dad like to hike in the forest. They can walk five miles a day with packs on their backs on trails that go from where the trees begin to camping sites many miles deep inside the forest. They must watch for snakes and insects. It can take an entire day of hiking to reach the campsite.

Hiking is a nice way to keep fit, to keep your weight where you want it to be. Riding a bike can also keep you fit. But riding up a steep hill can be very tiring. A bike rider will do it so that he can say that he is not a quitter.

Rambo

Rambo the cat likes to chase mice in the barn. He is a smart cat that will watch to see where the mice are hiding and wait for them to speed across the barn to the other side. Then he lunges after the speeding critter swiftly as can be. He nabs the little scamp and carries it in his jaws. He drops it and plays with it. What a funny sight to see Rambo playing with a mouse.

Rambo also likes to lie in the sun. He likes to be rubbed and patted. He likes kids because kids like to play with him. Rambo is a very happy cat.

A Day at the Beach

Lee and Steve live in East Beach, a village in Maine with a small sandy beach. In Maine most of the beaches are rocky, but East Beach has sand and is a nice place to swim. Lee and Steve go there often. When friends come to visit, they take them to the beach for a summer beach party. They bring a picnic basket, volleyball, and beach blankets, and they have a great time.

Summer is the best time of year in Maine. There are lots of places to visit, lots of shops, and plenty of clean fresh air. There are also lobster shacks where you can sit in the sun near the beach and eat a lobster dinner.

On Saving Pennies

Tommy is saving his pennies in a jar so that he can get a box of candy for his mother on Mother's Day. He must save a lot of pennies so that he can go to the bank where he will get a five dollar bill. He can get a nice box of candy for five dollars.

It takes a hundred pennies to make one dollar. To get five dollars, Tommy must save five hundred pennies. Tommy also saves dimes. A dime is made up of ten pennies. You only need ten dimes to make a dollar and fifty dimes to make five dollars.

But pennies pile up much faster than dimes, and Tommy has already saved lots and lots of pennies.

Mother's Day

Mother's Day takes place in May when it is springtime. That's the best time of year. The days are getting longer and warmer.

Dad and the kids must think of getting gifts for Mother. They ask: "What will she want? What will she need?" Betty says she needs a sweater. Billy says she needs a bigger pan for frying eggs. Terry says she needs a blender. Dad says Mother wants a bathrobe.

When Mother's Day came, they all gave their presents to Mother. She liked the sweater and the pan and the blender and the bathrobe. They all kissed Mother and wished her a happy Mother's Day.

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