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Blumenfeld's
Alpha-Phonics[®]

First Readers
Book 9

*For readers who have
completed Lesson 117*

Blumenfeld's
Alpha-Phonics®

FIRST READERS

Book 9

For readers who have completed Lesson 117

For Parents and Tutors

The words in this reader comprise all of the letter sounds and spellings learned in Lessons 1 through 117 in *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics*.

Some of the words in this book may have some spelling forms not yet learned. But there is enough in the words to suggest their correct pronunciation through simple decoding. If the reader needs a little help, give it. These words were added to enhance the flow of the story.

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. Words such as *musical* or *instrument* should be broken up into their syllables so that the reader can see the phonetic structure of the words.

Father's Day

The third Sunday in June is Father's Day. On that day we honor our fathers. Someone thought that we ought to pay tribute to all the good things that dads do when we are young. Most fathers who are baseball fans will teach their kids how to throw and catch a ball. They love to take their kids to ballgames.

When kids grow up they like to think of the time when they were small and their dads told them stories about their own days as a child. Some dads like to tell jokes that make the kids laugh.

It's a good thought to phone your dad on Father's Day if you are no longer at home and live too far away to visit. It's the loving thing to do.

The Toy Store

Mom took Joan and Joyce to a toy store at the mall. They went to buy a toy truck for their little brother Luke. His birthday was coming up soon. But when they got to the store and saw so many toys, they thought that it might be better to buy a game or a ping-pong set so that they can all play together.

They spent an hour at the store looking at games and jigsaw puzzles and paint sets. They also looked at doll houses and all sorts of dolls. But in the end they bought a toy truck because that was what Luke said he wanted. Mom also bought Joan and Joyce a doll house. That made the girls very happy.

On the Phone

We have three phones in our home. One phone is in the hall. That phone is for all of us. Then there is a phone in the kitchen, which Mother uses. We can also use that phone, although Mother will frown if we use it too often. The last phone is on a desk in Dad's den.

We would like to use Dad's phone, but he would complain if we did. "I don't want you to tie up my phone," he said when I asked if we could use it. "You can use it," he said, "should there be a real need."

Should kids have phones of their own in their rooms? I think they should. Then everyone will be happy and no one will need to complain. But Dad does not see it that way. He says that we do not need more phones or more phone bills.

Acting in a Play

Joan and Bruce got parts in a Christmas play. It is a well known play called "A Christmas Carol," written by Charles Dickens. It has many roles in it for children. The play is put on by the church that Joan and Bruce go to with their parents. There is music in the play and even some dancing.

It is not easy to act on stage and remember all your lines. If you are ever in a play and have to learn your lines, you must repeat them over and over again until you know them well.

Some kids can be taught to act and some kids can be taught to sing and dance. Even though acting, singing, and dancing on stage for three hours can be tough, it's great fun. It is also quite a thrill to be on stage and hear the people laugh and applause.

The Horse Farm

A horse farm is where they raise and keep horses. You will find many kinds of horses on a horse farm. One type is a colt, which is a young male horse four years old or younger. Then there are mares. A mare is a fully grown female horse five years old or older. A pony is a small horse not over fifty-eight inches high at the withers. The withers are the highest part of the back of the horse between the shoulder blades.

A mustang is a small, wild or half wild horse found in the Southwest plains of the U.S. There are horse farms near big cities where children can learn to ride a horse. Horses are no longer as useful as they used to be when there were no cars. But horseback riding is still a great sport.

At the Rodeo

A rodeo is a horse show where cowboys compete in riding wild horses or roping steers. You can get bruised when an untamed horse throws you off and tries to stomp on you. An untamed horse or pony is known as a bronco. A cowboy who rides a bronco is known as a bronco buster.

Steers can be even worse. They don't like anyone to ride them, and they will fling their legs and do everything in their power to throw the rider off. A cowboy uses a lasso to rope a steer.

Most rodeos are held in the West where there are many ranches where cattle are raised. The cowboys must tame the wild horses and round up the cattle when it is time to take them to market.

A Ride to the Airport

Mom drove Dad to the airport when he had to fly to visit his brother, our Uncle Joe, in Tampa. Bruce and I went along for the ride. At the airport, Mom parked the car and we went with Dad to the check-in counter. Dad had one suitcase to check in. The flight was nonstop to Tampa.

Dad bought a book to read on the plane. There were a lot of books for sale at the newsstand. Dad also bought a paper to read on the flight. We sat with Dad at the gate until it was time for him to board the plane. Mom told Dad to phone her when he got to Uncle Joe's house. We would have liked to watch the plane take off, but the runway was too far away from where we were.

Bowling

Bowling is a great sport that you can enjoy any time of the year. Bowling is a sport that is played inside a building. You can play on a team or you can bowl on your own any time you feel like it. To bowl well, you should wear shoes that do not skid on the shiny wooden floor. If you do a lot of bowling you might want to buy your own bowling ball.

The aim of the game is to knock down as many pins as you can with one roll of the bowling ball. It is a great thrill to watch the ball roll down the lane and knock down all the pins at once. We call that a strike.

If you have a bowling lane in your town and you have never bowled before, you ought to check it out. Bowling is a lot of fun.

Music Lessons

Should you learn to play the piano? Many parents ask their children if they would like to learn to play the piano, or the violin, or the trumpet. Some parents think that children ought to learn to play some musical instrument. It is thought that music is such a vital part of life that it should be taught when a child is as young as four years old.

One thing we know about learning to play music is that you must practice a lot to become good at it. Practice, practice, practice is what the music teacher tells the music student.

Some kids like to play drums. If you play drums you must play in a band. But if you play piano, you can enjoy it by yourself.

The State Fair

Most states in the United States have a state fair once a year. The fair is held in summer so that lots of people will come and enjoy the many shows and contests. Kids enjoy state fairs because they can compete in the contests and win prizes and ribbons.

Many kids raise show pigs and chickens and bring them to the state fair to be looked at by the judges. They hope that their pig or chicken will be chosen as the best one there. Some parents will bring their best canned foods. Canning is a good way to preserve and store food during the winter.

You don't win a gold medal at a state fair, but you can win a blue ribbon.

Cooking at Home

June and Luke know that their mom is a very good cook. She can cook a great roast beef and she can roast a chicken until it is nice and juicy. For breakfast, their mom can make great oatmeal and French toast. She can also make good tuna fish salad sandwiches. June and Luke take these sandwiches to school for lunch.

Their mom also likes to bake bread and rolls and cookies. June and Luke love their mom's cookies. They bring some to their friends at school. June's friend, Joyce, likes the peanut butter cookies best. But, Luke's friend, Brad, likes the oatmeal and raisin cookies best.

Drilling for Oil

Some people say that oil makes the world go round. What that means is that oil is used to make the fuel that we use to drive cars and fly airplanes. Without it we would have to use horses and wagons.

Where is oil found? It is found deep in the ground and we must drill to get at it. Sometimes we must drill through rock to get at the oil. But when oil is found, it gushes up through the oil well and makes a great splash. Then the oil well must be capped so that the drillers will be able to control the flow of the oil.

Oil that has just come out of the ground is known as crude oil. Then we must refine the oil before it can be used in a car or plane.

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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