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Choose your series

How old are your students?
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Read your way to better English
Recommended Readers for your course
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What are Recommended Readers?
Recommended Readers are selected to match the language level and topic of units in the coursebook.

How does this help you?
It’s quick and easy to choose the readers that best support your course, and add variety to your lessons.
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Dolphin Readers

Series Editor: Craig Wright

BEGINNER TO PRE-INTERMEDIATE • CEFR: A1–A2

FICTION/NON-FICTION: 5 LEVELS

From shapes and baby animals to students in space, Dolphins’ cross-curricular stories capture imaginations. With activities for every page of reading, the stimulating ‘read and do’ approach engages learners, practises language, and encourages critical-thinking skills.

> Fiction and non-fiction
> Photos and illustrations support reading comprehension
> Audio helps build reading and listening skills
> Picture Dictionary in every book

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e-Books available on Oxford Learner’s Bookshelf
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LEVEL 2 • 425 Headwords

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Oh no! It’s raining. We can’t go outside to play.
I wish I was a duck.
A duck! Why?
Ducks like to play in the rain.
What animals don’t like the rain?

Wonderful Wild Animals, Level 3
Classic Tales
Retold by: Sue Arengo & Rachel Bladon

BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE • CEFR: A1–B1
FICTION: 5 LEVELS

Bring the magic of Classic Tales to your classroom. This award-winning series builds language skills and introduces young students to the joy of reading.

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The magpie talks to the river.
‘River, River,’ he says, ‘Please give me some nice, cool water for the field. Then the cow can have her grass. The farmer can have her milk. And I can have my tail.’
‘Fly up into the mountains and bring me some rain,’ says the river. ‘Then you can have some water.’

Bring me some rain.

So the magpie flies up into the mountains. He sees a big, white cloud.
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www.oxfordlearnersbookshelf.com
See page 98

Activity Books and Plays available for every story

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Enjoy the tale of the hungry little girl, her mother, and the magic cooking pot.

Enjoy this tale from Turkey about a farmer, the milk from her cow, and a magpie...

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**Word count**: 521

**Reader**: 978 0 19 411522 3

**Activity Book & Play**: 978 0 19 411523 0

**Reader with Audio**: 978 0 19 411524 7

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**Word count**: 346

**Reader**: 978 0 19 423866 3

**Activity Book & Play**: 978 0 19 423867 0

**Reader with Audio**: 978 0 19 400274 5

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**Word count**: 554

**Reader**: 978 0 19 423981 3

**Activity Book & Play**: 978 0 19 423987 5

**Reader with Audio**: 978 0 19 400472 5

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**Word count**: 506

**Reader**: 978 0 19 423850 2

**Activity Book & Play**: 978 0 19 423851 9

**Reader with Audio**: 978 0 19 400472 5

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**Word count**: 611

**Reader**: 978 0 19 423874 8

**Activity Book & Play**: 978 0 19 423875 5

**Reader with Audio**: 978 0 19 401002 3

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**Word count**: 491

**Reader**: 978 0 19 423988 2

**Activity Book & Play**: 978 0 19 423994 3

**Reader with Audio**: 978 0 19 400474 7

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**LEVEL 1**

- **100 HEADWORDS** • CEFR A1
- Average word count: 540
- Cambridge English: Starters

---

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Enjoy this tale from Morocco, and find out how the hungry old donkey helps Mansour.

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Read the tale of Amrita and the forest trees. What happens when the king’s men want to chop down the trees?
Big Baby Finn
Sue Arengo

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Word count: 619
Reader: 978 0 19 423894 6
Activity Book & Play: 978 0 19 423895 3
Reader with Audio: 978 0 19 401402 1

The Fisherman and his Wife
Sue Arengo

Read the tale of the fisherman’s wife who always wants more.

Word count: 878
Reader: 978 0 19 423902 8
Activity Book & Play: 978 0 19 423903 5
Reader with Audio: 978 0 19 401408 3

The Gingerbread Man
Sue Arengo

Find out what happens when the old woman makes a gingerbread man and he jumps out of the oven.

Word count: 675
Reader: 978 0 19 423906 6
Activity Book & Play: 978 0 19 423907 3
Reader with Audio: 978 0 19 401404 5

Jack and the Beanstalk
Sue Arengo

Follow Jack’s adventures when he climbs the magic beanstalk.

Word count: 712
Reader: 978 0 19 423989 9
Activity Book & Play: 978 0 19 423990 6
Reader with Audio: 978 0 19 401432 8

King Arthur and the Sword
Rachel Bladon

Enjoy this famous English tale of King Arthur and the sword in the stone.

Word count: 832
Reader: 978 0 19 423898 4
Activity Book & Play: 978 0 19 423899 1
Reader with Audio: 978 0 19 401410 6

Nour and the Three Princes
Rachel Bladon

Follow the adventures of three princes. What wonderful things can they find for Princess Nour?

Word count: 795
Reader: 978 0 19 411532 2
Activity Book & Play: 978 0 19 411533 9
Reader with Audio: 978 0 19 411534 6

Rainforest Boy
Rachel Bladon

Meet Curupira, the Amazon Rainforest boy with strange feet. Read this tale from Brazil to find out how he loves the forest and keeps its animals safe.

Word count: 760
Reader: 978 0 19 423986 8
Activity Book & Play: 978 0 19 423987 5
Reader with Audio: 978 0 19 401406 9
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Rapunzel
Rachel Bladon

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Enjoy the tale of the princess who slept for a hundred years.

Enjoy the tale of the princesses who had holes in their shoes every morning. What did they do every night?

Find out what happened when kind, clever Beauty had to live with a beast.

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2. **THE WORLD OF ARTS & SOCIAL STUDIES**
3. **THE NATURAL WORLD**

Written by award-winning, *Oxford Reading Tree* author, Paul Shipton. As read by children in the UK!
Read and discover all about art.
• What do artists paint?
• What shapes can you see in art?

Art
Richard Northcott

Read and discover all about the beach.
• What can you find in a rockpool?
• How many legs does a prawn have?

At the Beach
Rachel Bladon

Read and discover all about eyes.
• How many eyes does a spider have?
• Can animals see in the dark?

Eyes
Rob Sved

Read and discover all about fruit.
• What is fruit?
• How does fruit grow?

Fruit
Louise Spilsbury

Read and discover all about the sky.
• What can you see in the sky?
• What are stars?

In the Sky
Kamini Khanduri

Read and discover all about schools around the world.
• How do students go to school?
• What do students wear at school?

Schools
Richard Northcott

Read and discover all about trees.
• What do seeds do?
• What animals live in trees?

Trees
Rachel Bladon

Robbers at the Museum
See page 29

Ben’s Big Swim
See page 28

The New Glasses
See page 28

Rainforest Rescue
See page 28

Clunk in Space
See page 28

Monkeys in School
See page 28

The Treehouse
See page 29

Available for each reader: Audio (in both American and British English) • Activity Book • e-Book

Teaching ideas are available in the Teacher’s Handbook and online www.oup.com/elt/teacher/readanddiscover
Read and discover all about electricity.
• What machines use electricity?
• What is a battery?

Read and discover all about farms.
• What are crops?
• What do we get from sheep?

Read and discover all about mountains.
• What is a glacier?
• What sports do people do in mountains?

Read and discover all about jobs.
• Where do people work in cities?
• What does a vet do?

Read and discover all about plastic.
• How do we make plastic?
• Can we recycle plastic?

Read and discover all about weather.
• What makes Earth warm?
• What falls from clouds?

Read and discover all about your body.
• How many bones do you have?
• What are germs?
Level 3

600 Headwords • CEFR A1 • Average word count: 1,300 • Cambridge English: Movers

**BESTSELLER**

### The Natural World

**Amazing Minibeasts**
Cheryl Palin

Read and discover all about amazing minibeasts.
- How many legs does a spider have?
- Why are earthworms important?

**Animals In the Air**
Robert Quinn

Read and discover all about animals in the air.
- What is the fastest bird in the world?
- What are flying foxes?

**Festivals Around the World**
Richard Northcott

Read and discover all about festivals around the world.
- When is the festival of Diwali?
- What do people do at Halloween?

**Free Time Around the World**
Julie Penn

Read and discover all about favourite free-time activities around the world.
- Where is dog sledding popular?
- What is beach cricket?

**How We Make Products**
Alex Raynham

Read and discover all about how we make different products.
- How many parts are there in a car?
- How do we make chocolate bars?

**Life in Rainforests**
Cheryl Palin

Read and discover all about life in tropical rainforests.
- What is the biggest tropical rainforest?
- Where do orang-utans sleep?

**Sound And Music**
Richard Northcott

Read and discover all about sound and music.
- What are sound waves?
- What type of musical instrument is a koto?

---

[Teacher’s Handbook (Levels 3–6) 978 0 19 446437 5]

All titles available as e-Books through the Oxford Learner’s Bookshelf
Read and discover all about desert life around the world.
• How do animals stay cool in the desert?
• Why are deserts getting bigger?
THE NATURAL WORLD

Animals At Night
Rachel Bladon

Read and discover all about amazing animals at night.
• Why do some animals come out at night?
• What special senses do nocturnal animals have?

Word count 1,746
Reader 978 0 19 464446 4
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402199 9
Activity Book 978 0 19 464456 3

Partner

THE WORLD OF ARTS & SOCIAL STUDIES

Animals In Art
Richard Northcott

Read and discover all about animals in art, all around the world.
• Where can you see animals in art?
• What are the oldest animal pictures?

Word count 1,754
Reader 978 0 19 464443 3
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402201 9
Activity Book 978 0 19 464453 2

Partner

THE WORLD OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

How to Stay Healthy
Julie Penn

Read and discover all about how to stay healthy.
• How much water should you drink every day?
• Why is exercise good for you?

Word count 1,634
Reader 978 0 19 464445 7
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402204 0
Activity Book 978 0 19 464455 6

Partner

Incredible Earth
Richard Northcott

Read and discover all about our incredible Earth.
• What is a volcano?
• Where is the deepest lake on Earth?

Word count 1,700
Reader 978 0 19 464438 9
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402206 4
Activity Book 978 0 19 464447 1

Partner

Machines Then and Now
Robert Quinn

Read and discover all about machines in the past and today.
• When did people invent the wheel?
• What is a nanobot?

Word count 1,663
Reader 978 0 19 464437 2
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402210 1
Activity Book 978 0 19 464454 9

Partner

Why We Recycle
Fiona Undrill

Read and discover all about why we recycle waste.
• What waste materials can we recycle?
• How long does plastic take to decompose?

Word count 1,701
Reader 978 0 19 464444 0
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402212 5
Activity Book 978 0 19 464451 8

Partner

Wonders Of the Past
Kathryn Harper

Read and discover all about wonders of the past, all around the world.
• Where is Chichen Itza?
• What is the Taj Mahal?

Word count 1,724
Reader 978 0 19 464441 9
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402215 6
Activity Book 978 0 19 464450 8

Partner

Available for each reader: Reader with Audio (available in both American and British English) • Activity Book • e-Book
All titles available as e-Books through the Oxford Learner’s Bookshelf

Bats!
See page 33

Pictures from the Past
See page 34

Inside Clunk
See page 33

Volcano Adventure
See page 34

A Machine for the Future
See page 33

Clunk’s Brain
See page 33

The Lost City
See page 33

21
THE NATURAL WORLD

All About Islands
James Styring

Read and discover all about islands around the world.
• How do islands form?
• Which island has dragons?

Word count 3,457
Reader 978 0 19 464503 4
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402214 9
Activity Book 978 0 19 464513 3

Animal Life Cycles
Rachel Bladon

Read and discover all about amazing animal life cycles.
• Which animals hatch from eggs?
• What is metamorphosis?

Word count 3,437
Reader 978 0 19 464502 7
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402216 3
Activity Book 978 0 19 464512 6

Exploring Our World
Jacqueline Martin

Read and discover all about explorers and exploring.
• Why is exploring important?
• Where did the first explorers go?

Word count 3,491
Reader 978 0 19 464500 3
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402218 7
Activity Book 978 0 19 464510 2

Great Migrations
Rachel Bladon

Read and discover all about great animal migrations.
• Why do animals migrate?
• How do they find their way?

Word count 3,463
Reader 978 0 19 464501 0
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402220 4
Activity Book 978 0 19 464511 9

Homes Around the World
Jacqueline Martin

Read and discover all about homes around the world.
• What materials are homes made of?
• How do people build homes on stilts?

Word count 3,357
Reader 978 0 19 464505 8
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402224 8
Activity Book 978 0 19 464515 7

Materials To Products
Alex Raynham

Read and discover all about the materials that people use to make products.
• How is glass made?
• What are microchips?

Word count 3,437
Reader 978 0 19 464506 5
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402226 2
Activity Book 978 0 19 464516 4

THE WORLD OF ARTS & SOCIAL STUDIES

Homes Around the World
Jacqueline Martin

Read and discover all about homes around the world.
• What materials are homes made of?
• Why do people build homes on stilts?

Word count 3,437
Reader 978 0 19 464502 7
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402216 3
Activity Book 978 0 19 464512 6

THE WORLD OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Medicine Then and Now
Louise and Richard Spilsbury

Read and discover all about medicine in the past and medicine today.
• What was the world’s first antibiotic?
• What medicine can cure malaria?

Word count 3,363
Reader 978 0 19 464506 5
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402226 2
Activity Book 978 0 19 464516 4

Oxford Read and Discover

Activity Book
978 0 19 464510 2

The Bad House
See page 34

Day of the Dinosaurs
See page 34

Partner

Word count 3,457
Reader 978 0 19 464503 4
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402214 9
Activity Book 978 0 19 464513 3

Partner

Teaching ideas are available in the Teacher’s Handbook and online www.oup.com/elt/teacher/readanddiscover

Teacher’s Handbook (Levels 3–6) 978 0 19 464375 7
Our World In Art
Richard Northcott
Read and discover all about our world in art.
• What are still lifes?
• Why do artists use perspective?

Transportation Then and Now
James Styring
Read and discover all about transportation in the past and today.
• What were the first planes made of?
• How fast can solar cars travel?

Wild Weather
Jacqueline Martin
Read and discover all about different types of weather.
• What is a hurricane?
• Where is the coldest place on Earth?

All About Space
Alex Raynham
Read and discover all about our galaxy and everything in the universe.
• What are stars made of?
• When did the first person walk on the Moon?

Caring for Our Planet
Joyce Hannam
Read and discover all about caring for our beautiful planet Earth.
• What is global warming?
• How can we keep our planet clean?

Cells And Microbes
Louise and Richard Spilsbury
Read and discover all about amazing cells and microbes.
• What are the smallest living things on Earth?
• How do antibiotics work?
Read and discover all about clothes in the past and clothes today.
• Where were your clothes made?
• What is a fashion victim?

Read and discover all about Earth in the past and Earth today.
• How did Earth form?
• What natural resources does Earth give us?

Read and discover all about food around the world.
• Where are cacao trees grown?
• What drink can you make from cherries?

Read and discover all about helping around the world.
• Who helps refugees?
• What do animal charities do?

Read and discover all about incredible energy.
• What is kinetic energy?
• What types of energy does electricity give us?

Read and discover all about wonderful ecosystems on Earth.
• How are monkeys adapted to living in their ecosystem?
• What are decomposers?

Read and discover all about your amazing body.
• How many bones are there in your skeleton?
• What do your white blood cells do?
EARLY STARTER

**Apples and Bananas**
Paul Shipton

Ben and Rosie are in a store with Grandpa. Can you see apples and bananas? And look! Can you see oranges?

**The Picnic**
Paul Shipton

Ben and Rosie are in a park with Mom, Dad, and Grandpa. But where’s the picnic?

**Spider, Spider**
Paul Shipton

Ben looks. What’s in the green car? What’s on the blue ball? It’s a spider. Hello, spider!

**What’s This?**
Paul Shipton

Ben has a red square. He has a red triangle. What’s this? It’s a house!

**At the Zoo**
Paul Shipton

Rosie and Grandpa go to the zoo. They look at the penguins and the lions. What happens when they eat their sandwiches?

**Clunk Draws a Picture**
Paul Shipton

Clunk draws a tiger. Look! What colour is it?

**Hello, Clunk**
Paul Shipton

Grandpa makes a robot. His name is Clunk. He has arms, wheels, and a head. Ben and Rosie watch. What can the robot do?

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Hello, Goodbye
Paul Shipton

Grandpa, Ben, and Rosie are at the beach. Ben draws a picture in the sand. What is it?

Word count: 91
Reader: 978 0 19 470923 7
Activity Book: 978 0 19 470924 8

The New Dinosaur
Paul Shipton

Ben, Rosie, and Grandpa go to a museum with Clunk. There are dinosaurs in the museum. Does Clunk like the new dinosaur?

Word count: 98
Reader: 978 0 19 470923 1
Activity Book: 978 0 19 470926 2

One, Two, Three
Paul Shipton

Grandpa, Ben, and Rosie are in the park. How many fish are there? How many frogs are there? And what’s on Grandpa’s head?

Word count: 115
Reader: 978 0 19 472241 4
Activity Book: 978 0 19 472234 6

Rosie’s Teddy Bear
Paul Shipton

Where is Rosie’s teddy bear? What does Clunk put in Rosie’s school bag?

Word count: 120
Reader: 978 0 19 472240 7
Activity Book: 978 0 19 472233 9

Where’s My Hat?
Paul Shipton

Grandpa has a hat. Where is it? Can Clunk see it?

Word count: 108
Reader: 978 0 19 472240 7
Activity Book: 978 0 19 472233 9

The Cake Machine
Paul Shipton

Grandpa has a new machine. It’s a Cake Machine. But can Grandpa make a cake for Rosie and Ben?

Word count: 214
Reader: 978 0 19 472225 4
Activity Book: 978 0 19 472216 2
**Crocodile in the House**
Paul Shipton

Ben has a toy crocodile. 'Oh no! There’s a crocodile in the house!' says Clunk. 'Run!'  

**I’m Sorry**
Paul Shipton

Rosie, Ben, and Grandpa go to the park with Grandpa’s robot, Clunk. Why does Clunk say, 'I’m sorry'?

**I Can See You!**
Paul Shipton

Rosie, Ben, Alice, and Clunk are playing a game. The children look and look, but where’s Clunk?

**In the Snow**
Paul Shipton

There’s snow today! Ben and Rosie make a big snowman. Can Clunk the robot make a snowman?

**It’s Hot!**
Paul Shipton

It’s hot today! Ben and Rosie are in the backyard. They want ice cream, but what does Clunk make?

**A Nice Book**
Paul Shipton

Rosie, Ben, and Grandpa go to the library with Clunk. They read nice books. But what does Clunk do?

**A Rainy Day**
Paul Shipton

Rosie wants to play in the park. But it’s a rainy day. Can Grandpa help? He has a new machine – a weather machine!
Monkeys in School
Paul Shipton

Grandpa takes Ben and Rosie to the rainforest. But when he takes them to school, some monkeys go with them...

Word count: 599
Reader: 978 0 19 472272 8
Reader with Audio: 978 0 19 401740 4
Activity Book: 978 0 19 472248 3

Ben’s Big Swim
Paul Shipton

What happens when Rosie, Ben, and Max go to the beach? They want to swim, but it is very windy, and the waves are too big. What does Grandpa do?

Word count: 548
Reader: 978 0 19 472267 4
Reader with Audio: 978 0 19 401734 3
Activity Book: 978 0 19 472243 8

Clunk in Space
Paul Shipton

Ben and Rosie want to see a meteor shower. They go to space in Grandpa’s van. But what happens when a meteor hits the van? Can Clunk fix it?

Word count: 557
Reader: 978 0 19 472268 1
Reader with Audio: 978 0 19 401737 4
Activity Book: 978 0 19 472244 5

The New Glasses
Paul Shipton

Today Ben’s wearing new glasses. What happens when he plays ball with his friends in the school playground? And what happens when Grandpa makes Ben some fantastic new glasses?

Word count: 588
Reader: 978 0 19 470930 9
Reader with Audio: 978 0 19 401740 4
Activity Book: 978 0 19 470934 7

On Thin Ice
Paul Shipton

Rosie, Ben and Clunk the robot go to a very cold place with Grandpa. They see some little polar bears playing on the ice, but the ice is too thin. It starts to crack! Can the mother bear help them?

Word count: 596
Reader: 978 0 19 470931 6
Reader with Audio: 978 0 19 401743 5
Activity Book: 978 0 19 470935 4

Rainforest Rescue
Paul Shipton

Grandpa takes Rosie, Ben, and Alice to the rainforest to find Grandpa’s favourite fruit. What happens when they meet a baby orang-utan and two bad men?

Word count: 550
Reader: 978 0 19 472269 8
Reader with Audio: 978 0 19 401743 5
Activity Book: 978 0 19 472245 2
Robbers at the Museum
Paul Shipton
Rosie, Ben, and Clunk the robot go to the art museum with Grandpa. What do they do when two robbers want to steal the art?

The Snow Tigers
Paul Shipton
Max is in a new ice-hockey team, called The Tigers. But what happens when Grandpa and Clunk take the children to a snowy place to see a snow tiger?

Too Fast!
Paul Shipton
Ben and Max are skateboarding in the park. What happens when a tall boy called Flip laughs at Max? And why is Flip scared when he rides Grandpa's new skateboard?

The Treehouse
Paul Shipton
Ben, Rosie, and Max are building a treehouse with Clunk the robot. But what happens when Alice's cat, Bobby, comes into the backyard and wants to catch a bird?

The Big Snowball
Paul Shipton
Grandpa and Clunk take Ben and Rosie into the snowy mountains. Ben makes a snowball, and it gets bigger and bigger... find out what happens!

The Big Storm
Paul Shipton
Grandpa takes Rosie, Ben, and Ben's friend Max to the mountains for a picnic. But a big storm is coming. Find out what happens.

Can You See Lions?
Paul Shipton
Alice is looking for her cat. What happens when he gets into Grandpa's van, and Rosie, Ben, and Alice arrive in a hot place with lots of animals? Maybe it's dangerous here?

Word count 579
Reader 978 0 19 472270 4
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 401746 6
Activity Book 978 0 19 472246 9

Word count 616
Reader 978 0 19 470933 0
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 470941 5
Activity Book 978 0 19 472247 8

Word count 582
Reader 978 0 19 472271 1
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 472272 6
Activity Book 978 0 19 472242 7

Word count 610
Reader 978 0 19 470932 3
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 470940 8
Activity Book 978 0 19 472243 2

Word count 688
Reader 978 0 19 473651 0
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 473659 6
Activity Book 978 0 19 472274 3

Word count 689
Reader 978 0 19 472298 8
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 401770 1
Activity Book 978 0 19 472273 5

Word count 693
Reader 978 0 19 472297 1
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 401755 8
Activity Book 978 0 19 472272 7
Clunk in the Clouds
Paul Shipton
What happens when Clunk fills four weather balloons with gas? It's fun in the clouds - but how can Clunk come down again? How can Ben, Rosie, and Grandpa help him?

Clunk's New Job
Paul Shipton
Clunk finds a new job – in a restaurant! But he isn’t a good waiter and Gordon the chef is angry. Grandpa wants Clunk at home again – can Rosie, Ben, and Grandpa find him?

In the Big City
Paul Shipton
It's the big city! Ben, Rosie, Max, and Grandpa go to see the tall buildings. But what happens when thieves steal Grandpa's van? Where do they take it? Can Clunk stop them?

The Race
Paul Shipton
It's Sports Day at school, and Ben is running in a race. But Tim is the fastest and the strongest boy in school. Find out what happens.

Sheep in the Snow
Paul Shipton
Ben, Rosie, and Alice are at Aunt Katy's farm. It's snowing, and some sheep are up on the hills. How can the children help?

Stop the Machine!
Paul Shipton
Ben, Rosie, Max, and Clunk are visiting the recycling center. The big machines are exciting – but oh no! Max drops his house key! Can Clunk help? What is Rosie's idea? Find out what happens.

Where on Earth Are We?
Paul Shipton
Ben, Max, and Clunk are in a little boat on the ocean. Where on Earth are Rosie, Alice, and Grandpa? And what's wrong with the van?
One day, Rosie, Ben, and his friend Max got very small – as small as bugs! This was a great way to study minibeasts, but now the backyard was full of danger: ladybugs, spider webs, and birds ...

Ben and Max are in the rainforest with scientists Kyle and Erica. What has Max found? Is it what Kyle and Erica are looking for? And what is that loud noise?

It was the day of the summer festival, and Ben and Max were having a good time. But what were those two people in the crowd saying? Did they want to steal Clunk, the robot? How could the boys stop them?

Ben couldn’t wait to play Grandpa’s new computer game – but when he was in the game he couldn’t leave. Now Ben was in danger, and only Rosie could help! Find out what happened when Rosie put her helmet on ...

Ben and Max are in the rainforest with scientists Kyle and Erica. What has Max found? Is it what Kyle and Erica are looking for? And what is that loud noise?
High Water
Paul Shipton

Ben and Rosie take their kayaks to Grandpa’s favourite river – but there’s a flood! Sam has a pet store in the town, and water from the river is in his store. Can Ben help the animals?

Word count 1,056
Reader 978 0 19 472331 2
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 401973 6
Activity Book 978 0 19 472307 7

In the Eagle’s Nest
Paul Shipton

Grandpa takes Ben, Rosie, Alice, and Clunk high in the mountains to study eagles. When they find a nest, the eagles think that Clunk is food! Will Clunk be dinner? And what happens when two climbers find the nest?

Word count 1,031
Reader 978 0 19 472334 3
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 401976 7
Activity Book 978 0 19 472310 7

The New Sound
Paul Shipton

Alice’s aunt is visiting the city to play violin in an orchestra. But where is her expensive violin? Who has it? Find out how Ben, Rosie, Alice, and a rock band called The New Sound help Aunt Emma ...

Word count 1,081
Reader 978 0 19 472333 6
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 473674 9
Activity Book 978 0 19 473682 4

A Shadow on the Park
Paul Shipton

Grandpa, Ben, Rosie, and Josh go to the playground, but it is cold. A new building is making a shadow on the park. Can Kelly the architect fix it? And why is a teenager climbing up a crane?

Word count 959
Reader 978 0 19 472330 5
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 473685 0
Activity Book 978 0 19 473678 7

Soccer in the Street
Paul Shipton

Ben is going to play a soccer match, but he wants new soccer shoes. Far away, a boy called Victor plays soccer in the street. He’s a fantastic player. He doesn’t have any soccer shoes. Find out how the two boys become friends, and what Ben learns.

Word count 1,002
Reader 978 0 19 472331 2
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 401979 8
Activity Book 978 0 19 472306 0

Wonderful Water
See page 20

Animals in the Air
See page 19

Sound and Music
See page 19

Super Structures
See page 20

Free Time
See page 19

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Lost in the Desert
Paul Shipton
The van is broken, Grandpa is sick, there’s something wrong with Clunk – and Rosie, Ben, and Max are lost in a desert! It’s hot in the day and cold at night, and they don’t have a lot of water. Can they find help?

The Lost City
Paul Shipton
In the rainforest, there is a Lost City of Gold. And in the Lost City, there is a beautiful gold statue. Ben, Rosie, and Grandpa visit the city with Silvia, an archaeologist. But other people know about the city too, and want that statue …
Swimming with Dolphins
Paul Shipton

Dan the scientist works with dolphins. Ludo the dolphin is under the water and can’t breathe, so Rosie dives in to help him. But what happens? The sea can be dangerous – there might be sharks!

Volcano Adventure
Paul Shipton

When scientist Jim Wood invited Grandpa to visit his fantastic new house, Rosie went too. But where was Jim Wood? And what was his house computer, Vesta, doing? Could Rosie find a way out of this bad house?

The Bad House
Paul Shipton

It was an ordinary day. Rosie and Alice were in the backyard. But there was something in the bushes – what was it? What was happening? Ben and Max needed to find Grandpa, but he wasn’t home – he was millions of years away. What could they do?

Trouble on the Eastern Express
Paul Shipton

Grandpa was excited to take Ben into the past for a trip on a fantastic old train. But what happened when Rosie, Alice, and Clunk found out that robbers were on the train? Could they stop the train before something terrible happened?

When Rosie and Ben wanted to understand an old cave painting, Grandpa took them back in time in his amazing van. Soon they were in a cold place with mammoths and wolves – and the van was in a hole. How could they get home? And why was there light in the cave?

When Rosie and Alice found a painting in the attic, Alice’s grandma gave it to a gallery to be studied. But why was the woman from the gallery on TV with Grandma Vera’s painting? Would the police believe she stole it? And would Grandma ever get her painting back?

It was an ordinary day. Rosie and Alice were in the backyard. But there was something in the bushes – what was it? What was happening? Ben and Max needed to find Grandpa, but he wasn’t home – he was millions of years away. What could they do?

Available for each reader: Reader with Audio (Book with audio in both American and British English) • Activity Book • e-Book

900 HEADWORDS • CEFR • A2 – B1 • Average word count: 2,270
Cambridge English: & Key (KET)
Hope on Turtle Island
Paul Shipton

Grandpa has disappeared, and in a notebook he has written one word – HOPE. What does it mean? Why does Clunk bring Ben and Rosie to Turtle Island? Can they find Grandpa and stop a plan to turn off all the world’s electricity?

Word count 3,035
Reader 978 0 19 473733 3
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 473737 1
Activity Book 978 0 19 473735 7

Invisible
Paul Shipton

'T’m the greatest criminal in this city. I’ve never been caught by the police, and I never will be caught,’ said Cooger. But what was this clever – and dangerous – man planning? And could Ben and Rosie stop him from stealing Grandpa’s inventions – and a lot more, too?

Word count 3,041
Reader 978 0 19 472384 8
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402127 2
Activity Book 978 0 19 472376 3

The Secret on the Moon
Paul Shipton

Why were Ben and Rosie hiding on the Moon? On Earth, people were watching live pictures from the Moon. They’d seen one astronaut return to the landing vehicle. But where was the second astronaut? Why did the pictures suddenly stop? What was the secret on the Moon?

Word count 3,050
Reader 978 0 19 472385 5
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 402130 2
Activity Book 978 0 19 472377 0

What’s So Funny?
Paul Shipton

A mysterious gas is escaping from a hole in the Happy World tanker. Soon, everyone is laughing, but they don’t know why. What will happen when the laughter stops? Can Grandpa find a cure for the laughing illness before it’s too late?

Word count 3,091
Reader 978 0 19 473736 4
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 473734 0
Activity Book 978 0 19 473735 7

Caring for Our Planet
See page 23

Clothes Then and Now
See page 24

All About Space
See page 23

Cells and Microbes
See page 23
Dominoes
Founder Editors: Bill Bowler and Sue Parminter
Series Editor: Nicole Irving
BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE • CEFR: A1–B1
FICTION/NON-FICTION: 4 LEVELS

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Did you know?
Dominoes are written to the highly acclaimed Bookworms syllabus, so your students can read books from both series at the same level. Find out more on page 53.
Ali Baba finds a thieves’ treasure cave, and he is suddenly rich. Then his brother Kasim visits the cave, and things go wrong. The forty thieves find Kasim there, kill him, and cut him into four pieces. What can he do when the thieves find Ali Baba and want to kill him, too?

‘Help! A wolf is eating my sheep!’

What happens when a bored shepherd boy lies to the people in his village – or when he later tells the truth?

What does a man and his wife do when their goat lays golden eggs? And what can two travelers learn from a bear in the woods?

These three old Greek tales teach us important truths about people today.

I want to fly later this year.’

‘So it’s a race,’ laughs Lagari.

‘Yes,’ smiles Hezarfen.

The time is the 1630s. Sultan Murat IV rules the Ottoman Empire. Two Istanbul brothers – Hezarfen Ahmet Celebi and Lagari Hasan – dream of flying. Which of them can be the first flying man? And what does the Sultan give to the winner of the race? Read this story and find the answers.

Al Brown plays the guitar in a band with friends. He writes songs, too. ‘Our boy can’t live without his music,’ his parents say.

But when Al’s baby sister, Lisa, arrives from hospital, his life is suddenly different.

Now his mother and father have no time for him, and he has no time for school work – or the band.

Then Al’s sister gets ill.

And Grandad tells him, ‘Write a song for Lisa!’ But why, and how can this help?

It’s a cold winter’s day, and a poor little girl can’t sell any of her matches to people in the street. She can’t go home without any money.

But how can she stay warm?

She remembers also trees, and wonderful things people’s homes, Christmas presents and lovely songs.

It’s New Year, and Lisa thinks of her matches to people around the world.

‘Be careful with Morfran,’ Princess Adhan tells her young son, Merlin.

Morfran, the son of the Enchantress Ceridwen, is a bully. Then one day, Merlin drinks one of Ceridwen’s magic potions. After this, he can become different animals, see through walls, change the weather, and look into the future. But Morfran is angry with Merlin when Ceridwen dies. Years later, Morfran – now King Vortigern’s magician – plans to kill Merlin, the boy with no father. How can Merlin’s magic powers help him to fight his old enemy?

Abby is a teenager, and she doesn’t talk much to her parents. Abby’s dad works hard for an oil company, and Abby’s mom doesn’t like her friends. Then, one summer, Abby stays with her crazy Aunt May in California. Here – with Aunt May and her neighbours Diego and Bianca – she learns to see things differently. But, one night, there’s an oil spill on the beautiful beach near their home.

What can Abby, her aunt, and the neighbours do? And who answers Abby’s call for help? And how?
Perseus is the son of Danae, Princess of Argos, and the god Zeus. When he is very young, his mother moves with him to live on the island of Seriphos. Later, Polydectes – the king of Seriphos – wants to marry Danae. Perseus says ‘no’ to this, so Polydectes sends the young man away.

‘It’s my garden,’ says the Giant, ‘People must understand. Nobody can play here – only me!’ So the children leave, and the Giant puts a wall around his garden. After that, it’s always winter there.

‘Come quickly, Dr Watson,’ says Mrs Hudson. ‘Sherlock Holmes is dying!’ Sherlock Holmes was trying to solve a murder. But now he has a terrible illness, and he is not his normal self. Can his friend Watson help him? Can the strange Mr Culverton Smith help him?

‘I see Troy in flames years from now – because Paris brings disaster to us,’ Queen Hecuba says about her son. Paris’s brother Hector and the Greek fighter Achilles meet in battle? Who wins the war, and how? Read Troy and find the answers.

Word count 1,144
Reader 978 0 19 424937 9
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 4463904 0 BrE

Word count 1,440
Reader 978 0 19 424931 7
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 4463905 7 BrE

Word count 1,519
Reader 978 0 19 424972 0
Reader with Audio 978 019 462236 3 BrE

Word count 1,489
Reader 978 0 19 424946 1
Reader with Audio 978 019 463908 8 AmE

Word count 1,145
Reader 978 0 19 424976 8
Reader with Audio 978 019 463909 5 BrE

Word count 1,573
Reader 978 0 19 424986 7
Reader with Audio 978 019 4463910 1 AmE

Word count 1,488
Reader 978 0 19 424987 5
Reader with Audio 978 019 463908 6 BrE
It is the 24th of December – the night before Christmas. Ebenezer Scrooge doesn’t like Christmas. Christmas is an expensive time, and Scrooge likes one thing: money. So he doesn’t like to give money to poor children in the London streets – or to Bob Cratchit. Cratchit works in Scrooge’s office, and gets little money for his hard work. Scrooge is not a nice old man. But when he gets home that night, three ghosts visit him.

Can the ghosts change this bad old man into a better man?
Everyone loves him. He feels sad about the city’s poor people, but what can he do? He can’t leave his city. And what about the swallow’s dream of flying to Iceland? And what does the Prince do when the Happy Prince loses all his gold? He can’t leave his column. Then the swallow arrives, and helps the Happy Prince to do many good things.

In Hamburg, Germany, Professor Otto Lidenbrock comes home with an old Icelandic book. In it there is a message about a journey to the centre of the Earth. Can Lidenbrock and Axel – and their Icelandic guide, Hans – find the centre of the Earth? And can they all get home alive after their many underground adventures?

In the hunt for a white whale – Moby-Dick! Ahab wants revenge on the white whale – Moby-Dick! – and their Icelandic guide, Hans – find the centre of the Earth? And can they all get home alive after their many underground adventures?

The Happy Prince is a beautiful golden statue high up on a column in the city. Everyone loves him.

He feels sad about the city’s poor people, but what can he do? He can’t leave his column. Then the swallow arrives, and helps the Happy Prince to do many good things.

But what about the swallow’s dream of flying to Egypt? And what does the Mayor do when the Happy Prince loses all his gold?

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When the Emperor calls every man to join the army and fight the enemy, Mulan’s father is old and ill, and cannot go. Wearing men’s clothes and riding a horse, Mulan leaves her family and fights bravely for the Emperor in her father’s place.

She is soon a hero for all the soldiers in the Chinese army. One of them, Ye Ming, is her best friend. But does he know that she is a woman? And can Mulan fall in love with a friend?
A Pretty Face
John Escott

Zoe Baker works in a bookstore. She also likes acting, and she has a part in the play Romeo and Juliet. Mike Morrison writes about the play for the newspaper. What does he write about Zoe? Is Zoe a good actress... or is she just 'a pretty face'? What does Zoe think when she reads the newspaper? What does she do?

In the first of these stories, Rip Van Winkle sleeps for over twenty years, and then wakes up to a world that he no longer understands. In the other story, Ichabod Crane, the school teacher, meets a headless rider in the middle of a dark night. These two classic tales of the supernatural by Washington Irving have been popular for nearly two hundred years.

King Shahriyar cannot trust women. Every afternoon he marries a wife, but the next morning he always kills her. One day, the Vizier cannot find any more wives for the King. What can he do? 'I can be Shahriyar's new wife!' says Sheherazade, the Vizier's older daughter. 'God willing I can stay alive, and help the women of our country.' But how can Sheherazade stay alive for a thousand and one nights? And does Shahriyar learn to trust women again in the end?

Sherlock Holmes needs a rest, so Dr Watson takes him to the country. They stay with Watson's old friend, Colonel Hayter, in his nice house near Reigate. And of course every single day is quiet here, away from London, isn't it? But no, strange thieves are working in the village – and then, there is a murder.'Can Mr Holmes help?' asks Forrester, the police inspector. 'Sherlock Holmes never helps,' says Helen. 'He is too clever, he can solve the puzzle.' ‘Help me,’ says Helen. ‘My sister died, and now I am going to die too.’ Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson must answer the question of how Julia Stoner died, two years ago. If they cannot, then Helen Stoner will die too. But her house is very strange – and her stepfather, Dr Grimesby Roylott, is very angry and does not want Holmes there. Who killed Julia, and how? And why did she say 'The speckled band!' before she died?

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Word count 2,541
Reader 978 0 19 424704 7
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463923 1 AmE

Word count 2,000
Reader 978 0 19 424702 3
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463918 7 AmE

Word count 3,355
Reader 978 0 19 463919 4 BrE
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463920 0 BrE

Word count 3,176
Reader 978 0 19 460745 2
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 460744 5 BrE

Word count 3,371
Reader 978 0 19 460905 0
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463921 7 BrE

Word count 2,782
Reader 978 0 19 424709 2
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463931 6 BrE

Word count 2,359
Reader 978 0 19 424707 8
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463922 4
Tristan and Isolde are in love, but Isolde must marry King Mark. So a happy love story seems impossible…

The lovers meet every day but then, one night, King Mark finds them together. Now Tristan must leave the castle, but he is badly hurt and dying. Only Isolde can help him.

Can Isolde find Tristan in time? Can their love survive?

In 1386 a number of pilgrims are going to Canterbury to visit the tomb of Saint Thomas Becket, and they all tell stories on the way.

Who should be the stronger in a marriage – the husband or the wife? And what happens when two men fall in love with the same woman? In these five stories from Geoffrey Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales we find different answers to these questions from the Knight, the Wife of Bath, the Clerk of Oxford, the Merchant, and the Franklin.

Amy and Matt are bored. They don’t want to study for their exams. They want to have a good time. So they drive to the marina at West Palm Beach, and Matt jumps onto one of the boats. ‘We can go anywhere!’ he jokes.

But when the owners of the boat come back and find them, Amy and Matt are in deep trouble. Matt is a good swimmer and enjoys scuba-diving, but now he must dive for their lives.

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Tino wants to be a famous football player, and now is his chance – he is playing in his first game for an important team!

But not everyone wants to help him. His father won’t come to watch him play. His team captain, Lenda, thinks he is a bad player. And what about the other team? Their captain is very big – and very mean!

How will Tino do? What will happen to his friends, and his team? What will his family do? And who will win?
Frankenstein
Mary Shelley
Text adaptation by Bill Bowler

‘My name is Victor Frankenstein.’
On a ship in the Arctic, Victor Frankenstein – ill and tired – tells the story of his sad life to the British man of science, Robert Walton. He talks of his family and friends in Geneva, and of his love for beautiful Elizabeth Lavenza. He speaks, too, about the terrible creature that he made from dead body parts when he was a university science student. He hates this monster, which has destroyed his life. But how does the monster feel about its maker?

From the Earth to the Moon
Jules Verne
Text adaptation by Janet Hardy-Gould

It is 1865. Impey Barbicane and J.T. Maston are very good with guns and explosives, and want to do something important – so they decide to build a big gun and use it to go to the Moon. But no-one has gone to the Moon before, and many people, like the great Captain Nicholl, believe that it cannot be done. What will happen when Barbicane and Nicholl meet? And will the men who try to go to the Moon come back alive?

From the Heart
William Shakespeare
Text adaptation by Nicole Irving

What’s happened to Hamlet, Prince of Denmark? He was all right – he had friends, liked studying, and loved his girlfriend, Ophelia. Then his father, the king, died. The ghost of Hamlet’s father came to Elsinore Castle and spoke to Hamlet. What terrible story did he tell his son? Can Hamlet’s uncle really be so bad? What will Hamlet do?

Read Shakespeare’s famous story as an exciting comic with beautiful illustrations.

Hamlet
William Shakespeare
Text adaptation by Janet Hardy-Gould

‘Tripitaka, can you go to the west for me – and for Buddha?’
When the holy woman Guanyin asks the young Chinese monk Tripitaka to bring some holy writings back from India, he says ‘yes’. But how can he travel across rivers, and fight terrible monsters and demons, on his long journey? He needs three strong helpers – Monkey, Pigsy, and Sandy – to do that! But where do they come from? Do they always help? And can they bring the holy writings home again? Read this old Chinese story, and find out.

Housemates
Alison Watts
Text adaptation by John Escott

When Jake Stevens goes to work for some months in Ireland, he feels happy. He loves travelling, and talking about his job – making computer games for BananaTech in America.

‘Your new game’s going to be the best thing at the Irish Computer Exhibition!’ people at BananaTech Ireland tell him.

But living with a noisy parrot isn’t easy, and when Jake asks the most beautiful girl at work out to dinner, she says ‘no’. Then someone steals Jake’s game the night before the show. Who – or what – can help him to get it back?

Jake’s Parrot
Paul Hearn and Yetis Ozkan
Retold by John Escott

Anna is a new student at Oxford University. When she arrives in Oxford, she meets Selim, and they become good friends. But Selim is not English, and living in a different country is not easy for him. Anna tries to help – but she knows that her father isn’t going to like it.

She says ‘no’. Then someone steals the house that he needs with problems, and not all of Chris’s housemates are easy to live with.

Can Chris find the house that he needs with housemates that he can live with?

* This story is recorded in Australian English to reflect its origin and setting.
DOMINOES

NEW

WORLD LITERATURE

The Jungle Book
Rudyard Kipling
Text adaptation by Alex Raynham

Comic Strip

In the Indian jungle, a boy lives like a young wolf with his wolf family. Meet little Mowgli ...

Mowgli grows up with his wolf brothers, but there are many other animals here, too. There are friends like Baloo the bear and Bagheera the panther. There is important Akela, leader of the wolf pack – so many wonderful animals to learn from. But Shere Khan the tiger is a man-killer, so there are very big dangers, too, in the jungle ...

Enjoy the classic Rudyard Kipling stories about Mowgli, as an exciting comic.

Word count 2,717
Reader 978 0 19 4462720 7
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 4462722 1 BrE

BESTSELLER

WORLD LITERATURE

Macbeth
William Shakespeare
Text adaptation by Alistair McCallum

‘How long is she in Oman for?’
‘Ten days. And then they want to take her back home.’
‘Ah, yes. But she’s not going back to London. They’re never going to see her again!’

Jamie and Taymour overhear this strange conversation near their homes in Muscat. Two men want to kill an important visitor, it seems. But who is the woman in danger? And what can the boys do to save her?

Can they, their sisters Sarah and Nadine, and their Australian friend Ruth find the answer to the mystery?

Word count 5,581
Reader 978 0 19 4639416 4
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 4639428 5

MYSTERY & HORROR

Mystery in Muscat
Julie Till

‘Peter Pan is the boy who never grows up. He lives in Neverland, an island with fairies and pirates – and he isn’t real. Or is he?’

Wendy and her brothers learn the truth when Peter and the fairy Tinkerbell come and take them all to Neverland. Neverland is wonderful – and dangerous. Peter Pan is real, but so are the pirates, and their terrible leader, Captain Hook. Peter cut off Hook’s hand, and now Hook wants revenge. Who will win – Pan or Hook? And will Wendy and her brothers ever go home to London?

Word count 5,671
Reader 978 0 19 4639416 4
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 4639428 5

TV & FILM ADVENTURE

Peter Pan
J. M. Barrie
Text adaptation by Alistair McCallum

‘Are you scared, Gordon?’ asks Heather.

Four friends talk of ghosts in a hotel in Scotland. That night Gordon sees and hears something strange in his room. But is it really the ghost of Lord McCoy?

These six stories tell of ghosts – friendly, sad, and bad – from Britain, Australasia, New Zealand, America – and Egypt!

Word count 5,793
Reader 978 0 19 4639514 3 AmE
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 4639514 BrE

STORY COLLECTIONS

The Real McCoy & Other Ghost Stories
Lesley Thompson

‘Are you scared, Gordon?’ asks Heather.

Four friends talk of ghosts in a hotel in Scotland. That night Gordon sees and hears something strange in his room. But is it really the ghost of Lord McCoy?

These six stories tell of ghosts – friendly, sad, and bad – from Britain, Australasia, New Zealand, America – and Egypt!

Word count 5,803
Reader 978 0 19 4639514 3 AmE
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 4639514 BrE

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44
A man from the British royal family leaves an expensive gold and emerald crown at Holder and Stevenson’s – one of the best banks in London. When someone tries to take the crown from Mr Holder’s desk, he asks Sherlock Holmes for help. Who wants the crown and why? Only Sherlock can find the answers.

Fay loves making The Friends’ Hour for Studio Five, but her boss – Jason – is always angry with her. One day, a young man – Simon Jones – phones her show. Soon Fay must find Simon, and work hard to keep her job. Then her best friend – Wing – stops helping her. What can Fay do now? Can she and Wing stay friends?

There’s going to be a storm,’ Father told Fritz. ‘Find your brothers and bring them to our room.’

A Swiss family are going to Australia when their ship sinks in a storm. After that, Mother, Father, Fritz, Hans, Ernst, and little Franz must make their home on a Pacific Island. Like Robinson Crusoe, they have many exciting times on the island, and they learn a lot about its animals and plants. But do they always want to stay there, or are they going to leave one day?

Are men cleverer than women? Is a poor man cleverer than a rich man? And what about teachers? Are they always cleverer than their students? The people in these six well-known folk tales from around the world all want to be clever. But are some of them just stupid?

Each story is recorded in American or British English to reflect its origin and setting.
'My first journey was a pilgrimage to Makkah. I got on a donkey and said "Goodbye" to my parents in Tangier when I was 21. My mother cried.'

In this way Ibn Battuta, one of the greatest travellers in the world, begins telling his story to his nephew, Ahmed.

His many journeys take him to new and interesting places far from home. He sees many strange and wonderful things, has many funny and frightening experiences, and meets many different people along the way. This is his story...

When ship after ship goes down in the Atlantic, Dr Pierre Aronnax and his servant, Conseil, journey from Paris to learn more. What – or who – is attacking these ships? Aronnax, Conseil, and the Canadian, Ned Land, find the answer to this question when they meet the strange Captain Nemo.

After a long journey under the sea in Nemo’s submarine, the Nautilus, the doctor and his friends plan to leave for the surface. But how can they escape?

It’s Gromit the dog’s birthday, and his friend Wallace gives him an unusual present – a pair of Techno-trousers.

At first Wallace uses the trousers to take Gromit for walks, but when the penguin comes to stay, he uses them one night for something different – very different. This strange story won the Oscar® for Best Animated Short Film in 1993.

When he went home to Athens, the great prince Theseus left me on the island of Naxos. But why did he leave me? Everyone says that he was tired of me. But when we met, I was the princess of Crete and the most beautiful woman in the Aegean Sea.

Ariadne’s story is one woman’s tale of secret love, adventure, and of escape – both from danger and from a life that she wanted to leave far behind her – many years ago in Ancient Greece...

What is the secret of happiness, or the best thing for a wife to take with her when she leaves home? How does a man pay for the smell of bread, or decide if he is lucky? What happens when a friend steals a gift meant for you, or is careless when he tries to make his dreams of a better life come true? How can you change dirt into gold, or get what you want? The eight wise tales in this collection can teach us some important lessons about life. Each story is recorded in American or British English to reflect its origin and setting.

When Wallace the inventor meets Wendolene in her wool shop, he falls in love with her at once. But why does her dog, Preston, hate Wallace’s dog, Gromit? Then, after Wallace’s new sheep-shaving and pullover-making machine falls into the wrong hands, things start to go very wrong. Can Gromit save Wallace from the danger of a ‘close shave’?
Conan goes to the great, empty city of Alkmeenon. He wants to steal the Jewels of Gwahlur – but so does his enemy, Zargeba. In the city, Conan meets Muriela, who is clever and good at acting. With her help, Conan thinks he will win. But there are things happening in Alkmeenon that Conan does not understand – strange, terrible things.

Will Conan get the jewels, or will Zargeba? And what is the secret of Alkmeenon?

'Señor Zorro is on the road again, they say,' the landlord began. 'Why do I always hear his name?' cried Sergeant Gonzales angrily. Zorro fights to help the poor and weak in California under the Spanish Governor’s rule. Sergeant Gonzales has promised to catch and kill him, so how does Zorro always escape? And how will Señorita Lolita – the only daughter of a fine but poor old family – choose between Zorro, the exciting outlaw, and Don Diego, the rich but boring young man who wants to marry her?

When his father is arrested in Dubai, Kareem has to move fast. He must show that his father is not a thief – and prove that his family is honest. For Kareem is going to marry the beautiful and intelligent Samira Al-Hussein, and she could never marry someone from a bad family. So Kareem and his brother get to work quickly – with a little help from Samira.

What does a poor young woman do when she loses her boyfriend or wants to find one? What little lies do we tell to make ourselves look better in the eyes of those that we love? How can a friend save someone who is sure that they are going to die? What happens when someone’s clever plans all go wrong? These sweetly surprising short stories – about both good times and bad – are sometimes sad, and sometimes funny. But all of them are sure to make you think.

Emma Woodhouse is beautiful, clever, and rich. She lives alone with her father, and spends a lot of her time thinking about future husbands – for her friends. When she meets Harriet Smith, a poor girl with no family, Emma decides that she must find a husband for her. Harriet is pleased to be Emma’s friend – but will Emma’s matchmaking make Harriet happy?

Jemma is very excited when she joins an expedition to the island of Kamora. She hopes to learn about doing scientific research, and to find a very rare bird of paradise. She is happy to meet the famous Dr Malone and the wise Dr Al Barwani, and to help to research birds, snakes, and insects. But things start to go wrong. Someone has a terrible secret, and there is danger for Jemma – and for the bird. Who has a secret plan, and what is it? What will happen to the bird? And what will happen to Jemma?

Once ‘green’ was just a colour. Now we use it to talk about a way of looking at our world and thinking about the environment. But how green is our planet today? From nuclear power plants to Nemo the clownfish, from polar bears to pesticides, from Greenpeace to global warming, this book brings together many different stories that have made environmental history. Read it, and perhaps you too can make our planet greener!
The three stories in this book are about ordinary people, people like you and me, but they find themselves in surprising situations.

Lord Arthur Savile, a rich man with no enemies, finds out that he must do something terrible before he can marry. Poor young Hughie Erskine gives money to an old beggar – but the beggar is not what he seems. And Lord Murchison falls in love with a mystery woman – but what is the strange secret behind the door in Cumnor Street?

You said that you wanted danger, didn’t you?” says McArdie, the editor of the Daily Gazette. And he sends his young reporter, Malone, on a strange journey into South America with the famous Professor Challenger.

Challenger believes that he can find a lost world full of dinosaurs in the middle of the Amazon Forest. But this world is dangerous to reach, and, once the Professor and his small group of explorers arrive, things get even more dangerous for them. Will they return alive?

‘Good afternoon, Octopussy,’ said Major Dexter Smythe to the octopus. Smythe lives in Jamaica. But years earlier, he took someone’s life for gold, and now James Bond wants the full story. What can the major do?

‘It’s not a nice job, but someone has to do it,’ said M. 272, a British spy, is leaving East Berlin for the West. The Russians want to shoot him at the border. 007’s job is to kill the Russian sniper. Then a beautiful cellist arrives. Do Bond’s plans change?

Two great James Bond stories in one book!
‘For me, Watson, life is not so interesting,’ says Holmes. ‘I loved to read the newspaper, hoping to find some news of an interesting crime for me to investigate or a dangerous criminal for me to catch. Where are all those clever criminals these days?’

Then, suddenly, a wild, excited young man runs up the stairs to Holmes’ room. He has a story to tell about a strange crime that took place in Norwood. But who is the criminal? And is he dangerous? Life, for Holmes, suddenly starts to get interesting.

Word count 9,430
Reader 978 0 19 424883 9
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 439364 4 BrE

‘He’s great, Vera,’ said Angie. ‘When Viktor Sarav takes a job at Ballantine’s, Angie and her brother Don – the young owners of the New York fashion company – are pleased. But soon there are strange deaths in the company. Is there a vampire at work at Ballantine’s? Vera Donato, a company director with secrets to hide, is against Viktor. But Ed Valdemar, the company lawyer, trusts him. Who is right?’

Word count 9,075
Reader 978 0 19 424893 6
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 439369 9 AmE

It is the year 1627, and young d’Artagnan comes to Paris with a dream – to become a King’s Musketeer. Three of these brave soldiers – Porthos, Athos and Aramis – soon become his friends.

After a short time d’Artagnan has fallen in love – and into great danger. Can the three musketeers and d’Artagnan fight against the evil plans of the beautiful Milady and the cruel Cardinal Richelieu?

Word count 9,057
Reader 978 0 19 424887 7
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 439367 5 BrE

The year is 1895, and the place is the London home of a famous scientist. Here he shows his friends a strange machine – a time machine! He has built this, he tells them, to travel into the future, and into the past. He will be a time traveller!

His friends don’t know what to think. Time travel is not possible, is it?

But he leaves them, and his machine takes him to a troubling future – the land of the Eloi, where terrible creatures live below ground. He must soon fight for his life – and the life of his new friend Weena.

Word count 8,326
Reader 978 0 19 460803 9
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463970 5 BrE

‘There’s some bad weather out there,’ Captain MacWhirr said to himself just before he sailed his ship, the Nan-Shan, into the middle of the most terrible storm in the South China Sea.

The typhoon brings out the best in some men on the ship, and the worst in others. Can MacWhirr bring the ship through the storm safely?

And what will happen to all the poor Chinese workers travelling home down in the ship’s hold?

Word count 9,041
Reader 978 0 19 424893 8
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463969 9 AmE

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DOMINOES

TV & FILM ADVENTURE
War Horse
Michael Morpurgo
Text adaptation by Alex Raynham

‘We’ll be friends, you and I. I’ll call you Joey,’ Albert said. ‘I’ll look after you. We’ll always be friends, I promise.’

Albert Narracott, a farmer’s boy, makes this promise to his horse, Joey, in Devon, England. But this is before the First World War, and before Joey leaves for France to become a war horse. What happens to Joey in the British army? What will the Germans and the French do to him when they find him? And how will Albert find Joey again?

Word count 9,068
Reader 978 0 19 424982 9
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 424984 3
BrE

HUMAN INTEREST
Virtual Friends
Helen Salter

‘You’re in Paris and you aren’t even happy to be here!’ said Mum.

‘So what?’ I said. ‘Places don’t make you happy, do they? People make you happy. And all my friends are in London.’

Violet’s mum moves to Paris, so she has to go too. Living in Paris as a fourteen year old girl should be very exciting, but Violet doesn’t like it. Her only hope is to talk to her friends from London online. But will that work? Will Violet ever enjoy Paris? And what can she do about her Mum (who is so annoying…)?

Word count 8,213
Reader 978 0 19 424574 6
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 424575 3
BrE

HUMAN INTEREST
Who am I? Or, the Modern Frankenstein
Emma Howell
Text adaptation by Bill Bowler

‘Conan!’ cried Valeria. ‘What are you doing here?’

Conan the Barbarian follows Valeria the Pirate south. Together they escape from a fierce dragon, and enter a strange city in the desert. Two enemy clans live in the city, and Conan and Valeria are soon asked to join in the war between them. This adventure story – full of battles, magic, and terrible monsters – is about two friendly fighters. But who are their enemies? And what is the secret of the black pillar with the red nails in it?

Word count 11,844
Reader 978 0 19 460812 1
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 460811 4
BrE

WORLD LITERATURE
The Count of Monte Cristo
Alexandre Dumas
Text adaptation by Clare West

Marseille, France, 1815. It is Edmond Dantès’ wedding day. But his enemies have other plans, and Edmond is arrested and sent to the terrible island prison of Château d’If. For fourteen long years he waits for the right moment to escape. And now Edmond is a rich man, with many disguises, and a new name. The Count of Monte Cristo begins his revenge...

Word count 18,222
Reader 978 0 19 460984 3
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 460985 0
AmE

Dramatized audio available for every book
Audio recording: AmE = American English  BrE = British English
Selected titles available as e-Books through the Oxford Learner’s Bookshelf

LEVEL 2
A2–B1

LEVEL 3

NEW ILLUSTRATIONS
WORLD LITERATURE
The Count of Monte Cristo
Alexandre Dumas
Text adaptation by Clare West

A re-release of the existing Dominoes The Count of Monte Cristo, with new and improved illustrations. Marseille, France, 1815. It is Edmond Dantès’ wedding day. But his enemies have other plans, and Edmond is arrested and sent to the terrible island prison of Château d’If. For fourteen long years he waits for the right moment to escape. And now Edmond is a rich man, with many disguises, and a new name. The Count of Monte Cristo begins his revenge...

Word count 11,844
Reader 978 0 19 460812 1
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 460811 4
BrE

LEVEL 3

NEW ILLUSTRATIONS
TV & FILM ADVENTURE
White Fang
Jack London
Text adaptation by John Escott

‘Life is hard and dangerous for both people and animals in the frozen Canadian North. For a wolf like White Fang it is a continuous fight to find food – a fight in which many animals die. When White Fang meets the people of the North – first Indians and then White Men – he learns to live with them like a dog. But some men are cruel to their dogs and others are kind. Will White Fang’s life be any easier now?’

Word count 8,440
Reader 978 0 19 424882 2
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463971 2
AmE

LEVEL 3

1,000 HEADWORDS • CEFR B1 • Story length: 51 pages • Average word count: 13,000 • Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) • IELTS 3.5–4.5 • TOEIC 550–780 • TOEFL 57–86
What happens when a man lives his life backwards, or a family owns a diamond as big as the Ritz Hotel? How can a boring girl become more popular, a careless young woman become more sensible, or a cut-glass bowl destroy a married woman’s life? What does a young man do to save the girl that he likes from an evil ghost, or to forget old feelings for a woman when she marries another man? Read this collection of short stories by one of America’s finest storytellers to find out.

A ‘Tall Tale’ is a story that’s hard to believe, and the five tall tales in this book all tell of ghosts. Some have dark secrets buried in the past, others bring messages for the living. Some are laughable, some are sad, and some are just evil. Sometimes there’s a logical explanation for the strangest happenings, but often things cannot be explained by logic alone. Either way, you’re sure to find some frightening reading between the covers of this book.

The year is 1757. The English and the French are at war in North America. Two sisters – Cora and Alice – want to visit their father, General Munro. They begin their dangerous journey with the handsome English officer, Duncan Heyward and the Indian guide, Magua. On the way they meet friends and enemies, and many adventures. Some people will become heroes and some people will die. But what will happen to their friend Uncas, the last of the Mohican Indians?

‘Why shouldn’t we offer to take care of her? She could live with us at Mansfield.’ In this way Mrs Norris persuades her sister, Lady Bertram, and Lady Bertram’s husband, Sir Thomas, to ask their poor niece Fanny Price to live with them at Mansfield Park. At first Fanny is unhappy there. Then, after she makes friends with her young cousins, things improve. But what happens when the cousins are older, and starting to think of love?
BESTSELLER

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Selected titles available as e-Books through the Oxford Learner’s Bookshelf

DOMINOS

The Moonstone
Wilkie Collins
Text adaptation by Merinda Wilson

The weather in England that summer had been so awful that Gerald’s mother sold the family house and took her children to live on the Mediterranean island of Corfu. Between lessons, the ten-year-old Gerald was free to walk round the sunny island and discover the wonderful people and animals living there. This is the story of Gerald’s adventures with the fascinating animals of Corfu, and, of course, with his surprising family and their friends.

My Family and Other Animals
Gerald Durrell
Text adaptation by Bill Bowler

‘All men are created equal…’ When Thomas Jefferson wrote these words in June 1776, in the American Declaration of Independence, he started something that was very much bigger than he imagined. This book looks at the history around that Declaration, and at the Revolution that led to the birth of the United States of America.

The Secret Agent
Joseph Conrad
Text adaptation by Lesley Thompson

A re-release of the existing Dominoes The Secret Agent, with new and improved illustrations. Adolf Verloc is a double agent, working for both the British police and a foreign country. He pretends to live a normal life with his wife, Winnie, and has a shop in London, which, at night, becomes a meeting place for anarchists. One day Verloc is told to plant a bomb – but the plan goes terribly wrong... Does Verloc really love Winnie, or is she just part of his cover? Can Winnie ever forgive him? Who is Verloc really working for?

The Moonstone is a beautiful yellow diamond that was stolen from the statue of a Moon god in India. When Franklin Blake brings it to Rachel Verinder’s house in Yorkshire for her birthday, it brings bad luck with it. How many people will the Moonstone hurt? How many must die before the diamond’s revenge is complete?

Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Text adaptation by Jeremy Page

Miss Mary Morstan has a strange story to tell. Since her father disappeared, she has received a large pearl through the post on the same day, every year for six years. Who is sending them? And what about her father’s paper with the words ‘The Sign of Four’ written on it?

We have some wonderful mosaics in Pompeii, but I’ve never seen a better one than this!
After the young Roman mosaic designer Felix starts work in Pompeii, his whole life changes. There he falls in love with the beautiful Greek slave Agathe, who can see into the future. When the volcano Vesuvius sends hot ash over the city, Felix – and Agathe’s brother Alcander – ride to the port of Misenum for help. But will they reach admiral Gaius Plinius in time, and will they ever see Agathe alive again?

The Vesuvius Mosaic
Joyce Hannam

Word count 12,981
Reader 978 0 19 424821 1
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463983 5 BrE

Word count 14,085
Reader 978 0 19 424824 2
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463982 8 BrE

Word count 13,324
Reader 978 0 19 424826 6
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463981 1 AmE

Word count 14,554
Reader 978 0 19 460830 5
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 460829 9 BrE

Word count 13,857
Reader 978 0 19 424823 5
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463985 9 BrE

Word count 11,549
Reader 978 0 19 424827 7
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463984 7 BrE
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**Comic Strips** use a small amount of text and are very closely supported by the illustrations. Great for reluctant readers!
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Series Editor: Rachel Bladon

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Hachiko: Japan’s Most Faithful Dog, Level 1

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After dinner that night, Cassius saw a black man in the street outside the restaurant. He was holding a piece of paper which said, “BUY BLACK.” He wanted people to buy things from black people’s stores, not white people’s stores. This surprised Cassius. In Louisville, black people did not say things like this; they could not because they were too afraid.

On the plane to Rome, Cassius and the other boxers spoke about medals. For all of that long journey, Cassius did not stop talking about how he wanted a gold medal. His friends knew that he was talking so much because he was afraid of losing!

In the Olympic Village in Rome, Cassius soon became very popular. He said hello to everybody, asked their names, and shook their hands. He told them about himself and said that he wanted to win a gold medal.
How to choose a Bookworm

Choose from over 260 books
'I'm not a thief. I'm an innocent man,' shouts Brown. He is angry because he is in prison and the prison guards hate him. Then one day Brown has an idea. It is dangerous – very dangerous.

The Big Game
Paul Shipton

West High School boys’ basketball team is the worst team in town – everyone knows that. They always lose. But that’s OK - Ben and his friends love playing. Then they get a new player. Sam is good, very good. Suddenly everything changes for the West High team, and Ben is excited. But is winning games the most important thing?

The Cat
John Escott

The Cat steals things from houses in Hollywood. He steals from movie stars and nobody can stop him. Or can they?

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court
Mark Twain
Retold by Alan Hines

Hank Morgan is a happy young man in Connecticut, USA, in 1879 until one day someone runs into his office and shouts, ‘Come quickly, Boss! Two men are fighting.’ After this, something very strange happens to him, and his life changes forever.

Dead Man’s Money
John Escott

When Cal Dexter rents one of the Blue Lake Cabins, he finds $3000 – under the floor! He doesn’t know it, but it is the money from a bank robbery. A dead man’s money.

Drive into Danger
Rosemary Border

‘I can drive a truck,’ says Kim on her first day at work in the office. When Kim’s passenger Andy finds something strange under a truck, things get dangerous.

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'It's an interesting job,' says Sally about her work at Happy Hills. And today is a very exciting day because Zapp the famous singer is coming. Everybody is having a wonderful time. But suddenly something goes very, very wrong.

'Give me the money,' says the robber to the Los Angeles security guard. The guard looks at the gun and hands over the money. The robber has long, blond hair and rides a motorcycle – and a girl with long blond hair arrives at Kenny’s motel – on a motorcycle. Is she the robber?

Greg is a porter at the Shepton Hotel in New York. When a girl with beautiful, green eyes asks him for help, Greg can't say no. The girl's name is Cassie, and she says she is an artist. She tells Greg that her stepfather has her sketchbooks, and now she wants them back. Cassie says her stepfather is staying at Greg's hotel... so what could go wrong?

Every day people come to Mason's store – old people, young people, men, and women. From his office, and in the store, Mark watches them. And when they leave the store, he forgets them. Then one day a girl with red hair comes to the store, and everything changes for Mark. Now he can't forget that beautiful face, those green eyes, and that red hair...

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Every day is the same. Nothing exciting ever happens to me,' thinks Adam one boring Monday morning. But today is not the same. When he helps a beautiful, young woman because some men want to take her bag, life gets exciting and very, very dangerous.

Greg is a porter at the Shepton Hotel in New York. When a girl with beautiful, green eyes asks him for help, Greg can't say no. The girl's name is Cassie, and she says she is an artist. She tells Greg that her stepfather has her sketchbooks, and now she wants them back. Cassie says her stepfather is staying at Greg's hotel... so what could go wrong?

It is the year 650 in England. There is war everywhere because the old king is dead and he has no son. Only when the new king comes can the fighting stop and the strange, magical story of King Arthur begin. But first, Merlin the ancient magician has to find a way of finding the next king...

'How can Mr Frank be angry now?' thinks Mike happily. His film is good and he is the only cameraman on the volcano. Now he can go home. But then he finds Jenny and she is dying. Rocks start to move and Mike is afraid. Can they get off the volcano alive? And what happens to Mike's camera and film?
Every day someone steals money from people near the shops. We must stop this,” says Dan, a police officer.

The police use TV cameras but it is not easy because there are so many suspects – who is the robber?

Six women are dead because of the Whitechapel Killer. Now another woman lies in a London street and there is blood everywhere. She is very ill.

You are the famous detective Mycroft Pound; can you catch the killer before he escapes?

It is the year 2030, and an email message arrives at New York Café: ‘I want to help people and make them happy!’

But not everybody is happy about the email, and soon the police and the President are very interested in the New York Café.

Everything’s ready now. We can do the experiment,’ says your assistant Joe.

You are the famous scientist Mary Durie working in a laboratory in Alaska. When you discover something very new and valuable, other people want to steal your idea – can you stop them before they escape?

Manor Hall is a dark, dark house with a mystery. Nobody can go into the music room. But one night Tom and Milly hear something. The noise is coming from the music room. Tom and Milly open the door. Someone in the music room is singing. Tom and Milly are afraid, but they can’t move.

Can Tom and Milly discover the mystery of Manor Hall?

When Tonya and her friends decide to sail around the world, they want to see exciting things and visit exciting places.

But one day, they meet an orca – a killer whale – one of the most dangerous animals in the sea. And life gets a little too exciting.

Can Tom and Milly discover the mystery of Manor Hall?

Tom Creek’s treasure is under the sea. Many men try to get the treasure, but many men die.

‘Our boat is ready. We are all good divers. Let’s find the treasure! Yes?’ says John West to his wife and friends. ‘Yes! Arr! Ooohh!’ they shout.

They are all ready to go – but are they afraid of Tom Creek’s curse?
Sing to Win
Andrea Sarto

Word count 1,461
Reader 978 0 19 462438 1
Reader with Audio 978 0 19 462436 7
BrE

‘Sing to Win’ is the biggest programme on TV – everyone watches it and every singer wants to win it. Sofia loves singing, so she goes to an audition for Sing to Win – and makes friends with Emma. Emma is a very good singer, too, and soon there are stories about the two friends on TV and online. But not all the stories are true – and suddenly, being friends is not easy...

Bill and Sam arrive in the small American town of Summit with only two hundred dollars, but they need more and Sam has an idea for making a lot of money. When things start to go very wrong, both men soon regret their visit – and their idea.

‘Who is the man with the roses in his hand?’ thinks Anna. ‘I want to meet him.’

‘Who is the girl with the guitar?’ thinks Will. ‘I like her. I want to meet her.’

But they do not meet. ‘There are lots of men!’ says Anna’s friend Vicki, but Anna cannot forget Will. And then one rainy day...

‘You’re a brave man, but I am afraid for you,’ says Lady Marian to Robin of Locksley. She is afraid because Robin does not like Prince John’s new taxes and wants to do something for the poor people of Nottingham. When Prince John hears this, Robin is suddenly in great danger.

Sally is always running – and she has her phone with her all the time: at home, on the train, at work, at lunchtime, and at the shops.

But then one afternoon, she suddenly has a different phone... and it changes her life.

The empty centre of Australia. The sun is hot and there are not many people. And when Bill meets a man, alone, standing on an empty road a long way from anywhere, he is surprised and worried.

And Bill is right to be worried. Because there is something strange about the man he meets. Very strange...
Tom Sawyer does not like school. He does not like work, and he never wants to get out of bed in the morning. But he likes swimming, fishing and having adventures with his friends. And he has a lot of adventures. One night, he and his friend Huck Finn go to the graveyard to look for ghosts.

They don’t see any ghosts that night. They see something worse than a ghost – much, much worse…
In a city in Arabia, there lives a boy called Aladdin. He is poor and often hungry, but one day he finds an old lamp. When he rubs the lamp, smoke comes out of it, and then out of the smoke comes a magical jinnee.

With the jinnee’s help, Aladdin is soon rich, with fine things. But can he win the love of the Sultan’s daughter, the beautiful Princess Badr-al-Budur?

Luke is a good-looking, young man, but he’s not very clever with words. Gemma is clever with words, but what does she want? Lucy and Becky are good friends, but what about Sam? He makes wonderful cakes, but does about this? He makes wonderful cakes, one day he makes a friend too...
Five Short Plays
Martyn Ford

What do you do if you have a boring job in a restaurant, serving fast food to people who have no time to eat? What if you dream of travelling to other countries, but your friends just laugh? Do you stay at home with them? Perhaps you hear that someone has bought the last bag of salt in town. Do you buy a bag from him at a high price? Do you believe in ghosts? Jerry doesn’t. He’s a 19-year-old American, who just wants a good holiday with his friend, Brad. They are travelling round the north of England by bicycle. But strange things begin to happen in the small hotel where they are staying. First, Brad seems to think that he has been there before. And then a girl called Ellen appears...

The first of these three original plays is set in the 17th century, and the other two take place in modern times. In each play, a ghost comes back from the dead to change the lives of living situations.

Do you believe in ghosts? Jerry doesn’t. He’s a 19-year-old American, who just wants a good holiday with his friend, Brad. They are travelling round the north of England by bicycle. But strange things begin to happen in the small hotel where they are staying. First, Brad seems to think that he has been there before. And then a girl called Ellen appears...

The first of these three original plays is set in the 17th century, and the other two take place in modern times. In each play, a ghost comes back from the dead to change the lives of living situations.

Nick Lortz is sitting outside a café in Whistler, a village in the Canadian mountains, when a stranger comes and sits next to him. She’s young, pretty, and has a beautiful smile. Nick is happy to sit and talk with her.

But why does she call Nick ‘Mr Hollywood’? Why does she give him a big kiss when she leaves? And who is the man at the next table – the man with short white hair?

Nick learns the answers to these questions three long days later – in a police station on Vancouver Island.

The true story of Hachiko, Japan’s most famous dog, begins in the early 1920s, when he comes to live in Tokyo with Professor Ueno. Hachiko loves his new master. When the professor takes the train to work every morning, Hachiko goes with him to the station – and when the professor comes home in the evening, his faithful dog is always waiting. Hachiko soon has many friends in the streets of Tokyo – people like Nobu, the young son of a food seller. Life is good for Hachiko – until one day, everything changes...

France, 1815. Jean Valjean leaves prison after 19 years. These are dangerous and troubled times, and life is hard. Valjean must begin a new life, but how can he escape his past, and his enemy, Inspector Javert?

This story for Bookworms is loosely based on the famous novel Les Misérables by Victor Hugo, one of France’s greatest writers. The novel was written in 1862, and the story has been retold many times – in a musical, in plays for radio and theatre, and in more than 50 films for television and cinema.

Cedric Errol is seven years old. He lives with his mother, in a little house, in New York. They don’t have much money, but mother and son are very good friends. Cedric is a kind, friendly, little boy, and everybody likes him. His father was English, but he is now dead, and Cedric and his mother are alone in the world.

But one day a lawyer arrives from England with some very surprising news about Cedric’s grandfather.

Sara Crewe is a very rich little girl. She first comes to England when she is seven, and her father takes her to Miss Minchin’s school in London. Then he goes back to his work in India. Sara is very sad at first, but she soon makes friends at school. But on her eleventh birthday, something terrible happens, and now Sara has no family, no home, and not a penny in the world...
Everybody wants to win the lottery. A million pounds, perhaps five million, even ten million. How wonderful! Emma Carter buys a ticket for the lottery every week, and puts the ticket carefully in her bag. She is 73 years old and does not have much money. She would like to visit her son in Australia, but aeroplane tickets are very expensive.

Jason Williams buys lottery tickets every week, and puts the ticket for the lottery every week, and puts the ticket carefully in her bag. She is 73 years old and does not have much money. She would like to visit her son in Australia, but aeroplane tickets are very expensive.

It is Molly Clarkson’s 15th birthday. She is having a party. She is rich, but she is having a small party – only four people. Four people, however, who all need the same thing; they need her money. She will not give them the money, so they are waiting for her to die. And there are other people who are also waiting for her to die.

But one person can’t wait. And so, on her 15th birthday, Molly Clarkson is going to die.

Mary was Queen of Scotland when she was one week old. At 16, she was also Queen of France. She was tall and beautiful, with red-gold hair. Many men loved her and died for her. "The death of Mary is the life of Elizabeth."

Love or Money?
Rowena Akinyemi

Maria is from Pamplona in Spain, and she’s having English classes at a summer school in London. She’s nervous at first, but soon she has a new friend, Emilia, and they do everything together. But then she meets Jack. He’s tall with blue eyes, very handsome... But does he like Maria? And what does Emilia think about Jack?

Maria’s Summer in London
Rowena Wakefield

Everyday life of Elizabeth.’ ‘The death of Mary is the life of Elizabeth.’

Mary, Queen of Scots
Tim Vicary

Outside, the night is cold and wet. Inside, the White family sits and waits. Where is their visitor? There is a knock at the door. A man is standing outside in the dark. Their visitor has arrived.

The visitor waits. He has been in India for many years. What has he got? He has brought the hand of a small, dead animal – a monkey’s paw.

Yes, it is a monkey’s paw.

The visitor smiles and waits for the answer, too!

Can the lawyer find out the truth, by asking the right questions? Everyone in court wants to know who murdered Mary Jones. You can help to find the answer, too!

The Underwater Palace
Anna Akhtar

The Monkey’s Paw
W. W. Jacobs

The Murder of Mary Jones
Tim Vicary

So, in 1661..."
It is night in the south seas near Tahiti, and the ship HMS Bounty has begun the long voyage home to England. But the sailors on the ship are angry men, and they have swords and guns. They pull the captain out of bed and take him up on deck. ‘Do that again,’ he says, ‘and you’re a dead man!’ he says. Captain Bligh, and you’re a sailor holds a knife on deck. He tries to run, but a sailor holds a knife to his neck. ‘Do that again, and you’re a dead man!’ he says. It’s best like that, he thinks.

When he was a boy, he was poor and hungry. When he was a young man, he was still poor and still hungry. He learnt how to steal horses, he learnt how to fight, he learnt how to live – outside the law. Australia in the 1870s was a hard, wild place. Rich people had land, poor people didn’t. So the rich got richer, and the poor stayed poor.

Some say Ned Kelly was a bad man. Some say he was a good man but the law was bad. This is the true story of Australia’s most famous outlaw.

Alex’s family are always moving from town to town. He doesn’t make new friends now, because he doesn’t like saying goodbye to them. He has his music, his songs, and his guitar, and they’re only for him. It’s best like that, he thinks.

Then he meets Bella, and everything gets difficult. He likes her. He likes her very much. But she wants him to play his music for everyone. And how can he say goodbye to her, when his parents decide to move again?

In EDI (the European Department of Intelligence in Brussels) there are some very secret files – the Omega Files. There are strange, surprising, and sometimes horrible stories in these files, but not many people know about them. You never read about them in the newspapers.

Hawker and Jude know all about the Omega Files, because they work for EDI. They think fast, they move fast, and they learn some very strange things. They go all over the world, asking difficult questions in dangerous places, but they don’t always find the answers…

Top Walsh had a lot to learn about life. He liked travelling, and he was in no hurry. He liked meeting people, anyone and everyone. He liked the two American girls on the train. They were nice and very friendly. They knew a lot of places. Tom thought they were fun. Tom certainly had a lot to learn about life.

This is a collection of short stories about adventures on trains. Strange, wonderful, and frightening things can happen on trains – and all of them happen here.

It is 1880, in the Opera House in Paris. Everybody is talking about the Phantom of the Opera, the ghost that lives somewhere under the Opera House. The Phantom is a man in black clothes. He is a body without a head, he is a head without a body. He has a yellow face, he has no nose, he has black holes for eyes. Everybody is afraid of the Phantom – the singers, the dancers, the directors, the stage workers…

But who has actually seen him?
A beautiful young Indian girl, and a brave Englishman. Black eyes, and blue eyes. A friendly smile, a laugh, a look of love... But this is North America in 1607, and love is not easy. The girl is the daughter of King Powhatan, and the Englishman is a white man. And the Indians of Virginia do not want the white man. And the Indians and the Englishman is a daughter of King Powhatan, is not easy. The girl is the America in 1607, and love smile, a laugh, a look of Englishman. Black eyes, girl, and a brave A beautiful young Indian Retold by Tim Vicary

Word count 5,320 Reader 978 0 19 462051 2 AmE Reader with Audio 978 0 19 462052 9 BrE

TRUE STORIES
Pocahontas
Retold by Tim Vicary

The President is dead! A man is running in the night. He is afraid and needs to rest. But there are people behind him – people with lights, and dogs, and guns. A man is standing in front of a desk. His boss is very angry, and the man is tired and needs to sleep. But first he must find the other man, and bring him back – dead or alive. Two men: the hunter and the hunted. Which will win? The President is dead! A man is running in the night. He is afraid and needs to rest. But there are people behind him – people with lights, and dogs, and guns. A man is standing in front of a desk. His boss is very angry, and the man is tired and needs to sleep. But first he must find the other man, and bring him back – dead or alive. Two men: the hunter and the hunted. Which will win?

Word count 5,270 Reader 978 0 19 478917 2 Reader with Audio 978 0 19 462052 9 BrE

THRILLER & ADVENTURE
The President’s Murderer
Jennifer Bassett

Cathy Wilson is driving to Norfolk, to begin her new job with the Harvey family. She is going to look after the two young children, Tim and Susan. Cathy meets the children’s father, and their grandmother, and their aunt. She meets Nick, the farmer who lives across the fields. But she doesn’t meet Miranda, the children’s mother, because Miranda is dead. She died two years ago, and Cathy cannot learn anything about her. Everybody remembers Miranda, but nobody wants to talk about her...

Word count 5,040 Reader 978 0 19 478918 9 Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463744 2 BrE

HUMAN INTEREST
Remember Miranda
Rowena Akinyemi

Dr Huxtable has a school for boys in the north of England. When the Duke of Holderness decides to send his young son there, that is good news for the school. The Duke is a very important person, and Dr Huxtable is happy to have his son in the school. But two weeks later Dr Huxtable is the unhappiest man in England. Why? And why does he take the train down to London and go to Baker Street? Why does he need the help of the famous detective Sherlock Holmes? Because someone has kidnapped the Duke’s son...

Word count 5,800 Reader 978 0 19 478919 6 Reader with Audio 978 0 19 462035 2 BrE

CRIME & MYSTERY
Sherlock Holmes and the Duke’s Son
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Retold by Jennifer Bassett

Horseracing is the sport of kings, perhaps because racehorses are very expensive animals. But when they win, they can make a lot of money for the owners, for the trainers, and for the people who put bets on them. Silver Blaze is a young horse, but already the winner of many races. One night he disappears, and someone kills his trainer. The police want the killer, and the owner wants his horse, but they can’t find them. So what do they do? They write to 221B Baker Street, of course – to ask for the help of the great detective, Sherlock Holmes.

Word count 5,925 Reader 978 0 19 478920 2 Reader with Audio 978 0 19 462036 9 BrE

Sherlock Holmes: The Sport of Kings
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Retold by John Escott

Sherlock Holmes is the greatest detective the world has ever seen, and he knows it. As the famous bank-robber, John Clay, says to him, ‘You think of everything, Mr Holmes. You’re very clever.’ People come to him with problems that no one, not even the police, can solve. Holmes sits, and thinks, and smokes his pipe, and in the end he finds the answer. In these plays, based on two of his stories, Holmes, helped by his old friend, Dr Watson, uses his great intelligence to solve two unusual and interesting cases.

Word count 5,795 Reader 978 0 19 423503 7 Reader with Audio 978 0 19 462037 6 BrE

PLAYSCRIPTS
Sherlock Holmes: Two Plays
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Retold by Jennifer Bassett

Shirley Homes, private investigator. Like Sherlock Holmes one hundred years ago, she lives in London, enjoys working on difficult cases, and has some helpful friends. She understands people, is a good listener, and of course, she is clever with computers. In today’s world that is important, because a lot of crime is cyber crime. In this second Shirley Homes detective story, Shirley must catch a cyber thief. But how? You can’t see a cyber thief, you can’t hear a cyber thief. Only the computer knows, and the computer isn’t talking...

Word count 6,643 Reader 978 0 19 478611 9 Reader with Audio 978 0 19 463746 4 BrE

CRIME & MYSTERY
Shirley Homes and the Cyber Thief
Jennifer Bassett

In this second Shirley Homes play, private investigator Shirley needs some help. She is the detective story, Shirley must catch a cyber thief. But how? You can’t see a cyber thief, you can’t hear a cyber thief. Only the computer knows, and the computer isn’t talking...
Shirley Homes and the Lithuanian Case
Jennifer Bassett

Some sisters are good friends, some are not. Sometimes there is more hate in a family than there is love. Karin is beautiful and has lots of men friends, but she can be very unkind to her sister Marcia. Perhaps when they were small, there was love between them, but that was a long time ago.

They say that everybody has one crime in them. Perhaps they only take an umbrella that does not belong to them. Perhaps they steal from a shop, perhaps they get angry and hit someone, perhaps they kill...

It is the year 2522, and the planet Earth is dying. The Artificial Ozone Layer is only 300 years old, but it is breaking up. Now the sun is burning down on Earth. There is no water. Without water, nothing can live. Trees die, plants die, animals die, people die...

In a colony under the moon, people wait for news — news from home, news from the planet Earth. And in a spaceship high above Earth, a young man watches numbers on a computer screen. The numbers tell a story, and the young man is afraid. The planet Earth is burning, burning...

Sarah Harland is 19, and she is in prison. At the airport, they find heroin in her bag. So, now she is waiting to go to court. If the court decides that it was her heroin, then she must die. She says she did not do it. But if she did not, who did? Only two people can help Sarah: her mother, and an old boyfriend who does not love her now. Can they work together? Can they find the real criminal before it is too late?

Witches are dangerous. They can kill you with a look, or a word. They can send their friend the Devil after you in the shape of a dog or a cat. They can make a clay picture of you, then break it... and a few weeks later you are dead.

Today, of course, most people don’t believe in witches. But in 1612 everybody was afraid of them. Young Jennet Device in Lancashire knew a lot about them because she lived with the Witches of Pendle. They were her family...

A woman and a man... words of love whispered on a summer night. Later, there is a child, but no wedding-ring. And then the man leaves the first woman, finds a younger woman, marries her... it’s an old story.

Yes, it’s an old, old story. It happens all the time — today, tomorrow, one hundred years ago. People don’t change. But this story, set among the green hills of southern England, has something different about it. Perhaps it is only a dream, or perhaps it is magic — a kind of strange dark magic that begins in the world of dreams and phantoms...

Dorothy lives in Kansas, USA, but one day a cyclone blows her and her house to a strange country called Oz. There, Dorothy makes friends with the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion.

But she wants to go home to Kansas. Only one person can help her, and that is the country’s famous Wizard. So Dorothy and her friends take the yellow brick road to the Emerald City, to find the Wizard of Oz...
People love and need animals. They keep them in their homes and on their farms. They enjoy going to zoos, and watching animals on films and on TV. Little children love to play with toy animals.

But people are a great danger to animals too. They take their land, and cut down the trees where animals have their homes. They pollute the rivers and seas, and kill big animals for their skins or for medicine. Now there are about 7,000 species of animals in danger. What can we do to protect the animals in danger?

What are about 7,000 species of animals for their skins or for medicine. Now there are about 7,000 species of animals in danger. What can we do to protect the animals of the world – from us?

Everyone knows about Brazil’s beautiful beaches, the Amazon rainforest, and the wonderful Carnival of Rio de Janeiro. But there is a lot more to Brazil than this: here you can find interesting old towns, modern cities, and thousands of different kinds of animals and plants. It is home to world-famous artists and writers, and international sporting events like the World Cup and the Olympics, too. What other interesting things can you see here? Why is there music and the Olympics, too.

25 million people come to England every year, and some never go out of London. But England is full of interesting places to visit and things to do. There are big noisy cities with great shops and theatres, and quiet little villages. You can visit old castles and beautiful churches – or go to festivals with music 24 hours a day.

You can have an English afternoon tea, walk on long white beaches, watch a great game of football, or visit a country house. Yes, England has something for everybody – what has it got for you?

Hollywood – nine big white letters against the Hollywood Hills. Every year millions of people come from all over the world and look up at this famous sign. Why do they come? They come to see the stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and to see the hand and foot prints outside Grauman’s Chinese Theatre. They come to visit Universal Studios, and perhaps to see a movie star or two. Most of all, they come to be in the most famous place in movie history – exciting, wonderful Hollywood!

What is Japan? It is everything new and modern: the Tokyo Sky Tree, 634 metres high; amazing cameras and phones; karaoke and manga; trains going past at 300 kilometres an hour. And it is everything ancient too: beautiful palaces; high mountains and hot springs; cherry blossom in the spring; quiet gardens in the summer; cities of the past meets the future in the spring; quiet gardens in the summer; cities of the past meets the future.

‘One day, I’m going to be famous,’ John Lennon said when he was young – and soon he was! His band ‘The Beatles’ became one of the greatest in the world, and people loved them. After John Lennon went solo, he wrote some of the most important songs of all time. He was a family man and a peace protestor – he wanted to change the world. But one autumn day, four gun shots rang out across New York, and took away that dream for ever.

Come with us to London – a city as old as the Romans, and as new as the 21st century. There are places to go – from Oxford Street to Westminster Abbey, from Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre to Wimbledon Tennis Club. And things to do – ride on the London Eye, visit the markets, go to the theatre, run in the London Marathon. Big, beautiful, noisy, exciting – that’s London.

Big, beautiful, noisy, exciting – that’s London.
What can you do in New York? Everything! You can go to some of the world’s most famous shops, watch a baseball game, go to the top of a skyscraper, see a concert in Central Park, and listen to music. Down in the third-class cabins, rich passengers eat wonderful food, and go to one of the world’s biggest museums, castles, and parks. Others come to see the home of their parents and grandparents, to hear Scottish music, to find some come to visit the Scottish music, to find their family tartan. And Scotland has wonderful food, and go to one of the world’s biggest street parties. Scotland has something for everybody. Come and find what Scotland has for you.

More than 20 million visitors come to Scotland each year. Some love it for its long white beaches and quiet green hills. Some like the busy cities, with their shops and museums, castles, and parks. Others come to see the home of their parents and grandparents, to hear Scottish music, to find their family tartan. And Scotland has something for everybody. Come and find what Scotland has for you.

On a quiet sea, the biggest ship in the world is waiting. There is no noise from the engines. Up in the night sky there are hundreds of stars. Behind the ship, an iceberg – a great mountain of ice – goes slowly away into the black night.

In the beautiful first-class rooms, rich passengers eat and listen to music. Down in the third-class cabins, families sleep. An exciting new life is waiting for them in America.

But for many of the people in this small city on the sea, this is their last night alive…

The bride wore a long white dress, with flowers in her hair. After the wedding, there was a party, and people gave presents to the bride and groom. This wedding was nearly two thousand years ago, in Rome. Some things don’t change.

But some things do. Today you can have a wedding on a mountain, or under the sea, or ‘Elvis’ can sing for you. And different things happen in different places. Little birds made of paper, small trees, money in the bride’s shoe, and lots of noise – they are all important for weddings somewhere. Welcome to the wonderful world of weddings!

Everybody took photos of Prince William when he first arrived at the University of St Andrews. Crowds of photographers came to the little Scottish town next to the sea and took pictures of this new student – the 19-year-old grandson of the Queen of England.

But nobody photographed Kate Middleton on her first day at the university. She moved in quietly, ready to begin her studies in Art History. She was just an ordinary student with an ordinary future in front of her. Or was she?
What does the name 'Agatha Christie' mean? To many people, it means a book about a murder mystery – a ‘whodunnit’. ‘I’m reading an Agatha Christie,’ people say. ‘I’m not sure who the murderer is – I think it’s…’ But they are usually wrong, because it is not easy to guess the murderer’s name before the end of the book.

But who was Agatha Christie? What was she like? Was her life quiet and unexciting, or was it full of interest and adventure? Was there a mystery in her life, too?

There, on top of the mushroom, was a large caterpillar, smoking a pipe. After a while the Caterpillar took the pipe out of its mouth and said to Alice in a slow, sleepy voice, ‘Who are you?’

What strange things happen when Alice falls down the rabbit-hole and into Wonderland! She has conversations with the Caterpillar and the Cheshire Cat, goes to the Mad Hatter’s tea party, plays croquet with the King and Queen of Hearts...

‘I want to learn to fly,’ Amelia Earhart tells her family one evening. But it is 1920. Flying is expensive and dangerous, and most people think it is for men, not women.

But nothing can stop Amelia Earhart, and she works hard to be a pilot. Soon, she is breaking records for flying further and higher than anyone before. She shows the world that anything is possible – for women and not just men.

Life is always exciting for Marilla Cuthbert and her brother Matthew want to adopt an orphan, to help on their farm at Greengables. But they are usually wrong, because it is not easy to guess the murderer’s name before the end of the book.

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There has been a ghost in the house for three hundred years, and Lord Canterville’s family have had enough of it. So Lord Canterville sells his grand old house to an American family. Mr Hiram B. Otis is happy to buy the house and the ghost – because of course Americans don’t believe in ghosts.

The Canterville ghost has great plans to frighten the life out of the Otis family. But Americans don’t frighten easily – especially not two noisy little boys – and the poor ghost has a few surprises waiting for him.

‘Then a letter came, for Aloo from a famous college in America. They offered him a place… a place with a scholarship. Aloo could not believe it at first. He read the letter again and again.’

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Aloo is very happy, but soon he finds that it is not so easy. He will need money to live on, money for plane ticket… And then there is Mother…

The stories in this volume come from Malawi, South Africa, and Tanzania, and are by African writers Steve Chimombo, Farida Karodia, and M. G. Vassanji.
England in 1647: King Charles is in prison, and Cromwell’s men are fighting the King’s men. These are dangerous times for everybody.

The four Beverley children have no parents; their mother is dead and their father died while fighting for the King. Now Cromwell’s soldiers have come to burn the house – with the children in it.

The four of them escape behind the locked door. Night she learns what is an island? So she watches, how can a young man buy something very strange about Mr Ross. Where did he get his money from? How can a young man buy an island? So she watches, and she listens – and one night she learns what is behind the locked door.

Mr Ross lives on an island where no visitors come. He stops people from taking photographs of him. He is young and rich, but he looks sad. And there is one room in his house which is always locked.

Carol Sanders and her mother come to the island to work for Mr Ross. Carol soon decides that there is something very strange about Mr Ross. Where did he get his money from? How can a young man buy an island? So she watches, and she listens – and one night she learns what is behind the locked door.

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In Sweden nobody wants a troll to come into their garden, but perhaps it is safer to walk. In England some young people play a scary game, and in Asia, a soldier returns home –

Every country in the world has stories about ghosts and spirits and monsters of one kind or another. Some people believe in ghosts and some don’t – but everyone enjoys a good ghost story.

All they could hear was the wind, and the waves. All they could see was the night. They could not see the ship, broken in two, or the people holding on to the dark wet rock, slowly dying of cold. And they could not hear the cries for help – only the wind.

How could a man and his daughter save the people on the rock? They only had a little wooden boat in that wild and dangerous sea. The Forfarshire was wrecked off the north-east coast of England in 1838. This is the true story of Grace Darling – a girl who became a famous heroine on that stormy night.

There were six of them – three Katherines, two Annes, and a Jane. One of them was the King’s wife for twenty-four years, another for only a year and a half. One died, two were divorced, and two were beheaded. It was a dangerous, uncertain life. After the King’s death in 1547, his sixth wife finds a box of old letters – one from each of the first five wives. They are sad, angry, frightened letters. They tell the story of what it was like to be the wife of Henry VIII of England.

Who wants to live in a house, wear clean clothes, be good, and go to school every day? Not young Huckleberry Finn, that’s for sure. So Huck runs away, and is soon floating down the great Mississippi River on a raft. With him is Jim, a black slave who is also running away. But life is not always easy for the two friends.

This famous play by William Shakespeare is one of the finest in the English language. Why does Hamlet, the young Prince of Denmark, look so sad? Why does he often say strange things? His family and friends are worried about him. Perhaps he is mad!

But Hamlet thinks that he has discovered a terrible secret about a recent crime in his family. Now he has no time for Ophelia, the sweet girl who loves him, or his friends, who were at school with him. He sits alone, and thinks, and plans. What will he decide to do? Will he ever be happy again?
In the jungle of Southern India the Seeonee Wolf-Pack has a new cub. He is not a wolf – he is Mowgli, a human child, but he knows nothing of the world of men. He lives and hunts with his brothers the wolves. Baloo the bear and Bagheera the panther are his friends and teachers. And Shere Khan, the man-eating tiger, is his enemy.

Kipling’s famous story of Mowgli’s adventures in the jungle has been loved by young and old for more than a hundred years.

The room was on the fourth floor, and the door was locked – with the key on the stairs? Nobody in Paris knew. The chimney was too narrow for a cat to get through. So how did the murderer escape? And whose were the two angry voices heard by the neighbours as they ran up the stairs? Nobody in Paris could find any answers to this mystery.

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Allegra is an unusual name. It means ‘happy’ in Italian, but the little girl in this story is sometimes very sad. She is only five years old, but she tells Adrian, her new friend, that she is going to die soon. How does she know? And who is the other Allegra? The girl in a long white nightdress, who has golden hair and big blue eyes. How does she know?

A housewife, a tramp, a lawyer, a waitress, an actress – ordinary people living ordinary lives in New York at the beginning of the twentieth century. The city has changed greatly since that time, but its people are much the same. Some are rich, some are poor, some are happy, some are sad, some have found love, some are looking for love.

O. Henry’s famous short stories – sensitive, funny, sympathetic – give us vivid pictures of the everyday lives of these New Yorkers.
Catherine is spending the summer in Bath. It is a new world for Catherine, who has never left her home village before. There are dances, visits to the theatre, her new friends Isabella Thorpe and Eleanor Tilney... and Eleanor’s brother Henry, who likes her at once.

For Catherine, life is about love and adventure. So when she is invited to Tilney’s home, it seems full of mystery. But soon Catherine begins to learn a few lessons about real life – about who her friends are, and why, for some people, money is more important than love.

Money or love? Which is more important in life? Can money buy anything? Can it help a young man to marry the girl he loves? Does money really make people happy, or does it just cause problems?

These four plays about money, love, and life are adapted from short stories written a hundred years ago by the great American storyteller O. Henry. Henry had his own difficulties with money and loneliness, and wrote from personal experience.

One day, a farmer tells a farm boy to take everything out of an old building and throw it away. ‘It’s all rubbish,’ he says.

In the middle of all the rubbish, the boy finds a beautiful old piano. He has never played before, but now, when his fingers touch the piano, he begins to play. He closes his eyes and the music comes to him – and the music moves his fingers.

When he opens his eyes again, he knows that his life is changed for ever...

Everybody has bad dreams. Horrible things move towards you in the dark, things you can hear but not see. Then you wake up, in your own warm bed, and turn over to go back to sleep.

But imagine that you wake up on a hard floor, in a darkness blacker than the blackest night. You listen to the silence, and smell a wet dead smell. Death is all around you, waiting...

In these stories by Edgar Allan Poe, death whispers towards you in the dark, and fear can send you mad...

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In these stories by Edgar Allan Poe, death whispers towards you in the dark, and fear can send you mad...
In 1659 Robinson Crusoe was shipwrecked on a small island off the coast of South America. After fifteen years alone, he suddenly learns that there – the footprint of a man!'

Robinson Crusoe
Daniel Defoe
Retold by Diane Mowat

'Sherlock Holmes is famous around the world. When the police cannot solve a crime, they turn to Holmes. He never misses a clue, and when he looks carefully at a person, he can understand everything about them. These are two of the best Sherlock Holmes stories. In ‘The Dead Coachman’, Holmes investigates a burglary and a murder while he is staying in the countryside with his friend Doctor Watson. In ‘The Last Mystery’, Holmes is in danger from the evil Professor Moriarty, who is as clever as the detective himself. They are both ready to fight to the death. But who will win?'

Sherlock Holmes: More Short Stories
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Retold by Clare West

'Sherlock Holmes is the greatest detective of them all. He sits in his room, and smokes his pipe. He listens, and watches, and thinks. He listens to the steps coming up the stairs; he watches the door opening – and he knows what question the stranger will ask.

In these three of his best stories, Holmes has three visitors to the famous flat in Baker Street – visitors who bring their troubles to the only man in the world who can help them.'

Sherlock Holmes Short Stories
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ARNOLD BENNETT

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Stories from the Five Towns
Arnold Bennett
Retold by Nick Bullard

'From Nigeria to New Zealand, from Jamaica to Malaysia, from India to South Africa, these stories show us that the human heart is the same in every place. People everywhere have the same feelings of fear and pain, happiness and sadness. Bookworms World Stories collect stories written in English from around the world, and the eight stories in this book were selected from the winning entries in the Commonwealth Short Story Competition. All the stories in this edition are from two previous Bookworms titles: Cries from the Heart and Songs from the Soul.'

Stories from the Heart
Arnold Bennett
Retold by Jennifer Bassett
When Ping sees Hanno in the zoo, he is excited, but also unhappy. Hanno is a magnificent African gorilla, big and black and much stronger than a man. But how can this wonderful wild animal live in a cage, behind bars and locked doors? Then Hanno escapes from the zoo. And a few days later his footprints are seen near Green Knowe. Days later, when Ping comes to the zoo, he is excited, but Mr James Conway wants to build new houses and shops – and he wants to build them on an old graveyard, on the island of Haiti.

There is only one old man who still visits the graveyard; and Mr Conway is not afraid of one old man. But the old man has friends – friends in the graveyard, friends who lie dead, under the ground. And when Mr Conway starts to build his houses, he makes the terrible mistake of disturbing the sleep of the dead.

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Solomon Northup left home in 1841 as a free black man. He wanted to go to New York for a few days, and then return home to his wife and children. But this was the start of a terrible journey for Solomon: a journey into kidnap and slavery, which did not end for twelve years. Every day brought more cruelty and pain, but Solomon never stopped thinking of ways to escape. This is the true story of his life.

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You can drink it, and you can cook with it. You can even make buildings, dresses, and hats out of it. You can give it to somebody as a present, or you can buy it for yourself. And of course you can eat it. Dark chocolate, milk chocolate, white chocolate, chocolates with gold on the outside – everybody loves chocolate.

It’s a terrible problem – or it’s really not as bad as people say. There will be sudden big changes – or slower changes that we can learn to live with. It means the end for many animals, people, even whole islands – or the beginning for growing food in the Sahara.

What is the truth about climate change? Who is right – and what can we do about it? If we learn about the past, then perhaps there will be time to make changes for the future.

Some call it football, some call it soccer, and to others it’s the beautiful game. By any name, it’s a sport with some fascinating stories. There is a game that lasts for two days where many players never see the ball. There’s the French writer who learnt lessons about life from playing football, and the women players who had to leave the club. The cups, the leagues, the World Cup finals, the stars, the rules – they’re all a part of the world’s favourite sport, the ‘Beautiful Game’.

There are many different Irelands. There is the Ireland of peaceful rivers, green fields, and beautiful islands. There is the Ireland of song and dance, pubs and theatres – the country of James Joyce, Bob Geldof, and Riverdance. And there is the Ireland of guns, fighting, death, and the hope of peace. Come with us and visit all of these Irelands – and many more…

‘Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.’ More than fifty years ago, the new US President, John F. Kennedy, spoke these words. Millions of Americans listened, and they were filled with hope. With Kennedy as president, surely there was a great future ahead for their country. But Kennedy would not finish his four years as president. In November 1963, the world stopped as terrible news came from Dallas, Texas…

What does the world look like from the moon? ‘How do our bodies work?’ ‘Is it possible for people to fly?’ ‘Can I make a horse of bronze that is eight metres tall?’ ‘How can we have cleaner cities?’ ‘All his life, Leonardo da Vinci asked questions. We know him as a great artist, but he was one of the great thinkers of all time, and even today, doctors and scientists are still learning from his ideas. Meet the man who made a robot lion, wrote doctors and scientists are still learning from his ideas. Meet the man who made a robot lion, wrote
Even as a young boy, Muhammad Ali knew that he wanted to do great things in his life, and make changes in the world. By the time he was eighteen, Ali was an Olympic Champion in boxing, and he went on to be World Champion three times. But Ali’s fights were not just in the boxing ring. He fought for other things too: for the boxing ring.

Thousands of years ago, people looked out across an ocean and asked themselves, ‘What is on the other side?’ And the bravest of them began to travel and find the answers – beautiful islands, frozen lands, different peoples...

Every four years, the world’s best athletes come together for one of the most exciting competitions in sport: the Olympic Games. After years of training, competitors in more than 40 different sports win and lose their events, and set new world records, in front of crowds of people.

The Olympic Games are more than 2,500 years old. So how did they start, how have they changed over the years, and what have been some of the most important times in their history?

Deep rivers, tall trees, strange animals, beautiful flowers – this is the rainforest. Burning trees, thick smoke, new roads and cities, dead animals – this is the rainforest too. To some people the rainforests mean beautiful places that you can visit, to others they mean trees that they can cut down and sell.

Between 1950 and 2000 half of the world’s rainforests disappeared. While you read these words, people are cutting down rainforest trees. What are these wonderful places that we call rainforests – and is it too late to save them?

In English-speaking countries around the world people celebrate Easter, Valentine’s Day, Christmas, and other special days. Some celebrations are new, others, like the summer solstice, go back thousands of years.

What happens on these special days? Why is there a special day for eating pancakes? Who is the ‘guy’ that children take onto the streets in November? And where do many people like to spend the shortest night of the year in England?

Come on a journey through a year of celebrations, from New Year’s Eve to Christmas.

Stephen Hawking was one of the greatest scientists and thinkers of our time, and is famous around the world because he wrote and talked about cosmology – the science of the universe – in a way that people could understand.

He had a terrible disease and is famous around the world because he wrote and talked about cosmology – the science of the universe – in a way that people could understand. But this did not stop him working to try and understand our world better.

What are the most beautiful, the most interesting, the most wonderful things in the world? The Great Pyramid, the Great Wall of China, the Panama Canal – everyone has their favourites. And there are natural wonders too – Mount Everest, Niagara Falls, and the Northern Lights, for example.

Here is one person’s choice of 11 wonders. Some of them are made by people, and others are natural. Come and discover new wonders...
The job was too good. There had to be a problem—and there was.

John Duncan was an honest man, but he needed money. He had children to look after. He was ready to do anything, and his bosses knew it.

They gave him the job because he couldn’t say no; he couldn’t afford to be honest. And the job was like a poison inside him. It changed him and blinded him, so that he couldn’t see the real poison—until it was too late.
In Edinburgh a detective listens to a confession; in Orkney an old man lives with the ghosts of his past. In the Outer Hebrides some travellers learn a lesson; in Glasgow a young woman steals a meeting with a famous actor; and in a small town somewhere a pigeon dies. These stories are as richly varied as the land of Scotland itself.

Bookworms World Stories collect stories written in English from around the world. This volume has stories by Scottish writers Eona Macnicol, Malcolm Laing, Ian Rankin, George Mackay Brown, and Susie Maguire.

Victor Frankenstein thinks he has found the secret of life. He takes parts from dead people and builds a new ‘man’. But this monster is so big and frightening that everyone runs away from him – even Frankenstein himself!

The monster is like an enormous baby who needs love. But nobody gives him love, and soon he learns to hate. And, because he is so strong, the next thing he learns is how to kill…

The Leander pearls were stolen 19 years ago. The thief was never found, and there is still a $25,000 reward for anyone who finds them. Then somebody comes to private detective Carmady with a story about a guy who knows where the pearls are hidden.

Carmady agrees to talk to the guy who says he knows. But he finds him dead in his bed, with burned feet, and it seems there are quite a lot of people in Los Angeles who have heard the story, and who are out looking for the Leander pearls…

London: November. Terrorists blow up the Queen’s coach outside Parliament. The Queen escapes, but five people are killed, and 40 others badly hurt – ordinary, innocent people, like Alan Cole, the Queen’s coachman, who loses his leg in the bombing. And for Alan and his daughter Jane there is more terror to come, in the search for the truth behind the bombing. Will the terrorists be caught and brought to justice?

But what kind of justice? I ran to the side of the ship. “Help, help! Murder!” I screamed, and my uncle slowly turned to look at me. I did not see any more. Already strong hands were pulling me away. Then something hit my head; I saw a great flash of fire, and fell to the ground…'

And so begin David Balfour’s adventures. He is kidnapped, taken to sea, and meets many dangers. He also meets a friend, Alan Brodie. But Alan is in danger himself, on the run from the English army across the wild Highlands of Scotland…

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Love stories with a difference… There’s a kiss by a fireside that was a mistake, there’s a haunting aunt by the seaside, and a gunman in Texas wanting a fight. There’s a white heron flying over a forest, and a messenger running between two benches in a park. And of course, there’s a girl who meets a boy…

These love stories are by US writers Kate Chopin, Stephen Crane, Sarah Orne Jewett, O. Henry, and Canadian writer Lucy Maud Montgomery [author of the famous Anne of Green Gables].

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For 50 years after Dr Watson’s death, a packet of papers, written by the doctor himself, lay hidden in a locked box. The papers contained an extraordinary report of the case of Jack the Ripper and the horrible murders in the East End of London in 1888. The detective, of course, was the great Sherlock Holmes – but why was the report kept hidden for so long? This is the story that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle never wrote. It is a strange and frightening tale…

‘Nani Tama looked at each of us – Dad, Auntie Hiraina, my cousin Timi, and myself. His eyes were angry. “You fullas want me to die here in this room?”’

But Nani Tama gets his own way, and his grandson drives him through the night, to find the missing pieces from the family history. The stories in this volume of World Stories are by New Zealand writers James Courage, Witì Ihimaera, Philip Mincher, and Joy Cowley.

This is a love story you won’t forget. Oliver Barrett meets Jenny Cavilleri. He plays sports, she plays music. He’s rich, and she’s poor. They argue, and they fight, and they fall in love. So they get married, and make a home together. They work hard, they enjoy life, they make plans for the future. Then they learn that they don’t have much time left.

There are broken hearts and kisses and then weddings, so this is a story about love. There are actors who are funny because they cannot act, so it is also a story that makes people laugh. And there are faeries, spirits of the night, so it is a story about mischief and magic, as well. What happens when love and laughter come together with magic in an Athenian forest? A Midsummer Night’s Dream was written in about 1596 and is one of Shakespeare’s most popular plays. It has been retold for Bookworms, not as a play, but as a story.

Charles Bravo died from the poison antimony. He took three days to die, and the doctors could do nothing to help him. There were three people who had reasons for wanting Charles Bravo dead – Florence Bravo herself, Charles Bravo’s new young wife, Dr James Gully, Florence’s former lover, and Mrs Jane Cox, Florence’s friend and companion. But the enquiry into the death in 1876 could not decide who the murderer was, and for more than 130 years people have wondered who did kill Charles Bravo…

Life is sweet for Othello. He is deeply in love with his new wife, Desdemona, and as the Duke’s general, he is the most important person in Venice’s army. But Othello does not know that his flag-bearer, Iago, hates him and wants revenge.

As Iago begins to succeed with his clever plans, a frightening emotion takes hold of Othello: will jealousy destroy him? This is one of Shakespeare’s most famous tragedies, retold here as a story, not a play.

When Tug wakes up, he is not in his own bedroom at home. The door is locked and there are bars across the window. Loud music hammers through the house and through his head. Then a woman comes in and says that she is his mother, but Tug knows that she is not his mother… Outside, Jinny stares through the trees at the lonely house on the hill. She hears strange noises, but she turns away. After all, it’s none of her business…
It was three o'clock in the afternoon. Lord Henry Wotton was at a dinner party. He was showing off: 'If it can make people laugh,' he said, 'it can be forgiven – even murder.'

Lord Henry was the receive of the day. He was happy, and he had the air of an angel in heaven. He smiled, showing teeth yellow from cigarette smoke. He looked at his desk diary, then at her papers again. 'Mmm... a hundred pesos a month. Why, that’s one thousand two hundred pesos a year. Surely, you can afford to buy me a forty-peso dinner!'

How can Marina say no? How can she refuse the Chief’s next request? He is an evil man, but she needs his promotion...

These World Stories, from Tonga, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and New Zealand, are by Epeli Hau’ofa, Denise Whittaker, F. Sionil José, David A. Kulu, and Graeme Lay.

Playing with Fire: Stories from the Pacific Rim
Anthony Hope
Retold by Jennifer Bassett

Fourteen-year-old Molly and her cousins Daisy and Gracie were mixed-race Aborigines. In 1931 they were taken away from their families and sent to a camp to be trained as good ‘white’ Australians. They were told to forget their mothers, their language, their home.

But Molly would not forget. She and her cousins escaped and walked back to Jigalong, 1,600 kilometres away, following the rabbit-proof fence as their guide. They lived in the country, in a little house near a railway line. The Railway Children – they all knew all the trains, Perks and Sapt gallop through the night to find the King of Ruritania. But the King is now a prisoner in the Castle of Zenda. Who will rescue him from his enemies, the dangerous Hentzau?

And who will win the heart of the beautiful Princess Flavia?

Rabbit-Proof Fence
Doris Pilkington Garimara
Retold by Jennifer Bassett

‘We must leave for Zenda at once, to find the King!’ cried Sapt. ‘If we’re caught, we’ll all be killed!’

So Rudolf Rassendyll and Sapt gallop through the night to find the King of Rutania. But the King is now a prisoner in the Castle of Zenda. Who will rescue him from his enemies, the dangerous Duke Michael and Rupert of Hentzau?

And who will win the heart of the beautiful Princess Flavia?

Retold by Diane Mowat

A Pair of Ghostly Hands and Other Stories
Retold by Diane Mowat

If you wake up in the night and hear a tap running somewhere in the house, what do you do? You get up, of course, and go and turn the tap off. A little later you hear the tap running again. What do you do? You get up, somewhere in the house, and hear a tap running.

Retold by Jennifer Bassett

The Picture of Dorian Gray
Oscar Wilde
Retold by Jill Novia

When we are happy, we are always good,’ says Lord Henry, ‘but when we are good, we are not always happy.’

Lord Henry’s lazy, clever words lead the young Dorian Gray into a world where it is better to be beautiful than to be good; a world where anything can be forgiven – even murder – if it can make people laugh at a dinner party.

The ghosts in these stories all have unfinished business with the living world. They come back from the grave to continue their work, to keep a promise, to look for something they have lost. Sometimes they want to help people, sometimes they want to punish them – or kill them. You turned the tap off. What do you do then?

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When a large plane is hijacked, the Prime Minister looks at the list of passengers and suddenly becomes very, very frightened.

There is a name on the list that the Prime Minister knows very well – too well.

He has never seen any other name on that list that the Prime Minister looks at the list of hijacked passengers and suddenly becomes very, very frightened.

There is a name on the list that the Prime Minister knows very well – too well.

The human mind is a dark, bottomless pit, and sometimes it works in strange and frightening ways. That sound in the night... is it a door banging in the wind, or a murdered man knocking inside his coffin? The face in the mirror... is it yours, or the face of someone standing behind you, who is never there when you turn round?

These famous short stories by Edgar Allan Poe, that master of horror, explore the dark world of the imagination, where the dead live and speak, where fear lies in every shadow of the mind...
Sam Sylvester is a teacher who wants his class to have ambition, and to do great things in life. So he enters them for a sporting competition against the rich students of Greycoats School.

The team that he has chosen for the competition think Sam has gone crazy. ‘Who, Sir? Me, Sir?’ says little Hoomey, his eyes round with horror. ‘Never in a million years!’ others cry. ‘Never in a million years!’

But you don’t know what you can do – until you try...

Down by the river bank, where the wind whispers through the willow trees, is a very pleasant place to have a lunch party with a few friends. But life is not always so peaceful for the Mole and the Water Rat. There is the time, for example, when Toad gets interested in motor-cars – goes mad about them in fact...

The story of the adventures of Mole, Rat, Badger, and Toad has been loved by young and old for over one hundred years.

From the smallest fly to the biggest elephant, and from fish living at the bottom of the ocean to birds that fly several kilometres above land: this is the animal kingdom, the biggest group of living things in the world. Some are very different, others are the same in many ways – but these mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates have all managed to live for thousands and thousands of years. How do they find food, grow, keep safe, and have young – and what is the future for them in this fast-changing world?

What do you find in these two countries at the end of the world? One is an enormous island, where only 20 million people live – and the other is two long, narrow islands, with ten sheep for every person. One country has the biggest rock in all the world, and a town where everybody lives under the ground; the other has a beach where you can sit beside the sea in a pool of hot water, and lakes that are bright yellow, green, and blue.

Open this book and start your journey– to two countries where something beautiful or surprising waits around every corner.

Imagine an animal with teeth as big as bananas – and a brain as big as an orange. Or a flying animal with wings as wide as a small plane. Think about a tail that could knock a man’s head off, or a mouth with hundreds of teeth. Is it any surprise that people are interested in dinosaurs?

Nobody has ever seen a living dinosaur, but millions of us go every year to stare at the bones of these enormous animals. In books, films, and games, we can’t get enough of the secrets of the dinosaur world...

It is beautiful to look at, hard to reach, and terribly difficult to climb. Winds of 200 kilometres per hour or more scream across it day and night, while the temperature falls to -20°C or lower. Every year, some who try to climb the highest mountain in the world do not return.

But for a century people have been coming to climb Everest – some alone, some in groups, but all with a dream of going to the highest place in the world. This is their story.
Our world is changing fast. We can travel and speak to people around the world, and use computers to do all kinds of things. But in some places, children go to bed hungry at night, and cannot drink clean water. And many species of animals and plants are now in danger as our climate changes and pollution worsens.

These are just a few of today’s many important global issues. So how and why are they changing, and are there any answers to these problems?

You’re fast asleep, and nothing is happening. Or is it? In fact, your body is hard at work. Your lungs are taking oxygen from the air, and your heart is pumping blood round your body. Millions of pieces of information are travelling backwards and forwards to your brain all the time. Muscles are repairing themselves, and in your lymph nodes special cells are cleaning germs and waste from the body. You may think that nothing is happening, but in the extraordinary machine that is the human body, it is very busy indeed...

It is hard to imagine the modern world without information technology. At home, at work, and at play, mobile phones, emails, and computers have become part of daily life.

The story of information technology is a story of machines – from the ancient abacus to the small powerful computer chips of today. But it is also a story of people. Meet a woman who wrote computer programs two hundred years ago, a teenager who worked in a computer company in the 1980s, and a man who began with a paperclip and ended with a house – and meet the criminals who want your name and your money.

From 1942 until 1944, Anne Frank and her family lived secretly in a small room at the back of her father’s office in Amsterdam, never leaving the building. Like many other Jewish families at that time, they were hiding from Hitler’s Nazis.

While she was in hiding, Anne wrote diaries which described her secret life, and the loves, hopes, fears and dreams of a teenage girl in extraordinary times.

After the war, the diaries became famous around the world. This is the story of the diaries of Anne Frank’s early years, and of her life during and after the time in hiding.

The United States in the 1950s and 1960s was a troubled place. Black people were angry, because they did not have the same rights as whites. It was a time of angry words, of marches, of protests, a time of bombs and killings.

But above the angry noise came the voice of one man – a man of peace. ‘I have a dream,’ said Martin Luther King, and it was a dream of blacks and whites living together in peace and freedom. This is the story of an extraordinary man, who changed American history in his short life.

What will we do when there is nowhere to put our rubbish? Every day, all over the world, people drop cans, boxes, paper, and bottles into bins and never think about them again. And the rubbish mountains get bigger and bigger. But there is another way – a way that makes old paper into houses, broken bottles into jewellery, and old cans into bridges. Anyone can recycle – it’s easy, it saves money, and it’s a way to say, ‘I care about the Earth.’ Saving the world starts with you – here now.
It is 1866, and there is trouble in the world’s oceans. What is the extraordinary thing that people have seen there, travelling faster than a whale and cutting holes in the bottom of the strongest ships?

Dr Aronnax joins the search for the ‘monster’, hoping for an exciting adventure. But when he meets the mysterious Captain Nemo, his adventure becomes more extraordinary than he had ever imagined, and he discovers a new underwater world, full of wonders, but of strange dangers too...

General Sternwood has four million dollars, and two young daughters, both pretty and both wild. He’s an old, sick man, close to death, but he doesn’t like being blackmailed. So he asks private detective Philip Marlowe to get the blackmailer off his back. Marlowe knows the dark side of life in Los Angeles well, and nothing surprises him. But when Black Beauty is found to a horse.

When Black Beauty is allowed to study maths or use computers? Who are the strange Wardens who watch over them all the time? And is someone listening in on their thoughts, when they are sent to The Room? Finn and Ellie both know that something isn’t right in their world. But when they start asking questions, their lives are turned upside-down – and suddenly even their families are no longer what they seemed. Finn is in great danger, but when his brother Adam offers to help, he needs to find out fast if he can really trust him...
Life in the small English town of Cranford seems very quiet and peaceful. The ladies of Cranford lead tidy, regular lives. They make their visits between the hours of twelve and three, give little evening parties, and worry about their maid-servants. But life is not always smooth – there are little arguments.

Mrs Gaskell’s timeless picture of small-town life in the first half of the 19th century has delighted readers for nearly 150 years. It was a very inconvenient time for murder. Florence was full of Christmas shoppers and half the police force was already on holiday.

At first it seemed quite an ordinary murder. Of course, there are always a few mysteries. In this case, the dead man had been in the habit of moving his furniture at three o’clock in the morning. Naturally, the police wanted to know why. The case became more complicated. But all the time, the answer was right under their noses. They just couldn’t see it. It was, after all, a very ordinary murder.

Three different parts of the world, but all of them dangerous, lonely places. Three different women, but all of them determined to go – and to come back alive!

Robyn Davidson walked nearly 3,000 kilometres across the Australian desert – with a dog and four camels.

Arlene Blum led a team of ten women to the top of ten mountains in the world. Only eight came down again.

Naomi James sailed around the world alone, on a journey lasting more than 250 days.

You are walking through the streets of London. It is getting dark and you want to get home quickly. You enter a narrow side-street. Everything is quiet, but as you pass the door of a large, windowless building, you hear a key turning in the lock. A man comes out and looks at you. You have never seen him before, but you realize immediately that he hates you. You are shocked to discover, also, that he hates you. You have realized he is this man that everybody hates? And why is he coming out of the laboratory of the very respectable Dr Jekyll?

In the second century AD, when the Ninth Roman Legion marched into the mists of northern Britain, not one man came back. Four thousand men disappeared, and the Eagle, the symbol of the Legion’s honour, was lost.

Years later there is a story that the Eagle has been seen again. So Marcus Aquila, whose father disappeared with the Ninth, travels north, to find the Eagle and bring it back, and to learn how his father died. But the tribes of the north are wild and dangerous, and they hate the Romans...

Elizabeth Gilbert, a successful writer, had everything – a husband, friends, a big house in New York. But one day she realized she did not want any of it. A new relationship brought more heartbreak, deep depression followed, and in desperation, she started to pray. She decided to spend a year without any new relationships, and to travel in Italy, India, and Indonesia, searching for meaning in her life.

This memoir is the true story of her journey of discovery through pleasure, religion, and back to love again. It has also been made into a major movie.

Emma Woodhouse, beautiful, clever and rich, has no wish to marry, but she enjoys making matches for those around her. It was Emma who found the perfect husband for her governess Miss Taylor. So when her dear friend Mr Knightley tells her that she should let people choose their own husbands and wives, she will not listen. But does Emma really understand people as well as she thinks? And is she even right about her own feelings, when she says that she will never fall in love?
’Soon I felt something alive moving along my leg and up my body to my face, and when I looked down, I saw a very small human being, only 15 centimetres tall... I was so surprised that I gave a great shout.’

Dartmoor. A wild, wet place in the south-west of England. A place where it is easy to get lost, and to fall into the soft green earth which can pull the strongest man down to his death.

A man is running for his life. Behind him comes an enormous dog – a dog from his worst dreams, a dog from hell. Between him and a terrible death.

The stories in this volume of World Stories come from India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The writers are Romesh Gunesekera, M. Athar Tahir, Chitra Divakaruni, Anu Kumar, Anne Ransinghe, Ruskin Bond, Anita Desai, Vijeta Fernando, and Amara Banvi Dev.

When Christmas comes for the four March girls, there is no money for expensive presents and they give away their Christmas breakfast to a poor family. But there are no happier girls in America than Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy. They miss their father, of course, who is away at the Civil War, but they try hard to be good so that he will be proud of his ‘little women’ when he comes home.

This heart-warming story of family life has been popular for more than one hundred years.

My brother preferred being with mother and me. He used to help us prepare vegetables in the kitchen or make the bread. But what he liked best was listening to my mother’s stories.

But those childhood days are long gone, and sister and brother, mother and children are now far apart.

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Ata Aidoo, Paul Tiyambe
African writers Abioseh and Nigeria, and are by of peace between sisters? And what is the price to her question, but it is not going out with? ‘Mercy, who are you sudden lines around her Your little sister’s eyes are Careful, Connie, please. Your little sister’s eyes are looking angry. Look at the sudden lines around her mouth. Connie, a sister is a good thing. Even a younger sister. ‘Mercy, who are you coming out with?’ Connies gets an answer of her child? her sinful lover – the father joy for Hester Prynne. letter? The future holds no the shadow of the scarlet to her child, growing up in shame? What will happen her dress for the rest of marriage was a child of sin. wife. A child born outside scarlet letter on the linen-weaver keeps his gold. Every day he works hard at his weaving, and every night he takes the gold out and holds the bright coins lovingly, feeling them and counting them again and again. The silver sword is only a paper knife, but it gives Jan and his friends hope. Hungry, cold, and afraid, the four children try to stay alive among the ruins of bombed cities in war-torn Europe. Soon they will begin the long and dangerous journey south, from Poland to Switzerland, where they hope to find their parents again.

Jan opened his wooden box and took out the silver sword. ‘This will bring me luck,’ he said to Mr Balicki. ‘And it will bring you luck because you gave it to me.’ The silver sword is only a paper knife, but it brings terror and death to many people. But even in these troubled times people can still love and be kind. They can be generous and true-hearted… and brave.

The Marquis lay there, like stone, with a knife pushed into his heart. On his chest lay a piece of paper, with the words: Drive him fast to the grave. This is from JACQUES. ‘The French Revolution brings terror and death to many people. But even in these troubled times people can still love and be kind. They can be generous and true-hearted… and brave.

I turned on the light, but there was nobody there. Then I saw something in the corner that made my blood turn cold. Scudder was lying on his back. There was a long knife through his heart, pinning him to the floor. Soon Richard Hannay is running for his life across the hills of Scotland. The police are chasing him for a murder he did not do, and another, more dangerous enemy is chasing him as well – the mysterious ‘Black Stone’. Who are these people? And why do they want Hannay dead?

I like work. I find it interesting… I can sit and look at it for hours.’ With ideas like this, perhaps it is not a good idea to spend a holiday taking a boat trip up the River Thames. But this is what the three friends – and Montmorency the dog – decide to do. It is the sort of holiday that is fun to remember afterwards, but not so much fun to wake up too early on a cold, wet morning. This famous book has made people laugh all over the world for one hundred years… and they are still laughing.
When did you last meet a polar bear, or go to a magician for help? These stories offer many different experiences. Some are strange, some are scary, some are sad, some are blackly funny. A few are shocking – when Lin Lin returns home for a funeral, she learns a dark and terrible family secret which may destroy her.

Bookworms World Stories collect stories written in English from around the world. These stories are from Australia, Canada, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Singapore, South Africa, and Trinidad.

When a handsome young man begins to court Catherine Sloper, she feels she is very lucky. She is a quiet, gentle girl, but neither beautiful nor admired before, or playing a game when they cooked a witch’s brew in the old barn and said a spell over it, but Martha was not so sure. And indeed, the three friends thought they were just

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Audio recording: AmE = American English BrE = British English

Selected titles available as e-books through the Oxford Learner’s Bookshelf
Great Crimes
John Escott

The History of the English Language
Brigit Viney

Nelson Mandela
Rowena Akinyemi

It is more than 40 years since the Great Train Robbery. But what happened to the rest of the money that was taken? Two million pounds has never been found. Perhaps some of the robbers would like to know the answer to this question too…

Many great crimes end in a question. Who really killed President Kennedy? What happened to Shergar? And one day the title of President of South Africa? It is more than 40 years since the Great Train Robbery. But what happened to the rest of the money that was taken? Two million pounds has never been found. Perhaps some of the robbers would like to know the answer to this question too…

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In 1918 in the peaceful province of Transkei, South Africa, the Mandela family gave their new baby son the name Rolihlahla – ‘troublemaker’. But the young boy’s early years were happy ones, and he grew up to be a good student and an enthusiastic sportsman.

Who could imagine then what was waiting for Nelson Mandela – the timeless struggle for human rights, the long years in prison, the happiness and sadness of family life, and one day the title of President of South Africa?

Everyday life in Baltimore, USA, is full of problems – getting the washing done, buying groceries and dog food, avoiding the neighbours… After the death of his son and the departure of his wife, Macon’s attempts to run his own life become increasingly desperate – and more and more odd. Meanwhile, he has to get on with his work, writing tourist guides for business people. Then his dog Edward starts to bite people, and he has to send Muriel, the dog trainer, for Muriel, the dog trainer.

Into the narrow social world of New York in the 1870s comes Countess Welland, but the beautiful and mysterious Countess needs his help. He becomes her friend and defender, but friendship with an unhappy, lonely woman is a dangerous path for a young man to follow – especially a young man who is soon to be married.

‘You look exactly like him! You can take the dead boy’s place and no one will ever know the difference. You’ll be rich for life!’

And so the plan was born. At first Brat Farrar fought against the idea; it was criminal, it was dangerous. But in the end he was persuaded, and a few weeks later Patrick Ashby came back from the dead and went home to inherit the family house and fortune. The Ashby family seemed happy to welcome Patrick home, but Brat soon realized that somewhere there was a time-bomb ticking away, waiting to explode…
When her father dies, Aku-nna and her young brother have no one to look after them. They are welcomed by their uncle because of Aku-nna’s ‘bride price’ – the money that her future husband will pay for her. In her new, strange home one man is kind to her and teaches her to look after them. They are in love, although they are drawn together – separate them, the more cruel. But he also finds trouble and misery and loneliness. For that, he is kept locked in his room for five days and nights, and nobody is allowed to speak to him. As David grows up, he learns that life is full of trouble and misery and cruelty. But he also finds laughter and kindness, trust and friendship… and love.

Chief Inspector Morse is drinking a pint of beer. He is thinking about an attractive woman who lives not far away. The woman he is thinking of is hanging, dead, from the ceiling of her kitchen. On the floor lies a chair, almost two metres away from the woman’s feet. Chief Inspector Morse finishes his pint, and orders another. Perhaps he will visit Anne, after all. But he is in no particular hurry. Meanwhile, Anne is still hanging in her kitchen, waiting for the police to come and cut her down. She is in no hurry, either. San Francisco lies under a cloud of radioactive dust. People live in half-deserted buildings, and keep electric animals as pets because many real animals have died. Most people emigrate to Mars – unless they have a job to do on Earth.

Like Rick Deckard – android killer for the police and owner of an electric sheep. This week he has to find, identify, and kill six escaped androids. They’re machines, but Vic is female. She’s tough, beautiful, carries a gun – and goes on asking questions until she gets answers.

When her cousin Boom dies in an accident, Vic is naturally upset. She wants to know how and why the accident happened, and she isn’t satisfied by the answers she gets. So she goes on asking questions… and more people start to die.

Bathsheba Everdene is young, proud, and beautiful. She is an independent woman and can marry any man she chooses – if she chooses. In fact, she likes her independence, and she likes fighting her own battles in a man’s world.

But it is never wise to ignore the power of love. There are three men who would very much like to marry Bathsheba. When she falls in love with one of them, she soon wishes she had kept her independence. She learns that love brings misery, pain, and violent passions that can destroy lives… Oh, how delightful it is to fall in love for the first time! How exciting to go to your first dance when you are a girl of 18! But life can also be hard and cruel, if you are young and inexperienced and travelling alone across Europe… or if you are a child from the wrong social class… or a singer without work and the rent to be paid.

Set in Europe and New Zealand, these nine stories by Katherine Mansfield dig deep beneath the appearances of life to show us the causes of human happiness and despair.
`After dinner we turned the lights out and played ‘hide-and-seek’. In the dark, I touched a hand, a very cold hand. Now, because of the game, I had to hide in the dark with… with this cold person – not speaking, not knowing who it was. Slowly the others found us, hid with us, until we were all there – all 13. Thirteen? The others found us, hid with us, until we were all there – all 13. Thirteen? I lit a match to see…'

But there were only 13 there – all 13. Thirteen? In the dark, I had to hide in the dark with… with this cold person – not speaking, not

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When Carruthers joins his friend Arthur Davies on his yacht Dulcibella, he is expecting a pleasant sailing holiday in the Baltic Sea. But the holiday turns into an adventure of a different kind. He and Davies soon find themselves sailing in the stormy waters of the North Sea, exploring the channels and sandbanks around the German Frisian Islands, and looking for a secret – a secret that could mean great danger for England.

Erskine Childers’ novel, published in 1903, was the first great modern spy story, and is still as exciting today as it was a hundred years ago.

Sometimes the Dashwood girls do not seem like sisters. Elinor is all calmness and reason, and can be relied upon for practical, common sense opinions. Marianne, on the other hand, is of course, full of passionate and romantic feeling. She has no time for dull common sense – or for middle-aged men of thirty-five, long past the age of marriage.

True love can only be felt by the young, of course. And if your heart is broken at the age of seventeen, how can you ever expect to recover from the passionate misery that fills your life, waking and sleeping?

The Greek island of Corfu lies like a jewel, green and gold, in the Ionian sea, where dolphins swim in the sparkling blue water. What better place for an out-of-work actress to relax for a few weeks?

But the island is full of danger and mysteries, and Lucy Waring’s holiday is far from peaceful. She meets a rude young man, who seems to have something to hide. Then there is a death by drowning, and a rude young man, who seems to have something to hide. Then there is a death by drowning, and then another yang man, who seems to have something to hide. Then there is a death by drowning, and then another...

The wind is strong on the Yorkshire moors. There are few trees, and fewer houses, to block its path. There is one house, however, that does not hide from the wind. It stands out from the hill and challenges the wind to do its worst. The house is called Wuthering Heights.

When Mr Earnshaw brings a strange, small, dark child back home to Wuthering Heights, it seems he has opened his doors to trouble. He has invited in something that, like the wind, is safer kept out of the house.

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They said Steve Biko was a man of violence; then why did he talk of peace? They said he wanted revolution; so why did he talk of friendship? They said he died of hunger; why was his body broken and bruised?

This is the story of a man’s fight with the government of South Africa. It is the story of all people who prefer truth to lies. It is the story of all people who are not afraid to die.

Dublin, Ireland, in the early years of the twentieth century. It is a poor city, and there is hard drinking, dishonesty, and violence just beneath the surface everywhere you look. Glance inside a few people’s lives, and you soon find loneliness and disappointment, self-hate, and despair.

The people in these stories are paralysed: locked into the circles of their everyday lives, where they are caught waiting between life and death. For some, there is a way out – but will circumstances, or their own fear, stop them from taking it?

On a beautiful summer evening in the quiet town of Marlow, a young woman is walking home from church. She passes a man who is looking at the engine of his car. He turns round, smiles at her... and throws acid into her face.

Then her father, the scientist George Ashton, disappears. And her sister, Penny, discovers that her husband-to-be, Malcolm, is a government agent. Why has Ashton disappeared, and why is Malcolm told to hunt for him? Who is George Ashton, anyway? And who is the enemy?

Flies are a nuisance. They are annoying when they buzz around you, but you can brush them away with your hand. After all, a fly is only about half the size of your fingernail. But suppose it wasn’t. Catch a fly and look at it closely – look at its head, its eyes, its legs. Now imagine that this thing was the size of a human being...

These eight stories offer horror in many shapes and forms, in worlds full of monsters and evil spirits, where terror lies waiting in the shadows, and where the living and the dead dance hand in hand.

Jane Eyre is alone in the world. Disliked by her aunt’s family, she is sent away to school in the end, behind a locked door. Here she learns that a young girl, with neither money nor family to support her, can expect little from the world. She survives, but she wants more from life than simply to survive: she wants respect, and love.

When she goes to work for Mr Rochester, she hopes she has found both at once. But the sound of strange laughter, late at night, behind a locked door, warns her that her troubles are only beginning.

There are so many things that a mother wishes to teach her daughter. How to lose your innocence but not your hope. How to keep hoping, when hope is your only joy. How to laugh for ever.

This is the story of four mothers and their daughters – Chinese-American women, the mothers born in China, and the daughters in America. Through their eyes we see life in pre-Revolutionary China, and life in downtown San Francisco; women struggling to find a cultural identity that can include a past and a future half a world apart.

On the Polar ice-cap, 640 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle, the deadly, icy winds can freeze a man to death in minutes. But the survivors of the crashed airliner are lucky – they are rescued by three scientists from a nearby weather station.

But why did the airliner crash in the first place? Who smashed the radio to pieces? And why does the dead pilot have a bullet hole in his back? The rescue quickly turns into a nightmare: a race through the endless Arctic night, a race against time, cold, hunger – and a killer with a gun.
London in the 1830s was no place to be if you were a hungry ten-year-old boy, an orphan without friends or family, with no home to go to, and only a penny in your pocket to buy a piece of bread.

But Oliver Twist finds some friends – Fagin, the Artful Dodger, and Charley Bates. They give him food and shelter, and play games with him, but it is not until some days later that Oliver finds out what kind of friends they are and what kind of ‘games’ they play...

A mysterious incident at the Marabar Caves, involving Adela Quested, newly arrived from England, and Dr Aziz, an Indian doctor, leads to a drama that divides the British and Indian communities in anger, distrust, and fear.

Forster’s great novel brings to life all the dangers and misunderstandings of colonialism but, as Forster himself wrote, the story is ‘about something wider than politics, about the search of the human race for a more lasting home, about the universe as embodied in the Indian earth and the Indian sky, about the horror lurking in the Marabar Caves...

The moment I first met you, I noticed your pride, your sense of superiority, and your selfish disdain for the feelings of others. ‘You are the last man in the world whom I could ever be persuaded to marry,’ said Elizabeth Bennet.

And so Elizabeth rejects the proud Mr Darcy. Can nothing overcome her prejudice against him? And what of the other Bennet girls – their fortunes, and misfortunes, in the business of getting husbands? This famous novel by Jane Austen is full of wise and humorous observation of the people and manners of her times.

Oliver Twist
Charles Dickens
Retold by Richard Rogers

Pride and Prejudice
E. M. Forster
Retold by Clare West

Vanity Fair
William Thackeray
Retold by Diane Mowat

Tess of the d’Urbervilles
Thomas Hardy
Retold by Clare West

A Passage to India
E. M. Forster
Retold by Richard G. Lewis

The Woman in White
Wilkie Collins
Retold by Richard G. Lewis

When Becky Sharp and Amelia Sedley leave school, their feet are set on very different paths. Kind, foolish Amelia returns to her comfortable home and wealthy family, to await a suitable marriage, while Becky must look out for herself, earning her own living in a hard world. But Becky is neither kind nor foolish, and with her quick brain and keen eye for a chance, her fortunes soon rise, while Amelia’s fall.

Greed, ambition, loyalty, folly, wisdom... this famous novel gives us a witty and satirical picture of English society during the Napoleonic wars.

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