

Information for Teachers
The Reception A, A Extra, A Digraphs Series

Introduction

The first manuscripts for these series were written in 1998, based on a previously written phonic series entitled 'Tig and Ted'. The 45 high-frequency words specified by the National Literacy Strategy for the Reception Year were incorporated into this series and the characters changed to two cats, Jelly and Bean.

Revisions

Some revisions have been made in the print run of January 2010.

The title of book 8A has been changed to Duck and Frog. The word quack has been removed.

The notation *Zzz ... zzz ...* (to infer snoring) has been removed from book 10A.

Consequently, the letters 'q' and 'z' no longer appear in the A Series.

Rationale

The Jelly and Bean books are based on children using the senses of **sight** and **sound** when learning to read:

- sight – children see the letters on the page in front of them
- sound – children hear the sounds in words spoken to them everyday.

This means that children need to be good listeners before they are ready to deal with the spoken language of **speech** being **represented** as the written language of **reading** and **writing**.

Choice of vocabulary

The words in each book have been carefully chosen to be within the understandable vocabulary of young children, so that they can make sense of these words as objects (e.g. cat) or concepts (e.g. on). Phonically decodable 'nonsense' words that have no meaning as objects or concepts (e.g. teb, pab, fim, bol, dup) have not been used.

Learning the sounds

All children learn the sounds of the letters of the alphabet at school in the Foundation Stage. They are often taught an action to act as a mnemonic (memory aid) for each letter and its sound – e.g. they wiggle like a snake saying 'sss ... ss ... s' for the sound of the letter 's'. However, at Jelly and Bean we use a picture as a mnemonic for each letter and its sound.

It is very important that teachers and parents **do not say** 'see' for 'c', 'bee' for 'b', 'ay' for 'a'. The sounds 'ay, bee, see, dee, ee, eff, gee, haich, I, jay, kay, ell, em, en, oh, pee, queue, are, ess, tee, you, vee, double-u, ex, why, zed' are the NAMES of the letters, NOT their sounds. The government's 'Letters and Sounds' documents recommend that letter names are taught as the last topic of Phonic Phase 3.

Capital Letters

Notice that there are no capital letters or sentences in the first books. This is so that children will not be confused with 'A' and 'a' at the beginning of their journey of learning to read and write..

The sentence 'A cat is on a hat.' is not used because of the complications that would arise from using the capital letter 'A' and the full stop, as well as introducing two more letters, 'i, s', in a word that does not decode properly ('is' or 'iz' ???). English grammar can be taught later.

Fonts

Notice also the font, Sassoon Primary Infant, and in particular the shape of the letter 'a'. It is not the same as some of the other fonts used in reading material, e.g. Arial = a, Times New Roman = a, Verdana = a. It is important that the shape of the letter 'a' is the same as the letter 'a' the pupil will write by hand.

The shape of the letters suggested for handwriting is the same as those of the Sassoon Primary Infant font. Hence, this is the reason for using this font in the books and on the worksheets. However, it is not available freely on

computers. The nearest fonts are Century Gothic (cat) or Comic Sans (cat)

where the letters q and y vary slightly.

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sassoon Primary Infant | abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz |
| Comic Sans Font | abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz |
| Century Gothic Font | abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz |
| Arial Font | abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz |
| Times New Roman | abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz |

Also care needs to be taken with the capital letter I. In Century Gothic = I, Arial = l, and these symbols are easily confused either the letter l or the number 1. However, Comic Sans = I, is consistent with handwriting.

The Books

Introduction of letters

| Book No. | Title | Small letters | Capitals |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------|
| A Series | | | |
| 1 | a cat | achmnot | |
| 2 | a box | bigx | |
| 3 | a dog on a log | dlfr | |
| 4 | cat in the mud | seu | |
| 5 | Jelly and Bean | | JBI |
| 6 | I can see | s | |
| 7 | Look at me | k | L |
| 8 | Duck and Frog | j (ck) | ATDF |
| 9 | Wellington | w | WO |
| 10 | Kevin | v | KM |
| A Extra Series | | | |
| 11 | Hop ... hop ... hop | | H |
| 12 | The Big Hat | | |
| 13 | The Big Pink Box | | P |
| 14 | Up and Down | | |
| 15 | Go Away | | YGN |
| 16 | The Little Duck | q | Q |

A Digraphs Series

| | | | |
|----|------------------------|--------|----|
| 17 | The Big Fish | (sh) | FS |
| 18 | The Bee in the Box | (th) z | UZ |
| 19 | Chickens | (ch) | |
| 20 | The Wet Cat | | |
| 21 | Peck, peck | | |
| 22 | The Bottom of the Pond | | |

Introduction of new vocabulary

A Series

| | |
|---------|---|
| Book 1 | a cat on mat hat |
| Book 2 | big in box |
| Book 3 | dog log frog and |
| Book 4 | cats mud tub rug bed the |
| Book 5 | I am red bag Jelly Bean |
| Book 6 | can see fat grass |
| Book 7 | look at me hen hut happy Lotty |
| Book 8 | is duck play jump |
| Book 9 | no has with ball oh runs kicks Wellington |
| Book 10 | my dad kennel sleep Kevin |

A Extra Series

| | |
|---------|--|
| Book 11 | went to sat off fell hop |
| Book 12 | it fun gets rips bits sad |
| Book 13 | pink top of not got bottom bang flat away |
| Book 14 | drip drop go wet down hill into bump |
| Book 15 | cross you are said his |
| Book 16 | little lost will help for yes we mum quack |

A Digraphs series

| | |
|---------|---|
| Book 17 | had he grabs yum dish wish fish splash |
| Book 18 | they this she comes buzz bee sit cannot as fast |
| Book 19 | all chickens cheep six shed |
| Book 20 | day full Chuff was |
| Book 21 | peck chin cheek says nest laid an egg weeks back soft cuddly |
| Book 22 | hot then did upset sent push pull put thank |

Some of the words in the above list are also introduced in the B Series, the B Series Extra and the Pig Family Series before they appear in the Reception Series.

Tricky words in the A Series

| Word | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| the | | | | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| I | | | | | * | * | * | | | * |
| me | | | | | | | * | | | * |
| no | | | | | | | | | * | |
| my | | | | | | | | | | * |

Vowel digraphs in the A Series

| Word | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| see | | | | | | * | | | | |
| look | | | | | | | * | | | |
| play | | | | | | | | * | * | * |

New tricky words in the A Extra Series

| Word | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| to | * | | * | * | | |
| into | | | | * | | |
| go | | | | * | * | |
| you | | | | | * | * |
| are | | | | | * | |
| said | | | | | * | * |
| we | | | | | | * |
| little | | | | | | * |

New vowel digraphs in the A Extra Series

| Word | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| away | | | * | | * | |
| down | | | | * | | |
| for | | | | | | * |

New tricky words in the A Digraphs Series

| Word | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| he | * | | | * | * | * |
| she | | * | * | | * | * |
| they | | * | | | | * |
| come | | | * | | * | * |
| all | | | * | | * | * |
| was | | | | * | | * |

Consonant digraphs in the A Digraphs Series

| Word | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| fish | * | | | | | |
| dish | * | | | | | |
| wish | * | | | | | |
| splash | * | | | | | * |
| she | | * | * | | * | * |
| shed | | | * | * | * | |
| push | | | | | | * |
| the | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| they | | * | | | | * |
| this | | * | | | * | |
| then | | | | | | * |
| chickens | | | * | | * | |
| cheep | | | * | | | |
| Chuff | | | | * | | |
| chicks | | | | | * | |
| chin | | | | | * | |
| cheek | | | | | * | |

New vowel digraphs in the A Digraphs Series

- bee
- cheep
- cheek
- weeks
- laid

The text of each story is available to photocopy from our volumes of texts.

The vocabulary used in each story is printed on the inside back cover of each book.