Laying the Foundation for Life Success: Starting Out Right in School Literacy

Elfrieda H. Hiebert
TextProject & University of California, Santa Cruz
Concepts About the World Through Read-Alouds
See it waving in the wind,
just like a hand waving hello.

Our flag is everywhere—
at the library and in the park, even on letters we send.
We see our flag near and far. At school...
In Chatham town on the Fourth of July,
A grand parade will go marching by.

Music and drum... music and drum.
We're all waiting to see it come.

The twirlers are walking down the street.
They spin and strut and lift their feet.
Mrs. Berger hangs up flags.

Sun's up high.
Fourth of July!
Lots of preparation
for a day of celebration.

Happy 4th of July,
Jenny Sweeney!

Leslie Kimmelman
Illustrated by Nancy Cote
chow mein in our kitchen.
Chow mein!
Chinese food on the Fourth of July?

No one wants Chinese food
on the Fourth of July, I say.

Fireworks are Chinese, Father says,
and hands me a pan full of sweet-and-sour pork.
4th of July

- Flag
- Parade; music; drums
- Celebration; fireworks
- Picnics; pie
Poems: New & Old

Stories: New & Old

Literary Knowledge

Fables & Tales

Under the Sunday Tree
Poems by Eloise Greenfield

The Gingerbread Man
Illustrated by HARDI DOMING

Learning Words
1. Students’ Names
2. Environmental Print
frog

3. Concrete words
pig
dog
cat
skunk
TextProject Word Pictures™
Writing
"It's a pretty flower."
The cat and the dog played with the cat.
I like a doll because I like them and they are fun to play with my other dollies.

"I like a doll because I like them and they are fun to play with my other dollies."
go I by six balloons
Handling books
An exciting new way to get started

HEY! I’m Reading!

by Betty Miles

illustrated by Sylvie Wickstrom
I made a dog.

I made a whale.
I made a duck.

I made a snail.
My cat loves to nap.

I love to play.
My cat loves to nap.

I love to jump.
Example of Set of Texts:

Level 2

Dogs can run.
They run and run.

Dogs can dig.
They dig and dig.
There are green trucks. There are red trucks.

Some trucks are big. Some trucks are little.
A snail can smell leaves to eat. Here is one eating the leaves on a plant.

A snail can smell a safe place to hide. Here it is hiding.
Level 4: Example of Available Materials

- The light is red. The van stops. The truck stops.
- The light is green. The van goes. The truck goes.
- Red light, stop. Green light, go.
How do you get to all the different places you go to? Who goes with you? Write some sentences about where you go and how you get there.

bus truck van
car children school
Red and Green
The light is red. The van stops. The truck stops.
The light is green. The van goes. The truck goes.
Red light, stop. Green light, go.

Going to School
Reader 1: I walk to school, do you?
Reader 2: No, I take the bus or go in a van.
Reader 1: Is the bus big or small?
Reader 2: It is big and yellow. Many children ride on the bus. All my friends ride the bus. You can ride the bus with me.
Reader 1: Can I?
Reader 2: Yes. Some days my mom drives me to school in a van. Can I walk with you one day?
Reader 1: Yes! One day I can take the bus to school with you, and then you can walk home with me.
Reader 2: Yes!
And...supporting students with abstract concepts
Instructional Talk

- “sound it out”
- Phoneme
- Blend
- Read
- Spell the word
- Book
- Cover
- Author
- Illustrator

- Page
- Syllable
- Write
- Letter
- Alphabet
- Sentence
- Consonant
- Vowel
Welcome to TextProject

TextProject is the only website with high-quality student texts and teacher guides that are all available for free download. Texts for students, vocabulary lessons and lists, professional development modules and videos—TextProject provides a world of open-access resources for teachers, teacher educators, parents, tutors, and students.

Download Classroom Materials for Teaching Reading

Classroom-proven resources including favorite books, reading passages, vocabulary lessons, word pictures, literacy lists & forms

Keep Current on Literacy Topics

Latest news and research on crucial literacy topics:
- Common Core State Standards
- Beginning Reading, Reading Automaticity and Fluency, and Core Vocabulary
- Comprehension, Close Reading, and Assessment
- English Learners and Literacy
- Knowledge and Informational Texts

Browse the TextProject Literacy Education Library

Curated, quality resources for literacy education: books, guides, research papers, webinars, presentations, full TextProject archives.