

Homestead Readers

Grant's Sled and other stories

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homesteadreaders.com

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Why Homestead Readers?

How are Homestead Readers different from other leveled books on the market labeled as early reading books? Unlike many early reading books, Homestead Readers progresses through well thought-out phonics steps to give the child mastery of one skill before moving on to another skill. The new skill for each level is explained at the beginning of the book so the parent is prepared to help their child learn the new reading skill if they don't already know it.

Most other early reading books introduce all kinds of words at the same time without the child having the skills to decode those words. This often results in the child looking at the picture to guess what the words are saying rather than truly reading. This is a hard habit to break. Just because a book has few words on a page, does not mean the page will be easy to read.

Are you a parent or grandparent that was never taught phonics? Don't worry. It really is not hard. Phonics is the key for children to be able to decode words they have never seen before. This is an important skill to have! The beginning of each book in the Homestead Readers series will have a page explaining how to go about teaching a child to decode the words that use the new phonetic concept for that book.

Introduction to the “ě” Words

What is a short “ě” sound? It is the vowel sound that you hear when you read the words “bed”, “hen”, and “ten”.

Each story begins with a list of the new words in that story. Practice reading these words from the word list in the way described below until the child can read them fluently. Then, proceed to the story.

Most of the beginning words have just three letters. Cover the letter after the “e” with your finger, and together with the child, blend together the beginning letter with the “e” making the sound “be”. Then say, “Let’s add the sound of the last letter to see what the word is. ‘Be...d. My bed is soft.’”

After decoding the word, always have the child put the word in a sentence. This ensures that he is not only able to correctly identify the word but also able to understand the meaning of the word that he just read. Ask your child to practice reading the list of words until he can read them with ease. Then, proceed to the story.

Beginning Reading Tips

- Have the child point with his finger under the words as he reads. This will enable him to keep his place.
- It is important that the child learns to decode the word for himself. If they incorrectly read a word, tell him to try it again by breaking the word down into its individual sounds.
- Never tell the child a word. You may help by telling him to sound out the word again but let him do the decoding. If he is tempted to look at the picture and guess, cover up the picture. After he has read the words and explained what he has just read, then let him look at the picture.
- After reading each page, ask the child to explain in his own words what happened on that page. This immediate feedback is your way of checking on his reading comprehension. It is important that he can decode the words as well as understand what those words mean all together.
- Ask your child to read each book several times before moving on to the next book. Practice makes perfect, and success breeds success.

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Ten Hens

Word List

eggs

mess

ten

end

nest

yes

fed

peck

have~~e~~

fell

pen

clack

get

rest

scraps

hens

sell

Sight Words

the

A line through a letter indicates the letter is silent.

Grant's Sled

Word List

led

send

sled

went

yell

Grant's



Grant has a sled.

A pal has a sled.



Tess has a sled.

Tess has a red sled.



Grant can help Tess and a pal.

Grant led Tess and a pal.

A pal held Tess.



Grant can send the sled.

A pal can yell.