



Homestead Readers

Seeding the Field

and other stories

by Kimberly Young

with contributions from Patti Dillistone

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 progress through well thought-out phonics steps to give the student mastery of one skill before moving on to another skill. The new skill(s) for each story is explained at the beginning of the story, so the adult is prepared to help their student 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 student having the skills to decode those words. This often results in the student 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.

Have you never taught phonics? Don't worry. It really is not hard. Phonics is the key for students to be able to decode words they have never seen before. This is an important skill to have! The beginning of each story in the Homestead Readers series will have an explanation of how to go about teaching a student how to decode the words that use the new phonetic concept for that story.

Beginning Reading Tips

- Each story begins with a list of the new words in that story. Practice reading these words until the student can read them fluently. Then, proceed to the story.
- Have the student point with his finger under the words as he reads. This will enable him to keep his place.
- It is important that the student 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 student 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 a page, ask the student 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 the student to read each book several times before moving on to the next book. Practice makes perfect, and success breeds success.
- A letter cluster is a group of letters that make one sound (sh, ch, etc.). It can be helpful to have the student copy the words and put a circle around the letter clusters to help them remember to say these letters as one sound.

Review Word List

Skills introduced in Levels 1-12

block	place	change
come	space	changed
tire	seeder	changing
size	leash	jacked
puppy	opener	removed
Daisy	van	harvested
each	hand	teaching
scratched	try	gear
oil	air	bolt
pointed	show	old

Review Word List

Skills introduced in Levels 1-12

cows	yesterday	travels
------	-----------	---------

wow	closely	teats
-----	---------	-------

how	milky	grown
-----	-------	-------

down	corn	thanks
------	------	--------

jack	order	home
------	-------	------

raise	tractor	inside
-------	---------	--------

least	morning	please
-------	---------	--------

fall	pouring	so
------	---------	----

cloth	long	fasten
-------	------	--------

walk	along	himself
------	-------	---------

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Grant Visits A Dairy Farm

Contractions

Contractions combine two or more words by removing certain letters and adding an apostrophe where those letters were removed. It can be helpful to have the student write out the two original words, and then write the contraction next to them with an equal sign in the middle (they are = they're).

Word List

I am = I'm

I will = I'll

she is = she's

they are = they're

it is = it's

we will = we'll

does not = doesn't

there is = there's

Holstein

Holstein



“Hi, Grant! I'm glad you could come to the dairy farm today!” smiled Miss Jessica.

“Thanks for having me,” Grant replied.

“I'll be done cleaning the barn in just a minute,” said Miss Jessica. “Then I will show you the cows.”



Miss Jessica led Grant out of the barn to a pen of cows.

“You can pet that one,” said Miss Jessica. “She's pretty friendly. These cows are Holsteins. They're great at making milk.”