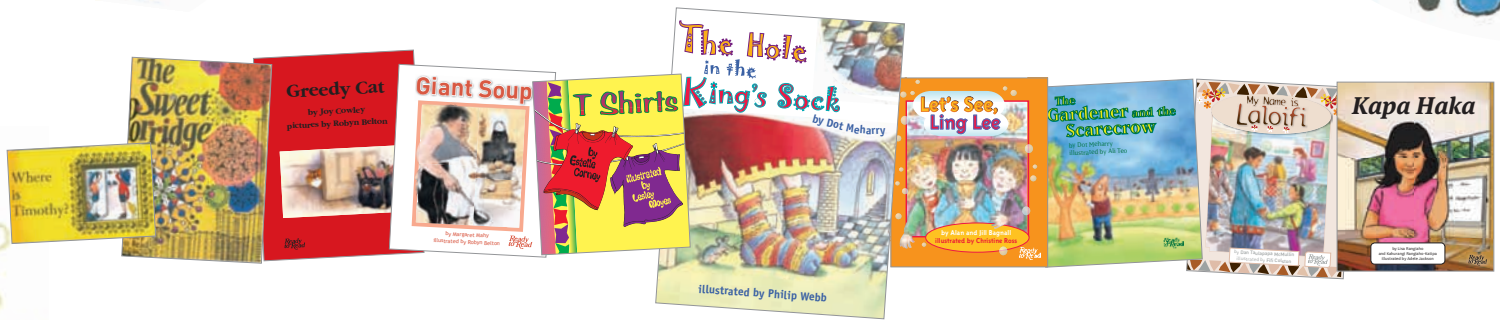


HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY

Ready to Read! ★

50 years
Ready
to Read
1963-2013

It's time to celebrate –
the Ready to Read series turned fifty this year!
For half a century, Ready to Read books
have inspired, delighted, stretched,
and supported New Zealand students
as they learn to read.

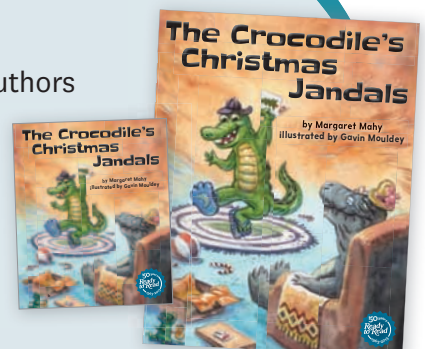


Ready to Read is looking forward to meeting the challenges
and opportunities of the next fifty years.

★ Old favourites with a new look ★

As a special birthday treat, there are revised titles by two of the best-loved authors
of Ready to Read books.

- Margaret Mahy's *The Crocodile's Christmas Jandals* has been reversioned as a shared book with brand-new illustrations.
- *Number One* by Joy Cowley is now available as a shared reading book.

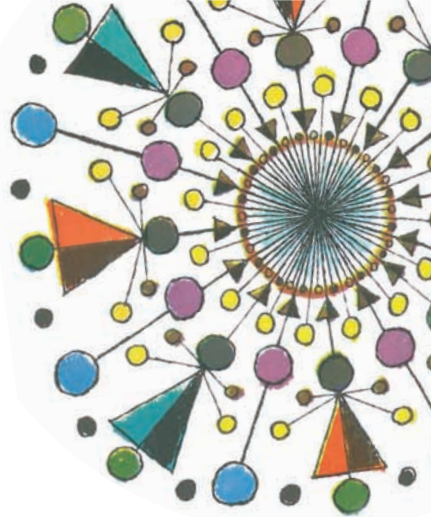


Becoming independent readers

Ready to Read and the Junior Journal are the core instructional series for learners in the first three years of school. The purpose of these series is to support children to become confident, proficient, and enthusiastic readers.

In the first three years of learning to read, children gradually build a self-extending processing system. To achieve this, they must be continually problem solving and finding and using information from a variety of texts. As they do this, they extend and integrate their reading behaviours and understandings, and they increasingly gain control over the cognitive processes that lead to independent, successful reading.

Texts that are carefully structured support students to build their self-extending processing system. Ready to Read and the Junior Journal are designed to help learners to develop such a system by gradually introducing new challenges within a carefully structured and supportive gradient of difficulty.



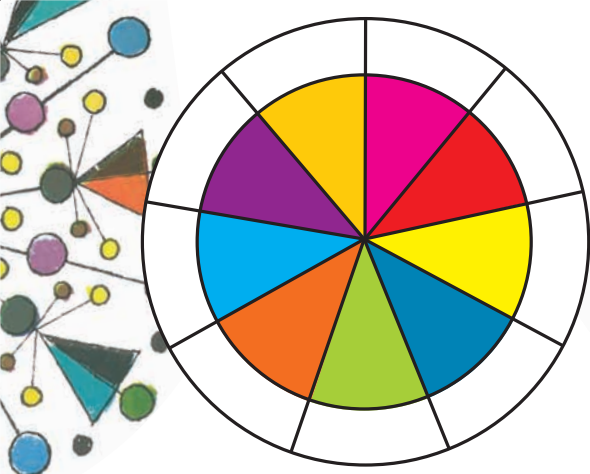
Shared and guided reading

Shared and guided reading are two of the key instructional approaches that lead to independence in reading. There are two types of texts in the Ready to Read series – texts for shared reading (enlarged books accompanied by small books) and texts for guided reading.

Shared reading texts use memorable language and offer a rich literary experience above the level that learners can initially access by themselves. After multiple shared readings of an enlarged text, learners will be able to read the accompanying small book independently. (See the 21 November 2011 issue of the *Education Gazette* for a full discussion of shared reading.)

Guided reading texts are gradually introduced after learners have experienced shared reading, language experience, listening to engaging texts read aloud, and writing. They are designed so that children can read them largely by themselves on the first reading, after a rich introduction by the teacher.





The colour wheel

There are guided reading texts within each level (e.g., Red) and sub-level (e.g., Red 2) of the Ready to Read colour wheel, providing a gradient of difficulty as students progress through their first three years at school. Each text provides carefully designed supports and challenges that will help students to develop an effective self-extending processing system.

Reviewing and improving the series

An ongoing review process ensures that the Ready to Read series meets the needs of today's learners and teachers.

In preparation for a recent review, new levelling tools were developed for Ready to Read editors. The new tools strengthen their work and ensure that the gradations of the colour wheel clearly support the development of a self-extending processing system. The new tools take into account a very wide range of text features, including the length of the text, high-frequency vocabulary, complexity and length of sentences, familiarity of context and content, and illustrative support. (For a detailed description of the new levelling tools, see *Curriculum Update 28* in March 2014 in the *Education Gazette* or on NZC online.)

The existing Ready to Read texts were reviewed using the new levelling tools. As a result of this review, some texts have been assigned to different colour levels (e.g., from Blue to Green) or to different sub-levels (e.g., from Blue 3 to Blue 1). A full list of these changes can be found on page 4 of this flyer.



Also as a result of the review, Magenta has become one level (rather than two sub-levels) with fewer texts. This change supports a relatively quick transition for students into Red, where texts provide more opportunity for them to begin to develop their reading processing system.

Finally, as a result of the review, some texts will not be reprinted. These texts can still be used as part of a classroom programme. Up-to-date information about what texts can be reordered will be available on Down the Back of the Chair early in the new year.

Support for teachers

Teacher Support Materials for Ready to Read will continue but may change in content and format as part of the ongoing improvement of the series.

Coming soon

For the next 2–3 years, the focus is on ensuring that there are enough up-to-date texts at each level of the colour wheel. Ready to Read texts planned for 2014 will provide support mainly for the first year of literacy learning. They will include texts for both shared and guided reading (in particular, new Red and Yellow guided texts).

Changes in text levels

The new levels for the texts below more accurately reflect the demands of the texts. None of these changes will significantly affect classroom programmes, but teachers will need to be aware of how to position the texts differently in their use of the series. Along with the rest of Ready to Read, the changes will, however, support teachers to select the most appropriate texts for their students.

Texts that have changed colour level

These have been reprinted and replacement copies will be sent to schools in February 2014.

	Current	Revised
Locked Out	Yellow 3	Red 2
My Brother	Blue 2	Green 1
No, Skipper!	Green 1	Blue 3
Bikes	Turquoise 2	Purple 1
The Queen of Spain	Turquoise 2	Purple 1
Too Many Possums	Gold 1	Purple 2

Texts that have changed sub-levels

Schools can mark the changes on their books, or they can order reprints from Down the Back of the Chair.

	Current	Revised
The Race	Red 2	Red 1
Rain, Rain	Red 3	Red 2
Grandpa's Birthday	Blue 1	Blue 2
Let's See, Ling Lee	Blue 3	Blue 1
Skipper's Happy Tail	Blue 3	Blue 1
The Gardener and the Scarecrow	Blue 3	Blue 2
The Garage Sale	Green 1	Green 2
A Good Idea	Green 3	Green 2
Duckling Palace	Purple 1	Purple 2
That's the Way!	Purple 2	Purple 1
Did You Shake Your Tail Feathers?	Purple 2	Purple 1

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact us by email at readytoread@lifteducation.com

This service will be available from 2–20 December 2013 and from 13 January to 11 April 2014.

