



St John the Baptist's Guide to Oxford Reading Tree



What is the Oxford Reading Tree?

This is a well-established reading scheme which comes highly recommended by a great number of schools. It makes learning to read fun and promotes greater confidence and a real love of reading for children. It allows teachers to better track a child's reading progress and share this with parents and gives parents more support and a more defined role in their child's reading.

The tree grows from stage 1 to stage 16, running all the way from Reception to the end of Year 6. At the early stages the main 'trunk' of the Reading Tree consists of stories about Biff, Chip, Kipper and their dog Floppy. Later on, Treetops stories provide a much wider range of stories and characters. Alongside the fiction, runs the non-fiction; a range of information and true story books designed to capture your child's imagination and encourage their enthusiasm to 'find out'.

The 'branches' of the tree contain a wide range of other genres matched to each stage. These include poetry, plays, phonics books, true stories, traditional tales and other story books. Your child may bring home a book from any of these ranges but the stage will still be the same.

A structured approach

The books are carefully written using simple, natural-sounding language that children can understand. Key words are repeated throughout the books so that children gradually increase the number of words they can recognize and read.

Stage 1 – 5 The First Steps of Reading

The storybooks at Stage 1 use pictures without any words to tell the story. The pictures are full of detail and humour, making them fun for the child to use. These picture storybooks teach children important skills: to talk about the pictures to create their own story and to make the connection between the picture and the story – invaluable at later stages to help children read an unfamiliar word.

Stage 1+ stories provide a bridge between First Words at Stage 1 and the Stage 2 stories. They feature very patterned language, with lots of repetition of Reception high frequency words. The simple sentences they use are closely linked to the



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illustrations. The language used has been chosen to promote phonological awareness (learning that words are made up of different sounds, and can often be broken down into their different parts and 'sounded out').

Stage 2 Stories have pictures and no more than one line of text per illustration. The stories develop the ability to predict the storyline, to recognize key words, and to relate pictures and text.

Each stage builds on and extends the reading skills and words learnt from the previous stage. The amount of text is gradually increased, more pages are added, and new characters are introduced. At these early stages, the stories focus on situations children recognize from their own experiences, such as having a wobbly tooth, losing a favourite toy, and making a mess, giving lots of opportunities for discussion.

Stage 5 – 9 Building Confidence and Skills in Reading

At Stage 5 some of the stories move away from familiar situations into the realms of fantasy with the 'magic key' stories. Biff, Chip, and Kipper find a key which has the power to whisk them away to many exciting adventures. Children love these stories, often using them as the starting point for their own story writing.

Stage 10 – 16 Becoming Accomplished Readers

From Stage 10 onwards, children move away from Biff, Chip and Kipper and onto the Treetops books. They are written by established and popular children's authors and also include a range of children's classics in the latter stages. Alongside the Treetops stories, children have a variety of genres to choose from, including graphic novels, myths and legends, poetry and plays. Non-fiction comes in the form of Oxford Reading Tree True Stories and Treetops Information Books. Project X provides engaging stories that will particularly appeal to boys. At the heart of *Project X* are the action-packed adventures of Max, Cat, Ant and Tiger.