# READING BETWEEN THE LIONS:
# READING ROOTS

**5TH EDITION**

## Building Strong Readers. Growing a Love for Reading!




**Reading Between the Lions: Reading Roots 5th Edition** is a comprehensive reading program for beginning readers. It provides a strong base for students' literacy and fosters a love for reading through systematic phonics instruction, rich literacy experiences, oral-language and vocabulary development, thematically focused writing instruction, opportunities to read decodable stories, and an interactive, web-based lesson platform.

**Reading Between the Lions: Reading Roots 5th Edition** combines phonics instruction, a shared story, partner practice, and independent reading in an engaging and fast-paced environment, motivating students to take on the challenging task of learning to read and encouraging their partners to join them.

### EACH LESSON CONTAINS INSTRUCTION AND PRACTICE IN:

- **PHONEMIC AWARENESS AND PHONICS** (FastTrack Phonics)
- **STUDENT STORY READING** (Shared Story)
- **ADDITIONAL PARTNER PRACTICE WITH PHONICS AND READING** (Practice with Cleo and Theo/ PowerUp Partner Reading)
- **INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE** (STaR: Story Telling and Retelling)
- **WRITING** (Adventures in Writing)

## READING A FAMILIAR STORY

Every lesson begins with a 5-minute, whole-class reading of a familiar **Shared Story.** This allows students to practice fluent reading and warm up for the lesson ahead. Students build confidence in reading and review the sounds they have learned so far.

## FASTTRACK PHONICS

Each day includes instruction that develops phonics and phonemic-awareness skills through fun, fast-paced, and systematic **FastTrack Phonics** lessons. Color mnemonic picture cards, Alphie the puppet, rhymes, chants, media, and games bring the lessons to life. The many opportunities for partner work and sharing motivate students to participate and learn together.

**MORE THAN SIXTY GRAPHEMES** are introduced in the full-year sequence, including letters, consonant combinations (*sh, ch, th, ng*), vowel digraphs (*ea, ai*), diphthongs (*ow, oi*), long vowel patterns (*a_e*), and more. Once a grapheme is introduced, it is revisited extensively in future lessons.

### FASTTRACK PHONICS WILL ENABLE STUDENTS TO MASTER THESE SKILL AREAS:

- Auditory Blending and Segmenting *(Say It Fast, Break It Down)*
- Letter-Sound Correspondence
- Word-Level Blending *(Stretch and Read)*
- Sound Spelling *(Stretch and Spell)*



## PARTNER PRACTICE TO PROMOTE MASTERY

One challenge in early reading is for students to get enough practice using sound and blending skills to learn how to read real words quickly. In *Reading Roots*, students work together every day to practice new sounds and review old ones!



## SHARED STORY

The Shared Stories allow students to read complex, engaging, and interesting stories even when they know only a few letter sounds.

- Teacher text provides context and predictive questions.
- Student text uses only sounds students have learned (Green Words), a few key sight words (Red Words), and readies (picture words).
- Students use the stretch-and-read strategy to read the decodable text.
- As students progress, more of the story is in student text—less in teacher text. This scaffolding builds confidence from the very start!




Students read Shared Stories over the course of four 20-minute lessons: Introduction, Guided Practice, Partner Practice, and Reading Olympics. In Level 4, an additional Story Test lesson is included.

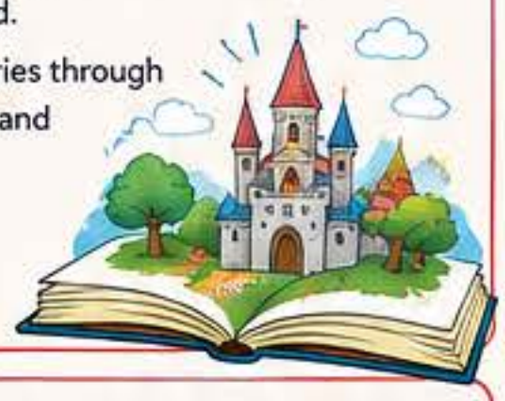
Students can take the Shared Stories home to practice reading with family!

## STaR—STORY TELLING AND RETELLING

Children love to see the world through the different lenses offered by authors of children's literature.

Forty-eight children's literature selections are included—fiction and nonfiction—with themes related to the Shared Stories.

- Stories are previewed and read interactively.
- Both receptive and expressive vocabulary skills are developed.
- Students retell stories through plays, discussions, and other strategies.



## STaR—ADVENTURES IN WRITING

On days 3 and 4 of the lesson, students practice creating and writing!

- Students write simple one- or two-sentence projects in early levels.
- By Level 4, they write six-sentence projects.
- Lessons cover the whole writing process:

Prewrite → Plan → Write → Edit → Celebrate!

**Students are ready to read at a second-grade level when they have completed Level 4!**

## WHY FAMILIES LOVE Reading Roots!

- Systematic, research-based instruction
- Builds confidence and a love for reading
- Partner practice builds skills and friendships
- Engaging stories and meaningful writing
- Interactive, web-based lessons



***TOGETHER, WE CAN GROW STRONG READERS FOR LIFE!***