Junior African Writer Series (JAWS)

This series offers young readers exciting and interesting stories set in Africa. The authors are from all over the continent!
Welcome to the Junior African Writers Series

Dear Teacher

Developed in Africa for African learners, the Junior African Writers Series (JAWS) is a collection of high-quality, supplementary readers for schools.

Each strand within JAWS caters for different reading interests, abilities and ages, to offer something for every learner.

JAWS titles are written by authors from all over Africa.

JAWS readers are:
• locally relevant
• topical and current
• carefully levelled for all abilities
• visually stimulating.

“The Junior African Writers Series are simple, easy-to-read, engaging stories perfect for younger or reluctant readers.”

— Book Aid International

JAWS in other languages
Available in:
• French
• Kiswahili
• Kinyarwanda
Wordbooks and Phonics 2
These colourful books help young readers learn new words and phonics. They also help readers to develop important visual literacy skills. There are simple activities to extend visual literacy, sorting and language skills.

Starters levels 1, 2 and 3 3
The Starter books are divided into three levels. Level 1 is for children who have just begun to read by themselves. Levels 2 and 3 use progressively wider vocabulary and more complex sentence structures.

Fiction levels 1 to 5 6
The JAWS Fiction series features modern and traditional stories set in Africa. The stories are graded for both primary and secondary learners.

HIV/AIDS 10
These books cover themes that are central to HIV/AIDS and education.

Discovery 12
The JAWS Discovery titles are stimulating, informative reference-style books covering topics across the curriculum.

Health 13
The Health series contains information books designed to raise awareness of the most important health issues facing Africa today.

African Greats 13
This series celebrates Africans who have excelled in the fields of writing, thinking, sport and music. It introduces readers to potential role-models who could shape the way learners see success. It focuses on the great people who make Africa such a special and vibrant continent.
Wordbooks

The JAWS Wordbooks help young readers to learn new words in English. The pictures show familiar objects and situations which readers can identify using their new vocabulary. The Wordbooks are very useful in early literacy learning environments.

Phonics

The Phonics stories contain words with short and long vowel sounds and blends.

These words are easy to decode and will help children to build reading confidence. Using the pictures as support, children can sound out words easily and start to recognise spelling patterns. This will in turn help them to develop their writing skills.

High-frequency words are built into the stories as children need to learn to recognise these words by sight.
Starters

The JAWS Starters are simple, colourfully illustrated story books for 5- to 8-year olds. They are graded for learners from Grade 1 to 3 (levels 1–3).

Starter Level 1

- Total words: 100–200
- Maximum number of words on a page: 20
- Maximum sentence length: 10 words
- Very simple vocabulary

- Simple grammar (e.g. only present tense verbs)
- Pictures tell the stories by themselves

Ayo and His Pencil
9780435896775

Chika’s House
9780435896782

Hungry Hyena
9780435894832

Imbu and the Fruit
9780435891176

Kofi Loses His Way
9780435891183

The Old Man and His Hat
9780435896768

The Red Flag
9780435891169

Where is Naledi?
9780435895013

Our World
9781776002917

We Care
9781776002900
Starter Level 2

- Total words: 250–400
- Maximum number of words on a page: 30
- Maximum sentence length: 13 words
- Simple vocabulary but with a few difficult words
- More varied grammar (e.g. past as well as present tense of verbs)
- Pictures give a clear idea of the story without telling the whole story
Starter Level 3

- Total words: 450–700
- Maximum number of words on a page: 50
- Maximum sentence length: 15 words
- Wider vocabulary
- More complicated grammar (e.g. use of linking words such as ‘because’ and ‘when’)
- Pictures illustrate rather than tell the story

- The Ashanti Golden Stool
- Femi and His Dog
- Go Away, Boys!
- Mkulu and the Spider
- Too Many Carrots
- Play with Poems
- Simi and the Omolanka
- The Talking Lizard
Level 1 is suited to learners who have been studying English for 3–4 years. The sentences are short and easy to understand. The pictures help children to follow the stories. Widely varying in location and theme, these books are sure to give pleasure to learners in class or at home.
Fiction Level 2

Level 2 is suited to learners who have been studying English for 4–5 years. Short sentences and a large number of illustrations combine to make these books both enjoyable and easy to read, either individually or in class. Learners have a wide variety of stories to choose from.
Level 3 is suited to learners who have been studying English for 5–6 years. All the stories are illustrated and divided into chapters, using slightly more complex sentences and language. Level 3 introduces more challenging topics with stories that ensure learners remain enthusiastic readers.
Fiction Level 4

Level 4 offers learners advanced reading material. More complex sentence structures and vocabulary develop learners’ English skills. Issues such as drugs, corruption, gender and power make compelling reading.

Fiction Level 5

Level 5 is the upper level in the Fiction strand. It is aimed at advanced learners who are looking for stories that are challenging, but which still use controlled language and content. At this level, the series does not hesitate to ask learners to think hard and to look at what is happening around them.
HIV/AIDS

The JAWS HIV/AIDS readers aim to instil the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will enable our children to confront the pandemic that is sweeping through our world.

The HIV/AIDS themes of JAWS

1 Life skills
   ... promoting values analysis, decision-making, problem-solving, communication and negotiation skills, and helping develop assertiveness and a sense of self worth

2 Gender, power and human rights
   ... knowing that all children have a right to have their basic needs met, to education, and to protection from abuse no matter what their gender or race

3 Stigma and discrimination
   ... understanding the importance of empathy, and dispelling common misconceptions

4 Normalisation and disclosure
   ... finding ways to discuss HIV/AIDS openly and treat those with the disease without discrimination

5 Care and support
   ... exploring ways to care for those who are infected or who are affected by HIV/AIDS

6 Orphans and vulnerable children
   ... encouraging empathy, and helping learners reflect on how they can support those in need

7 Death, loss and grief
   ... helping to discuss difficult and emotional issues openly and constructively

8 Feelings
   ... acknowledging and understanding positive and negative feelings, and encouraging learners to express their emotions

9 Information about HIV/AIDS
   ... providing basic and more advanced information about HIV/AIDS

10 Prevention
   ... exploring different methods of preventing STDs and the transmission of HIV

Level A (5–9 year olds)
**Level B (10–14 year olds)**

- *Buchi Must Choose*
- *Friends For Life*
- *Just Me and My Brother*
- *I Am HIV-Positive*
- *Doctor Dumi*

**Themes**

- Life skills
- Gender, power and human rights
- Stigma and discrimination
- Normalisation and disclosure
- Care and support
- Orphans and vulnerable children
- Death, loss and grief
- Feelings
- Information about HIV/AIDS
- Prevention

**Titles**

- *Go Away Dog!*
- *Tido’s Bag*
- *Today my Doctor Told Me…*
- *Buchi Must Choose*
- *Just Me and My Brother*
- *Doctor Dumi*
- *I am HIV- positive*
- *Friends for Life*
- *Dancing Queen*
- *Love in a Time of Mourning*

**Level C (15–18 year olds)**

- *Love in a Time of Mourning*
- *Dancing Queen*

**Themes**

- Life skills
- Gender, power and human rights
- Stigma and discrimination
- Normalisation and disclosure
- Care and support
- Orphans and vulnerable children
- Death, loss and grief
- Feelings
- Information about HIV/AIDS
- Prevention
This information series aims to instil knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will enable us to confront issues facing Africa today.
Health

This information series aims to instil knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will enable us to confront health issues facing Africa today.

African Greats

This series celebrates Africans who have excelled in writing, thinking, sport and music. It introduces readers to potential role-models who could shape the way the learners see success. It focuses on the great people who make Africa such a special continent.
Both the content and language of the JAWS Readers have been carefully controlled so that there is a reader at the right level for every one of your learners.

The following table helps you to choose readers at the correct level. The top two rows indicate the age and school grade of the learners. Look down the column for each age/school level to see which titles are recommended. The colours on the table match the colour coding on the books.

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Extra support

All the books include suggestions for activities and discussion.
Written for African readers by African writers

- Simi and the Omolanke
  Sierra Leon
  Ayebia Ribeiro-Ayeh

- Little Blue Boy
  Côte d'Ivoire
  Fatou Keita

- Nottygoat
  Ghana
  K Owusu-Ampomah

- Chika's House
  Nigeria
  Ifeoma Okoye

- Women in Science and Technology
  South Africa
  Elaine Williams

- The Honeyguide Bird
  Botswana
  Patricia Sealely

- Revenge of the Gods
  Egypt
  Richard Moverley

- Mr Kalogo’s Factory
  Uganda
  Paulinos Vincent Magombe

- Joe Sabuni, PI
  Kenya
  Tish Farrell

- Where is Naledi?
  Tanzania
  Edmund Kayombo

- The Empty Water Tank
  Zimbabwe
  Michael Lawson Brown

- Dog Dip
  Malawi
  Leon E Chilemba

- Written for African readers by African writers
Learning is a journey ... who knows where your next step will lead
Pearson Education Africa

- **Physical Pearson office**
- **Pearson appointed agents**
- **Countries we cover**

Map of Africa showing countries and regions covered by Pearson Education.
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