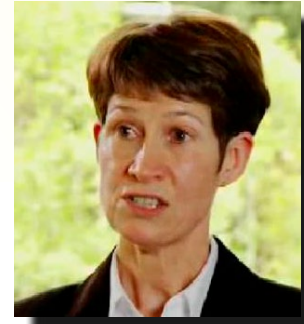




Supporting parents with reading at home

By Dee Reid



Hi and welcome to **Rapid Plus**

My name is Dee Reid and I am Series Editor of Rapid Plus and I'd like to give you a few tips on using Rapid Plus ebooks at home.

The good news is that Rapid Plus is really easy for you to support your child with reading at home and the stories and non-fiction are designed to be appealing to children who may not always find reading very enjoyable.

What makes Rapid Plus easy to use at home is that each text has a **Before Reading** page which you can use with your child to introduce the text. At the end of each text there is a **Quiz** to check on how well your child has understood what they have read. So, you don't need to rack your brains to think of follow-up questions – they're all there on screen.

Rapid Plus has a secret weapon to encourage your child to finish each text and to read another one. What is this secret weapon? A joke!! After reading a text and completing the quiz questions, your child will be rewarded with a joke! OK – they're probably the corniest jokes around, but I guarantee your child will love them.

***What do martial arts instructors eat?
Kung food!***

(I did warn you they were corny!)

How Rapid Plus supports your child

The great thing about Rapid Plus (apart from the brilliant stories and amazing graphics) is that there is guidance for teaching in each and every text.

Built-in teaching in Rapid Plus

1. Before reading

Before your child starts reading any of the Rapid Plus ebooks, they will see a Before reading screen. If you've time, look at this screen together and talk it over with your child. It will help them to tune in to what they are going to read. Alternatively, your child can click on the Read to Me button at the bottom of the screen to hear the text read aloud. This is a really useful feature for children for whom English is not their first language, as they can hear the words correctly pronounced. The text is highlighted to help your child see the link between the words they can see and the audio they hear.

The Before reading fiction page:

- Shows the **characters** who will be in the story.
- Lists any **tricky words** you might want to help your child to read.
- **Introduces** the story.

The Before reading non-fiction page:

- Flags up **what the text will be about**.
- Lists any **tricky words** you might want to help your child to read.
- **Introduces** the text.

2. Reading the text

Your child should use the arrow keys to turn the pages of the ebook. If there is a word they are not sure of, they can click on it to hear it read aloud. If you've time to listen to your child as they read, encourage them to read with expression, obeying the punctuation.

Built-in teaching in Rapid Plus

3. After reading

At the end of each text there is a Quiz for your child to complete. This will check how well they have understood what they have read. There is also a little spelling activity based on key words used in the text. Your child can take the spelling challenge and see if they can spell the words correctly.

Interactive activities

These fun activities give children a further opportunity to show how well they have understood the text and also give them the chance to earn points for every completed activity. If they get an answer wrong, there is helpful feedback to hint at the correct answer. Points add up to achieve a Reward certificate AND a bonus joke to enjoy!

The Rapid Plus software is easy to use and even if your child has never used it before, they'll quickly get the hang of it.



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Structure of Rapid Plus

Rapid Plus books are in a sequence from the easiest books at Stage 3 and gradually moving up in difficulty to Stage 9. The total number of words in each text and the number of different words increases at each Stage so it makes sense for your child to read the books in the right order.

Reading order for Rapid Plus Stages 3-6:

Stage	Fiction	Non-fiction
3A	1. Threat 3. Rescue 5. Shamed 7. Rivals	2. Gum 4. Canals 6. How Embarrassing! 8. History of Cool
3B	9. The Basilisk' Head 11. The Giant Eagle's Feather 13. The Dragon's Fang 15. The Lion's Skin	10. Roman Slaves 12. Raptors 14. Fangs 16. Man-eaters
4A	17. Desperate 19. Dare 21. Backfired 23. Salted	18. History of Loos 20. Scared 22. Too Hot? 24. Salt
4B	25. Scorcher 27. Twister 29. Chiller 31. Tremor	26. The Worst Fire 28. Tornadoes 30. Survival 32. Earthquakes
5A	33. You've Got It Wrong! 35. Excuses! Excuses! 37. Freak! 39. Joker	34. The Wrong Man 36. Really Big Lies 38. Kung Fu 40. April Fool
5B	41. Revenge 43. The Last Journey 45. Remote Control 47. Ghost Ride	42. Car Crime 44. Bridges 46. Miracle Landings 48. Hoaxers
6A	48. The Hacker 51. Banned 53. Cheat 55. Busted	50. What's the Password? 52. Viruses Attack 54. Hackers 56. Get the Message

Rapid Plus Stages 7-9

The 12 books at Rapid Plus Stages 7-9 are structured slightly differently but still work on the basis of moving up gradually in difficulty from Stage to Stage.

Reading order for Rapid Plus Stages 7-9:

Stage	Fiction	Non-fiction
7	1. Haldor and the Drawg	2. Viking Weapons
	3. Haldor and the Troll	4. Up Helly Aa
	5. Fame Over	6. Super Fans
	7. Star for a Day	8. Doubles
8	9. The Goat's Head Pendant	10. Buried Alive
	11. The Girl in the Lake	12. Scared for Fun
	13. The Locked Room	14. Dumb Criminals
	15. Witnesses	16. Forensics
9	17. The Howling	18. Running With Wolves
	19. Where the Dead Walk	20. Dead Bodies
	21. The Choice	22. Chain Reaction
	23. Second Chance	24. The History of Angels



What Rapid Plus reading level should your child start?

Rapid Plus Stages 3-6

If your child uses Rapid Plus in school, they may know what Rapid Plus reading level they are on or the school may have told you this already.

If your child does not use Rapid Plus in school, then the easiest thing is for you both to have a quick look at the first book of Stage 3A (Threat) and decide if that is about the right reading level for your child, or is it too easy?

If it's too easy, have a look at the first book of Stage 3B (The Basilisk's Head) and see how your child finds that. If it's about right, then your child should read from 9 onwards (depending how long we're all in lockdown!)

If Basilisk's Head is too easy, have a look at the first book of Stage 4A (Desperate) and see if that seems right for your child.

Continue sampling the first books of each stage until you find a level where your child feels comfortable reading. Remember, don't choose a level that's too difficult for your child. They won't enjoy reading it and they probably won't be able to do the Quiz page at the end. If it's a bit easy – that's OK – this is not real school and we're all just doing our best and it's important that your child feels successful and wants to read more.

Rapid Plus Stages 7-9

If you have been told by your child's school that your child is reading Rapid Plus Stages 7-9 then just go straight to the level the school says is right for your child.

If your child's school does not use Rapid Plus, sample the Rapid Plus Stage 6 and if it's a bit easy, then go straight to Rapid Plus Stage 7. If eBook 1 is a bit easy, have a look at eBook 7 and see if that seems right. Too easy? Then try eBook 13. Continue sampling eBook (19, 25, 31) until you find a level where your child can read getting most of the words right. Don't worry if they struggle with the odd word. That's where the support from the Before reading page comes in and also it's good for your child to get into the habit of making a good guess at an unfamiliar word based on what would make sense in context and what looks right – after all, that's what we as adults do if we come across a word we're not quite sure of!

Final tips



If your child finds reading difficult, it's really important that they practise reading every day. Obviously, they're not going to do this if they find reading boring or too much effort! The trick is to keep the reading sessions short. If you can spare 15 minutes a day to supervise them as they read, that would be great. Then, your child can spend a further 15 minutes completing the Quizzes and Online Activities.

Encourage your child to get involved with their own progress e.g. you might say: 'You did really well reading the story, *Twister* (eBook 27). Are you ready for the challenge of reading about real whirlwinds? (*Tornadoes* eBook 28)

It's fine for your child to re-read a Rapid Plus eBook they've already read. Reading something that's not too much hard work will build your child's reading confidence.

It's tough being your child's parent and teacher but 30 minutes a day individual support at home really does make a difference.

So, good luck with using Rapid Plus! I know it can make a difference to your child's reading ability.

Stay well, and enjoy the Rapid Plus jokes!

Dee Reid

Educational Consultant and Series Editor to Rapid Plus



To find out more about Rapid Plus please visit:

www.pearsoninternational-schools.com/RapidPlus