

BEHAVIOURAL READING™

GRADED STORIES GUIDEBOOK LEVEL ONE to LEVEL FOUR

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HOW TO USE THESE MATERIALS

Behavioural Reading™ (BR™) techniques are innovative and have been developed by supporting students through neurodevelopmental and individual learning strategies. They have been designed to specifically support struggling students.

These stories have been created for use with Behavioural Reading™ Techniques.

It is assumed that students have a good knowledge of phonics (or are being taught phonics) and no underlying physical or neurological development delays. If said delays are suspected the student should be referred to a Speech Pathologist and/or Behavioural Optometrist to determine the underlying causes and plan a path of correction.

This workbook has been designed for use by teachers in a classroom setting or home school parents. The online tutorial may also be useful in understanding how these exercises are introduced.

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A DAY AT THE BEACH

My brother and I took our surfboards to the beach. We walked for a long time until we found the right spot. We put our towels on the beach.

My brother said, “The surf looks so good today!”

I walked to the edge of the water to get a closer look. At first it looked like yesterday’s surf. Then I noticed the perfect waves. I looked closer. I saw some dolphins jumping up in the air!

“Look at the dolphins!” I said to my brother.

“They are playing in the surf. They are probably catching fish to eat,” said my brother. He told me that dolphins like to eat fish. “Let’s get in the water!”

We got on our surfboards and went into the water. All of a sudden a dolphin jumped up beside me. I was so scared.

My brother laughed, “They won’t hurt you! They just want to play!”

I caught a wave and watched as a friendly dolphin rode it with me. It jumped all around and landed with a splash in the water. It was the best day of my life. I love dolphins!

A WALK IN THE FOREST

Dad and I went for a walk along the forest path.

It was a cool day and there was a gentle breeze blowing through the tall trees.

As the sun settled onto the horizon, the laugh of the kookaburras echoed in the air. It was a beautiful sight.

My Dad was walking ahead of me. Suddenly, I saw him stop walking. "Stay where you are, there is a snake!" he yelled, standing dead still.

Fear immediately took hold of my heart. My Dad had warned me about these poisonous snakes.

However, even though he was so close to it, he wasn't scared. "Don't worry Sophie," he said calmly, "snakes are more scared of you than you are of them."

Sure enough, the snake then slithered away.

My Dad is so smart. I will never be scared of snakes in the forest again.

TWO PAIRS OF SOCKS

Today I felt very mad. Today was the day that we were going to the shops to buy socks.

I wanted red ones. I wanted to wear them on my first day at school. I wanted to feel the warmth on my feet.

But my mother said, "I have work to do. We will go to the shops tomorrow." I screwed my face up with anger.

I yelled, "But you said we could go today!"

"Stop yelling and be quiet please" said my mother. "I will buy you two pairs of socks tomorrow if you are good."

Mum was doing her work in the study and she needed some quiet. I left her alone so she could think clearly and went to my room to read a book.

After a long time, she came into my room and said, "What a good boy you are! Because you were reading your book quietly I will even let you choose the colour."

I was no longer mad. I was so happy I listened to my Mum and did what she said.

A SLEEPOVER WITH GRANDMA

My Grandma invited me to her house for a sleepover.

My Grandma is old and she lives with my Grandpa. She said that she loves it when I visit her. She always gives me sweets.

I like to go visit my Grandma. She is so kind and can cook very nice food. I like her cakes the best. Grandma says she likes the cakes too.

We both like the sweet cakes. I always help my Grandma when she cooks the cakes. That way I can learn to cook them myself.

My sleepover was perfect. In the morning we cooked four cakes and then we went to the shops to buy cream to go with the cakes.

Between Grandpa, Grandma and myself we finished eating a whole cake.

That afternoon we watched my favourite movie, "Shrek". She told me that she bought this movie just for me. She is the best Grandma!

The next day my Grandma drove me home and I gave my Mum a cake we had cooked.

Mum said, "Did you cook this cake on your own?" I looked at my Grandma and she gave me a smile.

"Yes!" I said, with my fingers crossed.

A SURPRISE AT DANCING

I started dancing lessons last week. I wanted to start because my friends were doing it. There were so many people from my school going and it was the place to be. I was so excited to start!

On my first day we learnt how to stand in first position and hold our hands. I was told that I needed to point my feet. It was so hard!

My teacher was very kind and she was so good at dancing.

While I was watching her show us some new steps, something very strange happened. I saw it out of the corner of my eye as it jumped high in the air.

“It’s a mouse!” I screamed.

By now the whole class was screaming and the teacher was trying to get us to be quiet. We all ran away from the mouse and stood in the corner of the room.

My Dad came into the class to catch the mouse with a broom. On his third try, he trapped the mouse under a table, then picked it up by the tail and put it into a shoebox.

Squeak... squeak.

I will always remember my first day at dancing. I saved everyone from a very scary mouse!

MY FIRST JOB

When I started high school I got my first job. My Dad told me that if I cleaned his office he would pay me!

My Dad hated cleaning his office because he was so busy. He told me that he would take me there when he picked me up from school. I knew most of the people he worked with because sometimes they would come home and have dinner with us. I was excited to see them!

My job included vacuuming the carpet, wiping the desks and taking the bins out. I always took the bins out first because they were smelly! I emptied them into the big bin downstairs and put a fresh liner in. I used a wet cloth to wipe the dust off the desks. I was surprised at how much there was. My cloth was black by the end! Finally, I vacuumed the whole room. When I finished it looked so clean and tidy.

When my Dad saw me the next day he said he was so proud. He gave me the money and said I could spend it on anything I wanted. I could think of so many things. I could not wait!

I now clean his office every Friday afternoon. So far I have bought three things all on my own. I feel so grown-up!

GOING TO A MOVIE

I went to see the movie 'The little Princess' with my Mum and Dad, which was based on the book of the same name. Before the movie I bought some popcorn and a drink from the shop. My drink had all the colours in the rainbow!

Mum asked me to pick our seats, so I chose some right in the middle. There were ads before the movie started, but I knew when it was about to start because the lights went down.

We soon learnt that sitting in the middle was the best choice. We could see everything without getting sore necks. The screen was so big and the actors on the screen all looked huge. They were beautiful.

At about halfway through the movie, a man with a torch came and asked me to take my feet off the chair in front of me. My Mum had not noticed so she got very grumpy at me because I had embarrassed her.

There were people in the seats in front of me who kept talking through the movie. I wanted to ask them to be quiet but I was scared. They were a lot older than me. I wondered why the man didn't shine his torch on them also.

When the movie ended I had forgotten about the bad things that happened in the middle of the movie. The story was so sad but nice. I can't wait to go to the movies again.

I WANT TO BE A MOVIE STAR

When I grow up I want to be a Movie Star. I know exactly what I'm going to do to get there. First of all, I will get into university where I will learn how to be an actor. I will practise everyday so I become really good. I want to be famous and rich.

I will be on talk shows and win lots of awards. When I get rich, I won't even have to work anymore! People will want to take pictures of me and will do my hair and makeup for me. I could even have a helper! This would mean that I would never have to clean my room ever again.

I will get to travel all over the world and see lots of different countries. I might even get paid to do it! If I get famous enough I want to design my own clothing brand so people all over the world can look like me.

When I become an actor I will be able to do what I love and get paid to do it! I can't think of anything better than that.

WHAT GOES ON OUTSIDE MY WINDOW

There was a football field outside my bedroom window. The field was very big and the grass was so green. There were little kids playing in the morning and older kids in the afternoon.

One day when I was watching, a boy in the crowd caught the football. It was great!

I watched nearly every single game because there were teams from all around my town. In one game I was watching, the team in the red shirts were winning. They were much faster than the other team.

All of a sudden the game changed. One of the players in the red team was about to score a goal. He was running and running until he was tackled. He lay there and didn't move. He was the red team's best player.

The doctor ran onto the field. He sat with the player for what seemed like ages. Finally, they stood up. He walked off the field with the doctor, hopping on one leg.

The crowd was sad. They had lost their best player and were not sure if they could still win. The game continued and sure enough, the red team began to lose.

All of a sudden a shout was heard from the crowd, "Look!"

The injured player was now standing on both feet after being checked by the doctor. He ran onto the field with a cheer from the crowd. He scored the winning goal for his team.

I always watch these games out of my window. Who wouldn't want to when it's exciting like that?

I LOVE STRAWBERRY ICE-CREAM

My family doesn't eat much sugar so you would think that I can't have ice-cream. However we make our own very special ice-cream.

Strawberry ice-cream is my favourite and mango comes in second favourite.

We go to the local strawberry farm and buy fresh strawberries when they are in season. Then we sit down and hull them all. That means we take the little stalks off them. Then we freeze them in vacuum sealed bags so they are ready anytime we want to use them.

When we want ice-cream we assemble all the ingredients. A bag of strawberries from the freezer, some yoghurt from the refrigerator and honey from the kitchen pantry. We put all these ingredients in the blender and whiz them for a couple of minutes, then we put the mixture back into the freezer so it freezes again. After about an hour it is ready. We scoop the ice-cream out into little bowls and sit down to eat it with a big grin on our faces.

When we eat our ice-cream in winter we feel quite cold and need to put a jumper on, but in summer it cools us down nicely.

Next year we want to try freezing other fruits. We might try mulberries, blueberries and raspberries. I can't wait!

OUR HOUSE HAS A LARGE KITCHEN

Our family is large and very social. We love to gather around the kitchen bench before dinner to prepare our meals together. Sharing the work is fun because we really enjoy each other's company.

It is lucky our kitchen is very spacious and can fit our large wooden table because there are eight people in our family. Sometimes when friends come over we have to add even more chairs so they can fit in as well!

Children are always included in these activities. We sit at the same table, cook and eat the same meals, and share in the same conversations. Our parents make us feel very grown up.

We have a large dishwasher, to fit in all the crockery and cutlery. The blender is huge, so we can make smoothies for everyone. The fridge is a monster, as you can imagine. Our oven is a 'double' and can cook dinner and dessert at the same time.

Occasionally I get up in the middle of the night and find Mum and Dad sitting at the kitchen table chatting over a hot chocolate. I think they like our big kitchen as much as I do.

MY DOG NEEDS TRAINING

We have a large dog called Fred. He is brindle in colour and of mixed breed. Fred is fully grown and his head comes all the way up to my chest.

Fred is very playful, but sometimes he is a bit rough and he bowls me over when he bumps into me.

Fred's behaviour is a problem and he can be a little naughty. He barks loudly at passers-by, and jumps up onto our friends, leaning his front paws on them. He can be hard to control on a leash too. When I take him for a walk on the lead, he is too strong and pulls me where he wants to go. This can be dangerous for both of us, especially when there are cars about.

Our vet said that it is important that Fred is trained, so Mum is booking Fred and me in to start training next month. I am not sure why I need training but I would be happy to accompany Fred. I love him very much.

Apparently the training will teach Fred to halt, stand, drop and be quiet. I wonder how the trainer will do this. I have tried to teach Fred all of these things but he just won't listen. Maybe they know something I don't.

I am looking forward to attending training with Fred. I bet all the other dogs would love to play with him like I do. It will be interesting to see how well we do. I hope Mum is not too disappointed when Fred comes home and still misbehaves.

MY FRIEND PLAYS CRICKET FOR AUSTRALIA

I'm not much of a sports fan, but my friend Tim plays cricket for Australia and he is on television sometimes.

Tim invited Dad and I to a cricket practise at the cricket nets near the Gabba. Gabba is short for Woolloongabba, and is the best cricket ground in Brisbane, Australia. It was a very exciting day because we were Tim's special guests.

At training there were other players from the national team and we watched them bowl and bat against each other in the nets. While some of the team were busy in the nets, other players were practising their throwing skills. It is amazing how far they can throw after they have warmed up.

I wanted to throw a long way as well, but one of the coaches stopped me. "Stop!" he yelled.

"It is very important to warm up before throwing something with all your strength. Injuries happen really quickly. Shoulder exercises and some short throws are a great way to warm up," the coach said.

The coach taught me how to stretch and exercise my muscles the way the professional cricketers do before a game.

GALAXY HOAX

April Fool's day gets me every time. I always forget you can play tricks on people on 1st April.

This year five of my friends played a great trick on me. They told me that scientists had found a new galaxy not too far from ours. They also told me that there was a habitable planet that people might be living on in ten years time.

I believed every word they said. My friends showed me photographs of this so-called new galaxy. It was called N1532. Strange name if you ask me.

The planet that was habitable was named 'Fortune'. The photos made it look massive. Apparently Fortune had an atmosphere and a gravitational pull similar to earth.

My friends said that scientists had observed this planet with a solar robot. There was plenty of water and even small animals already inhabiting the planet.

I was so excited that I told my parents when I got home from school. Dad said they must be 'pulling my leg' because it was April Fools day. Then I realised it was all a hoax. I swear, one day I will get those cheeky monsters back.

MY PASSION FOR ROBOTICS

The robotics show is on again this year at the science centre. I already have my tickets because I am truly passionate about robotics. I'd love to be a robotics engineer when I graduate from university.

Last year at the show they had teams of engineers with little robots that fought against each other. It was funny to watch but also devastating when I saw all the robots broken apart.

When I am a robotics engineer I will be making robots to help people in industries like nursing, the military, aged care and transport.

I plan to be a robot designer but also want to build some as well.

Next year we are doing robotics at school and I am looking forward to showing everyone what I already know. I am also looking forward to the tour of the engineering plant. I hope to see, touch and control some of their machines.

Robotics seems to be an industry that lots of kids my age will be working in when they leave school, and I plan to be ahead of the game.

Dad says that if I put my mind to it there is nothing stopping me from becoming an engineer.

FOREVER FRIEND

Life has taught me a lot about friendships and so has my Mum.

Mum says that you only have a few 'true' friends in life. Those are the ones that you keep in contact with throughout life, and your relationship with them never changes.

That sounds nice but I am not entirely sure about it. I thought I could have many friends. Some friends would help me celebrate all my birthdays. Other friends would play sports with me forever. Others would go to University with me.

But Mum says that 'true' friends are like forever friends. She says, 'They will be there for you wherever life takes you, and they will never let you down.'

I guess my forever friend will be Sandy. She is twelve years old like I am and we have played sport together our whole lives. When I am with Sandy I feel protected and safe because we are a team.

Sandy has helped me with my emotions too. When I feel sad she always comes and reassures me that everything will be fine. She really is a brilliant friend.

I hope that my new forever friends are as valuable as Sandy. I would certainly be a valuable forever friend to them too.

OUR CAMPING HOLIDAY

Last holidays we went camping up on Lonely Island. We had to catch a ferry from the mainland to get to the island, and we drove our four wheel drive onto the ferry. When we arrived on the island, we drove it off on the other side and onto the soft sand of the beach.

We had packed so much stuff! We had a five-man tent, four camping chairs, eskies stuffed with food, cooking utensils, a shower and toilet tent, fishing gear and lots of other gear that I didn't even know belonged to us.

When we found our camp site we unloaded the car and set up our tent for the night. We met up with our friends in the evening to share dinner and stories under the moonlight and around the crackling campfire.

One of our friends had a glass bottom boat. I went for a ride in it and saw all the wonderful corals and other abundant marine life on the reef. I decided I should dive in and snorkel to have a closer look.

The water was warm and inviting. I put my head under and the fish looked huge. The coral structures were full of other aquatic life I couldn't see from the boat.

No wonder this reef is heritage listed. I wouldn't like to see all this beautiful marine life destroyed. Our oceans are precious and we all need to help protect them.

THE PINEAPPLE HOTEL

Unlike most people, I didn't grow up in a house, I grew up in The Pineapple Hotel. Sounds strange I know, but it was normal to me just like anything is normal to you if that's all you have ever known.

My parents owned it you see, so their work was their home and their home was their work. I didn't mind it because we lived on the top floor overlooking the river which meant that the view was incredible. I was up in the sky with the birds, planes and clouds.

What could be better?

But then one day I went to my new friend Jess' house after school. We were playing ball inside just like we usually did at school when all of a sudden, Jess' mum screamed, "Outside! No balls in the house!"

So we went outside to play in her backyard instead. Now I had seen plenty of my friend's backyards before and had never once felt jealous that I didn't have anything like it at my home, but I hadn't seen Jess's backyard.

A punch of vibrant green hit me as soon as I walked outside. Lush green grass as far as the eye could see with purple and yellow flowers on trees all down the sides, topped off with a tyre swing attached to a humongous tree. It was stunning.

"Do your parents own all of this?" I breathed in awe. "Yeah, pretty cool, huh?" chortled Jess.

I went home to The Pineapple Hotel that night. I walked through the glass doors to reception, up the elevator, and through the door to my room. I looked out at the view through my window - the birds, the clouds, the sky - and felt a sense of emptiness that I had never felt before. I want somewhere I can run around and play, feel the grass under my feet and smell the fragrant flowers. I want a back yard.

All of a sudden I heard a squeal downstairs. It was mum. She was bursting out of her skin. I could hear it in her voice. She ran into my room and gushed, "It's sold! The Pineapple Hotel is no longer ours! We're moving into a house tomorrow!"

I simply laughed, shook my head and ran into her arms. Someone must have been looking out for me that day!

THE ZOO

Today was the first day of school holidays, so you know what that means... a trip to the zoo!

I quickly dressed into my favourite comfy shoes and put on my red shorts and blue shirt - my zoo outfit! Mum packed my sister and me some sandwiches and we were ready to jump in the car and go.

When we arrived I went straight to the lions. They are my favourite animal and I'm so lucky the zoo has two of them. I ran to their cage and went right up to the enclosure, as close as I could get.

I watched the lions while they walked around and as they sat on their rocks in the sun. All their movements were slow and languid. I watched for about ten minutes when I noticed something I had never noticed before when I had come to the zoo. They looked sad.

I heard a rustle behind me and jumped. Dad was standing there with a big grin on his face.

"Why do the lions look sad?" I asked my Dad.

"Well how would you like to be trapped in a cage for most of your life? Animals aren't meant to be in cages. They should be running free, out there," he said, pointing into the distance.

Suddenly I didn't like the zoo very much. Keeping my favourite animal locked up and not letting it run around, but what could I do?

The next day at school my teacher put a piece of paper on the classroom clipboard.

"This is a petition to improve the conditions of zoos across Australia," she said. "No-one, humans or animals, deserve to be locked up in a cage. It is completely your choice to sign this, however if we get ten thousand names on this sheet, it could help zoo conditions to improve across the whole of Australia."

This is what I can do! I thought it was obvious! I immediately ran up and put my name down on the paper, and asked my teacher if I could have a copy for other people to sign.

She proudly handed me three copies and I spent the rest of my holidays not at the zoo but going around my neighbourhood getting ten thousand names on the petition. I love lions and this is how I will help save them.

BACKPACKING IN NEW ZEALAND

The dining room was bustling with many young people....cooking toast, making muesli and frying eggs amongst the excitement of the coming day. Jusy, a twenty-something from Germany, was nervously anticipating his 3pm parachuting jump. His excitement being evident in his animated conversation and the hustle bustle of his preparations.

Outside the dining room on this sparkling clear day, not a cloud nor a breath of wind. The swimming pool shimmers following the attention it has received from the pool cleaner earlier and two young travellers look over their itinerary while sitting on a lounge chair, their bulging backpacks nearby.

It is in this scene that I find myself having just had a recuperative few days of rest and sleep. No longer the foggy head that comes from too many appointments, too many late nights and too many emails, but instead the vibrancy that comes from being around youth experiencing the joy of anticipation, mateship and achievement.

It may seem strange that I, an adult of some two score and ten years, that is fifty years old for those of you unfamiliar with roman counting, that I should be in a backpackers hostel, but I am not the only 'older' guest. There is a married couple from Canada, a lady from Germany and yesterday a gentleman from Ireland. It seems that we oldies do in fact enjoy the different face of travelling afforded by this type of accommodation.

You see about 30 years ago, we too were at the wonderful age of twenty. We had anticipations, the lack of responsibilities and in essence, and a simpler life. Now as the years have past, the trappings of success, the extra wealth and the larger home have come at a price of lesser freedoms and less time.

Being resentful of these things though is folly. Its not that either, is right nor wrong, it is simply what is.

Being 50 now represents a wonderful opportunity. Never in time has there been optimism towards the future by so many given the advances of our medical treatments that are prolonging the lifespan of so many. Perhaps we may be struck down by a dreadful disease such as cancer, just as so many youth were killed by the wrath of war that was before them at their time, but today we too have our wars, whether they are medical, psychological, religious or political.

But at 50 today, we have all the wonderful experiences of our past, the knowledge the skills and the education but by daring to go back in time and visit a backpacker hostel, truly exposes our differences, but also our similarities.

Farewell, I say as two young girls, laden with their belongings, packed, rolled, stuffed and hanging in a tangled yet somehow ordered mess into their backpacks depart from the dining room, a piece of cardboard with the name of a nearby town under their arm hopeful that a 'nice' passing traveller will accept their implied invitation to pick them up and take them to their town.

Life is simply a journey. There is no known destination but simply a meandering along the path that will ultimately end one day. And who knows when?

WORKING CHECKLIST

GRADED STORIES

STUDENT NAME _____

LEVEL 1

- A DAY AT THE BEACH
- A WALK IN THE FOREST
- TWO PAIRS OF SOCKS
- A SLEEPOVER WITH GRANDMA
- A SURPRISE AT DANCING

LEVEL 2

- MY FIRST JOB
- GOING TO A MOVIE
- I WANT TO BE A MOVIE STAR
- WHAT GOES ON OUTSIDE MY WINDOW

LEVEL 3

- I LOVE STRAWBERRY ICE-CREAM
- OUR HOUSE HAS A LARGE KITCHEN
- MY DOG NEEDS TRAINING
- MY FRIEND PLAYS CRICKET

LEVEL 4

GALAXY HOAX

MY PASSION FOR ROBOTICS

FOREVER FRIEND

OUR CAMPING HOLIDAY

THE PINEAPPLE HOTEL

THE ZOO

LEVEL 6

BACKPACKING IN NEW ZEALAND