

**Imagine...**  
**first graders reading**  
**to each other in pairs,**  
**learning to sound out words,**  
**and gaining confidence in**  
**reading and writing.**

**R**eading 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 (Story Telling and Retelling); and
- writing (Adventures in Writing).



## MATERIALS

- Reading Between the Lions: Reading Roots 5th Edition Teacher's Guide
- Web-based, interactive lessons featuring embedded videos and game-like activities
- Teacher manuals: 4 Shared Story, 2 STaR, and 1 FastTrack Phonics
- Student materials: 8 Partner Phonics booklets
- Forty-eight literature and informational trade books for STaR
- Forty-four Shared Story books
- High-quality Alphie puppet
- Phonics-, word-, and letter-blending card sets
- Wall posters



## Interactive, Media-Enriched Instruction

Every lesson is presented through a colorful, web-based environment enriched with memorable animations that tie letters to sounds, delightful puppet skits that demonstrate sound blending, colorful picture cards, and frequent games to engage students in their learning and to provide important practice and repetition of key skills. **Practice with Cleo and Theo** lessons provide additional hands-on practice in fluency, phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension in a web-based game environment. Lessons contain supporting videos from the award-winning PBS series, *Between the Lions*.



# Components of the Instructional Day

## Reading a Familiar Story

Every Reading Between the Lions: Reading Roots 5th Edition 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 each of the letters of the alphabet; consonant combinations like *sh*, *ch*, *th*, and *ng*; vowel digraphs like *ea* and *ai*; diphthongs like *ow* and *oi*; long vowel patterns like *a\_e*; and so on. Once a grapheme (letter or letter group) is introduced, it is revisited extensively in future lessons as part of daily teacher instruction and student practice.

FastTrack Phonics will enable students to master the following skill areas:

- Auditory Blending and Segmenting (Say It Fast, Break It Down);
- Letter-Sound Correspondence;
- Word-Level Blending (Stretch and Read); and
- 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. Each page in the Shared Story has both teacher text and student text. The student text uses only letter sounds and words that the students have already learned (Green Words), a few key sight words (Red Words), and readles (words represented by pictures). The students can apply the stretch-and-read strategy they learned in FastTrack Phonics to read the decodable text.

The teacher text presents a context for the story and includes predictive questions that are answered in the student sections. In the earliest stories, the teacher text adds a great deal of meaning to the stories. Over time, the amount of student text increases, and the teacher text diminishes. This scaffolding allows the students to read meaningful and worthwhile stories from the very start of their reading instruction.

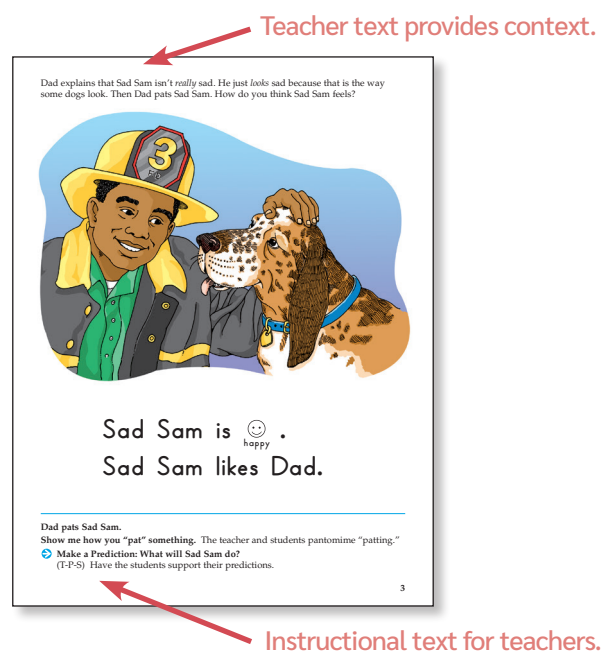
Students read Shared Stories over the course of four, 20-minute lessons: Introduction, Guided Practice, Partner Practice, and Reading Olympics. In Level 4, an additional Story Test lesson is included.

Students can take the Shared Stories home and practice reading them to parents or other listeners. Students are ready to read at a second-grade level when they have completed Level 4.

### Level 1 Student Edition



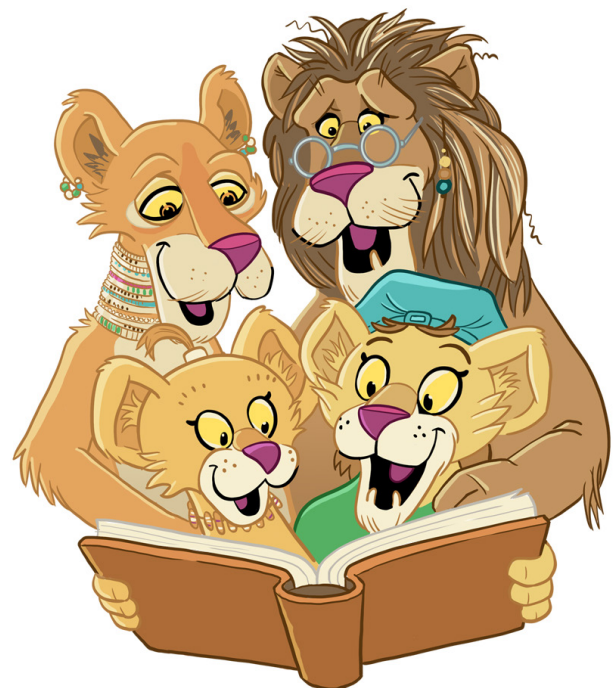
### Level 1 Teacher's Edition

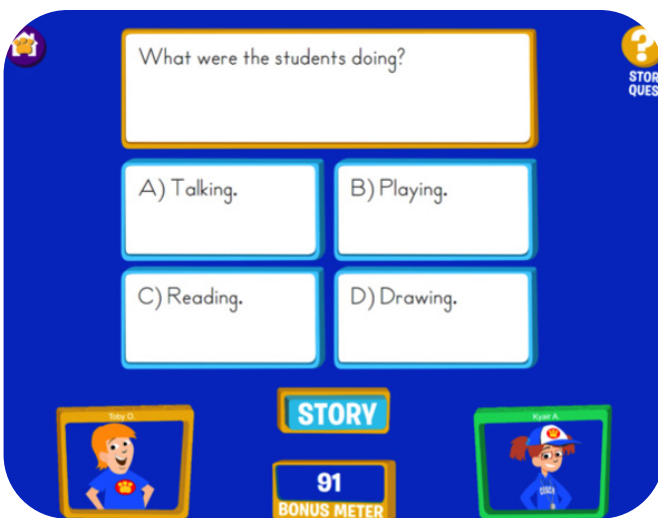


### Practice with Cleo and Theo

Practice with Cleo and Theo is an exciting web-based reading-intervention program that provides additional practice in the Reading Between the Lions: Reading Roots 5th Edition activities. The game-like activities address skill development in fluency, phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Student pairs work at a computer or device. During the activities, partners take turns completing activities and providing feedback on each other's performances. This keeps students actively engaged during both their and their partner's turns. Practice with Cleo and Theo Role Cards help guide students in learning the responsibilities with the roles of Player and Coach. Each story has activities associated with it during which student partnerships accumulate points.





The story activities include:

- **Power Reader:** Students hear fluent reading modeled, and then practice fluent reading individually.
- **Letter Launch:** Students practice saying letter or letter combination sounds and are provided with clues for help.
- **Letter Quest:** Students practice identifying letters that represent sounds and are provided with clues to help.
- **Word Blender:** Students practice word blending and are provided with clues for help.
- **Super Speller:** Students practice spelling words that they hear and are provided with clues for help.
- **Word Quest:** Students practice the vocabulary associated with the story they're working on.
- **Story Quest:** Students read the story and answer comprehension questions.



## Data-Driven Instruction

In addition to formal assessment that places students in the most appropriate Shared Story lesson level, teachers have many opportunities to assess students throughout the day and collect data that can help inform classroom pacing. Teachers can monitor students for oral reading, writing, fluency, vocabulary, and can review data from students' work in Practice with Cleo and Theo.

## PowerUp Partner Reading

PowerUp Partner Reading is another activity that partners can complete on their own. This is an alternate activity to Practice with Cleo and Theo when there are not enough devices for pairs of students, or for when students need extra practice. It is an opportunity for continued practice in phrase-, sentence-, and passage-level fluency. Students working in PowerUp Partner Reading should use the same Partner Reading routines they use during Shared Story lessons. Teachers can alternate groups of students to give all pairs a chance to work together in Practice with Cleo and Theo and PowerUp Partner Reading.

## STaR

STaR lessons take place over the course of four days and include a listening comprehension and writing component.

### 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 with Reading Roots for teachers to read aloud to their students. The set includes both fiction and nonfiction texts with themes that are related to the Shared Stories. Both receptive and expressive vocabulary skills are developed through the STaR lesson. Each story is previewed and then read interactively. Students retell stories through plays and other strategies.

STaR Writing gives students a chance to practice creating and writing new sentences for vocabulary words and prepare for longer writing projects in Adventures in Writing.

### STaR–Adventures in Writing

The Adventures in Writing component of STaR takes place on days 3 and 4 of the lesson. Students transition from writing simple, one- or two-sentence projects in early levels to longer, six-sentence projects by Level 4. Adventures in Writing allows students to extend their comprehension by responding creatively in writing to a prompt that relates to the theme or topic of the Shared Story and/or STaR story.

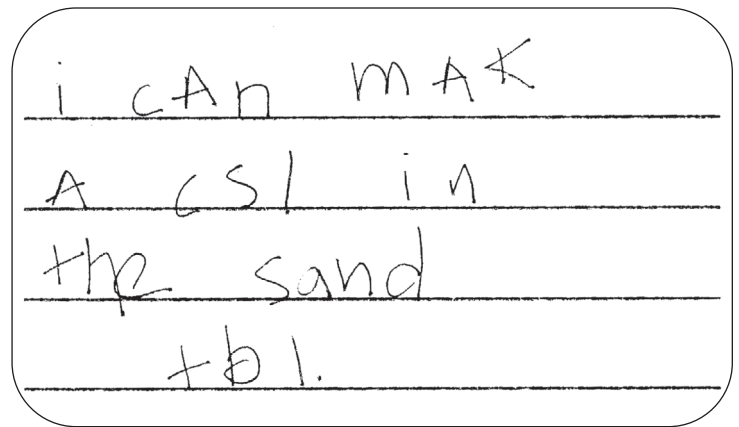
Lessons cover the whole writing process including prewriting, partner planning, writing, editing, and celebrating.

## Reading Between the Lions Celebration

Each class session ends with a Reading Between the Lions Celebration. The class joins together as a whole to celebrate with a Reading Between the Lions video and count up pride points on the Team Celebration Points poster.



Celebrations also take place throughout each lesson component to celebrate student work and progress.



A writing sample from a Reading Roots student in the first quarter

**“I hope this email finds you well! ...I thought I would give you an update on my daughter, Sarah. When you met Sarah she had just been accepted to Vet school at WSU. Sarah is beginning her last year of realizing her dream. She became a Veterinarian, completed an internship in Boise, Idaho, and was accepted to Kansas State in their match for a residency to become a Veterinary Board Certified Oncologist three years ago... As a teacher, I am always interested in the ‘rest of the story regarding my students.’ I must say that without your Roots program and support, Sarah would not have realized her dream. I thought you would enjoy her success story!**



**Sincerely, Julie Broom”**

*- Mother of a Success for All Reading Roots student*