READING WORKS

Vowels

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CONTENTS

Suggestions for teachers and literacy coaches	2
Vowels – stage one	3
Information about the schwa	10
The schwa – stage one	11
Vowels – stage two	13
The schwa – stage two	26
Vowels – stage three	29
The schwa – stage three	43
About the author	46
Other books by this author	47

Look inside

Vowels – stage one

NOTE: Letters in blue are not an exact fit to the sound being discussed, but are included for discussion.

raft

fly

30 *vowel sounds are set out in three graded stages:*

Stage One: the vowel letters and sounds are shown with a word example and its picture.

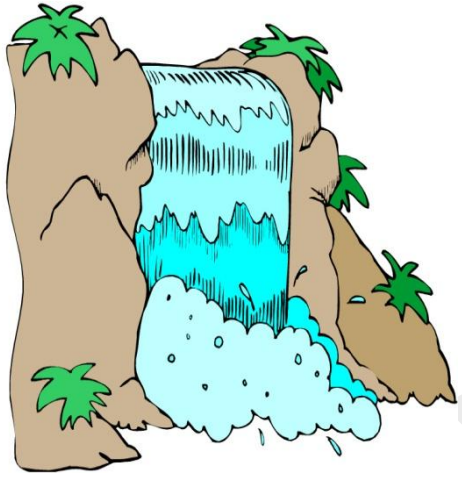
Stage Two: each vowel letter and sound as before but with a simple sentence added.

Stage Three: as in Stage 2 but with a complex sentence to exemplify each sound.

In the first section of this book on Vowels, the concept that there is more than one sound per vowel is introduced. The letter a, for example has seven different sounds, including the schwa. (The relatively unknown but vitally important schwa is introduced here for each of the vowels, including y as a vowel. See ***The Schwa*** *book for greater depth and additional examples.) Later in this book more complex sentences are provided for the developing reader. Teacher/parent help will turn the ordinary into the extraordinary.*

Look Inside

a a a as in *hat* astronaut		a a ar as in *car* raft	
a a ay as in *say* acorn		a a o as in *on* swan	

a a or as in *for* waterfall		a a e as in *end* many	
e e e as in *end* egg		e e ee as in *see* egret	

vowels – stage two

icecream

igloo

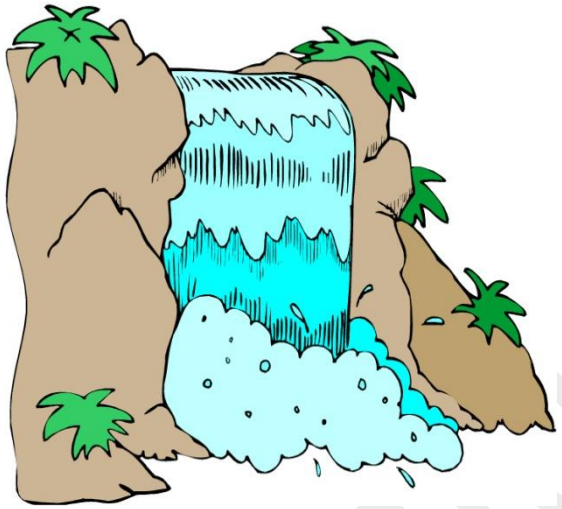
30 *vowel sounds and simple sentences are provided for conversational study and analysis with a teacher modelling and leading the way, moving very gradually but surely towards partner and independent reading.*

Making up new sentences using the words being studied – oral as well as written - adds the icing on the literacy cake: creative thinking, comprehension, vocabulary enrichment, word security, social interaction and self-expression.

e e ear as in *dear* zero		i i eye as in *I* ice-cream	
i i i as in *in* igloo		i i ee as in *see* ski	

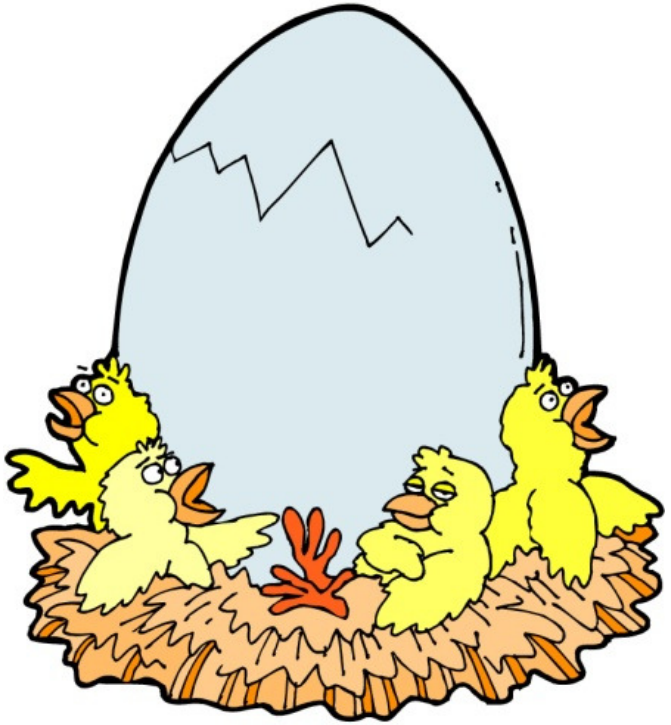
a as in *hat* a a astronaut		Adam is an astronaut.
ay as in *day* a a acorn		Shake the oak tree for acorns, Amy.

ar as in *car* a a raft		Let's raft down the river after lunch. Note: US pronunciation of this sound is the same as in *astronaut*.
o as in *on* a a swan		What do swans eat?

or as in *for* a a waterfall		If we walk to the waterfall, we can see how tall it is.
e as in *end* a a many		How many puppies does the mother dog have? Are there any for sale?

vowels – stage three

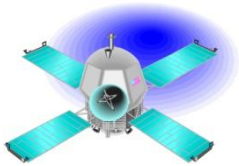
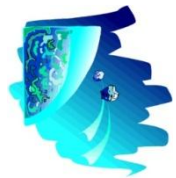
busy



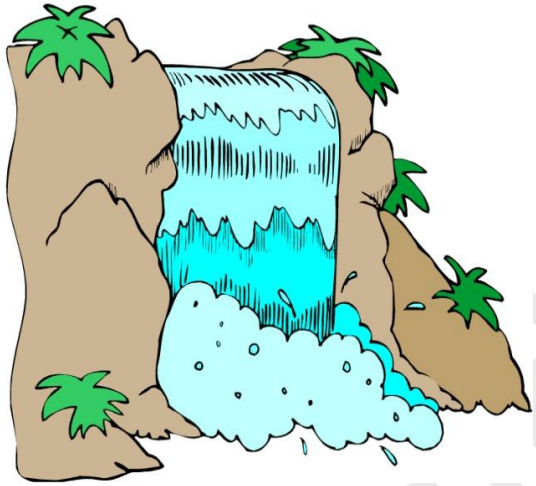
giant (schwa)

30 *vowel sounds with words in this section build on what has gone before. The more complex sentences widen vocabulary, develop better comprehension, help bring about reading speech fluency, incorporate general knowledge, demonstrate word order and the syntax and conventions of English, and strengthen reading confidence.*

Teachers are encouraged to create many different sentences to extend word knowledge and provide variety.

a a a astronaut		Adam is an astronaut, and as he was checking his spacecraft, he saw planet Earth, a man-made satellite and an asteroid. planet  satellite  asteroid
ay a a acorn		'If you shake that low branch of our oak tree, Amy, you'll be able to collect the acorns that fall,' suggested Damien. Twenty minutes later … 'Look at what came down, Damien! Eight fell off, so I'll make a pattern to decorate the dining room table,' said Amy happily.

ar a a raft		This afternoon at half past two, Arthur's father is planning to take his raft down a very fast river. (I hope he doesn't have a nasty spill like the one he had last year!) Note: US Pronunciation. The word *father* has the *ar* sound as in *carpet*, but in words such as *raft*, *last* and *afternoon*, the *a* letter has the *a for astronaut* sound.
o as in *on* a a swan		'Was that swan swimming in salty or fresh water, and what do swans eat?' asked Wanda. 'Swans like swampy lakes, fresh, salty or brackish, and they are herbivorous water-birds,' replied John before swatting a mosquito.

or a a waterfall		'Paul - how about a brisk walk to the waterfall before lunch?' called out Sean. (pron. *Shorn*) 'Good idea. And I'd like to talk about all those small plants growing in the mist on that tall rocky wall,' replied Paul.
e as in *egg* a a many		'How many puppies does your beautiful mother dog have?' asked Jenny. 'Are there any for sale?'