

## **Information for Teachers**

### **B Series and B Series Extra**

#### **Introduction**

Books 1–10 of the B Series were written in 1999/2000 to ensure that children learnt the basic correspondences for the sight and sound of each single letter of the alphabet.

Books 11–16 were written in 2007 to provide stories using the letters of the alphabet in simple CVC words. Hence, this series is named B Series Extra.

Books 1 and 10 in the B Series have been revised in the new print run of July 2009.

The revision in Book 1 is the removal of the word 'can'. It was originally used in the context of a drink can. However, the healthy-eating campaigns of recent years have reduced children's consumption of fizzy drinks, and they have not come across the object 'a can of drink'. Consequently, all the pictures of cans have been removed and the title of the book has been changed to *a man*.

The revision in Book 10 is the removal of the word 'very'. This is now classed as a decodable word in Phase 5 of the Phonic Progression. Hence, it has been removed for simplicity. There are no other changes to this book.

The vocabulary in each book of the two B Series consists of very simple CVC words. It is not easy to guess the words from the pictures, and children often struggle with some of these books. The B Series books provide practice in identifying each phoneme and blending the phonemes together to make the words.

There are no capital letters until Book 5 when 'I' is introduced in the phrase 'I am ....' 'J' in Jelly is also introduced here.

#### **The grapheme 'y'**

The letter 'y' is used at the end of the name Jelly, where it is pronounced [i]. This is the only form of 'y' in both these series.

There are three different uses of the grapheme 'y'.

1. **The 'Shy 'i', Toughy 'y' rule for word endings.** The letter 'i' is shy. It does not like to be exposed on the end of a word, so the letter 'y' helps out and replaces it. If you think of the words 'mummy, daddy, sorry, baby, happy, puppy', you will see that children use these types of words very often.

2. **The use of 'y' as a grapheme (spelling) for the phoneme (sound) |ie|.** Words containing this form are 'my, by, sky, try, cry, fly, why'. The word 'my' is listed as a high-frequency word to be taught in Phonic Phase 3 and is not used in either the B Series or the B series Extra.

Notice that in both the above forms, 'y' is acting as a vowel. The third use involves 'y' acting as a consonant.

3. **The initial consonant 'y'** appears in the words 'you, yes, your, yacht, yellow, yesterday, yo-yo, yak, yet'. The phoneme (sound) for |y| in these words is completely different to the other two phonemes for |y|. It is not used in this form in any of the books in the B Series or B Series Extra.

You will also see the letter 'y' used in words like 'gym, rhythm, hymn' in books more advanced than Jelly and Bean titles. In these words it is an alternative grapheme for the phoneme |j|.

### **Vowel digraphs and tricky words**

The only vowel digraphs used in the B Series are 'ee' and 'oo' in 'see' and 'look'. The B Extra Series introduces the vowel phoneme |ou| in the word 'out'. This can be thought of as a 'tricky' high-frequency word at this stage.

The only other tricky high-frequency words used in the B Series and B series Extra are: 'the, I, me, no, to, little, out, go, into, oh'.

### **Letters**

The letters of the alphabet are introduced as shown below.

### B Series

| Book | Title                     | New letters   | Capitals |
|------|---------------------------|---------------|----------|
| 1b   | <i>a man</i>              | a c h m n o t |          |
| 2b   | <i>a bat</i>              | b i x         |          |
| 3b   | <i>a bad dog</i>          | d g           |          |
| 4b   | <i>a bug in a cup</i>     | e u p         |          |
| 5b   | <i>a hen and a rat</i>    | r y           | I J      |
| 6b   | <i>Sam</i>                | s f           | S T      |
| 7b   | <i>The big bell</i>       | l k           | B P L    |
| 8b   | <i>The big black hat</i>  | q (ck)        | A        |
| 9b   | <i>The web on the jug</i> | j w           |          |
| 10b  | <i>The big cat</i>        | v z           | K        |

### B Series Extra

| Book | Title                    | Capitals |
|------|--------------------------|----------|
| 11B  | <i>Ten Pegs</i>          |          |
| 12B  | <i>Tom and the Socks</i> | M        |
| 13B  | <i>The Tub</i>           | H        |
| 14B  | <i>The Egg</i>           |          |
| 15B  | <i>The Fox</i>           | F        |
| 16B  | <i>The Box</i>           |          |

### Vocabulary

The **new vocabulary** introduced in each book is shown below.

### B Series

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Book 1B | a cat mat hat on cot hot man                         |
| Book 2B | bat box in tin bin hit                               |
| Book 3B | dog and mad bad                                      |
| Book 4B | the bug cup pan nut bun hop                          |
| Book 5B | I am hen hut rat ran Jelly net                       |
| Book 6B | Sam has cap put frog fat see run red can             |
| Book 7B | Bean look at big bell fell pull off cut his leg hugs |
| Book 8B | black duck is quack kitten me oh trick               |
| Book 9B | web jug taps jumps up will not pond                  |

Book 10B Kevin fast cannot zig-zag into

B Series Extra

Book 11B ten pegs socks no bag of sits mud

Book 12B Tom seven mum dad little pigs silly

Book 13B tub fun help to bump bang tips out

Book 14B nest gets an egg

Book 15B fox stuck back den

Book 16B next opens lid van go with

The use of **high-frequency 'tricky' words** in both series:

| Word   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| the    |   |   |   | * | * | * | * | * | * | *  | *  | *  | *  | *  | *  | *  |
| I      |   |   |   |   | * |   |   | * |   |    | *  |    |    |    |    |    |
| me     |   |   |   |   |   |   | * |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| oh     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | * |   |    | *  |    | *  | *  |    | *  |
| into   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | *  |    |    |    |    | *  |    |
| no     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    | *  |    | *  | *  |    | *  |
| to     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    | *  | *  |    | *  | *  |
| little |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    | *  |    | *  | *  |    |
| out    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    | *  |    |    |    |
| go     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    | *  |

The use of **vowel digraphs** in both series:

| Word | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| see  |   |   |   |   |   | * |   |   | * | *  | *  | *  |    |    | *  | *  |
| look |   |   |   |   |   |   | * | * |   | *  | *  | *  |    |    |    | *  |
| out  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    | *  |    |    |    |

The vocabulary used in each story is printed on the inside back cover of each book.

The text of each story is available to photocopy from one of our volumes of texts.

M Greenwood December 2007

Revised July 2009 after the revision of books 1B and 10B.