Blue Book Band

Aims

The books in the blue book band have several aims.

 - to introduce and use the *'long vowels'* digraphs *'ay/ai, ee/ea, ie/y/i, oa/o, oo(moon)'* in as many words as possible.

 - to reinforce the vowel digraphs *'ow, ou'* in more words.

 - to introduce the *'ar'* digraph and reinforce the other r-controlled vowels *'er, or'*.

 - to introduce more of the 100 high-frequency words as specified in *Letters and Sounds*. These are *'now, too, was, it's, so, some, there, one, what, don't, house, about, made, here, call, ask'*.

 - to increase the length of sentences and the number of words on a page.

 - to continue using present tense verbs.

These aims are met in four series of books.

The *Rhyming CVC Series* revises the digraphs already introduced in earlier books. There are no new vowel graphemes. The series is mostly written in the present tense although the past tense verb *'was'* is used in books 5 and 8, and *'said'* is used in books 4, 5, 6. Each book has 97-108 words.

The *Early Vowel Combinations Series* introduces the vowel graphemes *'ie, oa, oo (moon)'*.
It uses the long vowel spellings *'ay/ai, ee/ea, ie/y/i, oa/o, oo (pool)'* in as many words as possible. Each book has 96-106 words.

Tom and Bella Series 4 introduces the grapheme *'ar'* and uses *'ow'* and *'ou'* in more words than *'down, out'*. It uses common words beginning with *'wa…'*. These are *'want, watch, wash, water'*. It introduces the high-frequency words *'here, where'*. The books are written in the present tense and use the word *'says'* and not *'said'* (past tense verb). Each book has 121-151 words.

The *Combining Consonants Series* introduces words beginning with *'wh'* and words ending in *'dge'*. It reinforces *'tch'* at the end of words. There are many words with consonants to blend in this series. The high-frequency words *'there, what'* are introduced. There are no new phonic vowel relationships. Each book has 141-155 words.

Full details of the vocabulary in each book may be found in the teaching guides.

There is no key vocabulary for the blue book band.