



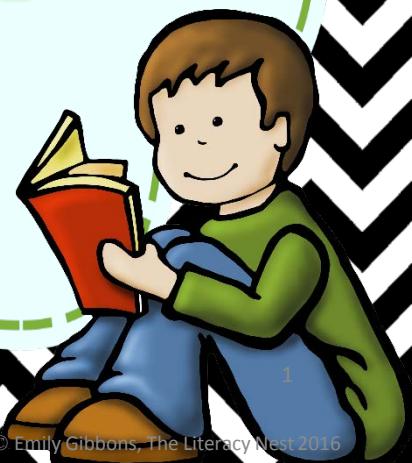
Let's Read!

50 Decodable

Stories

OG Level

Five



Created by: Emily Gibbons

I hope you enjoy this resource!

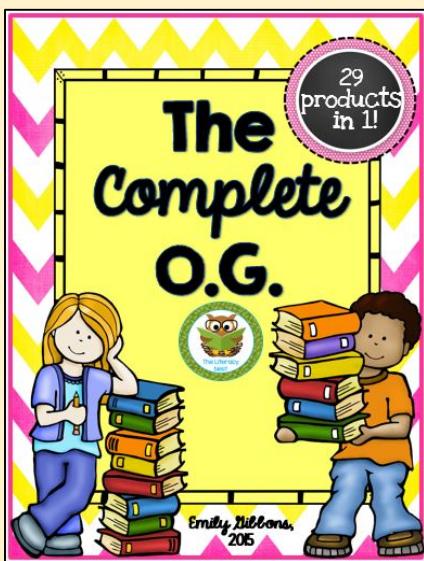
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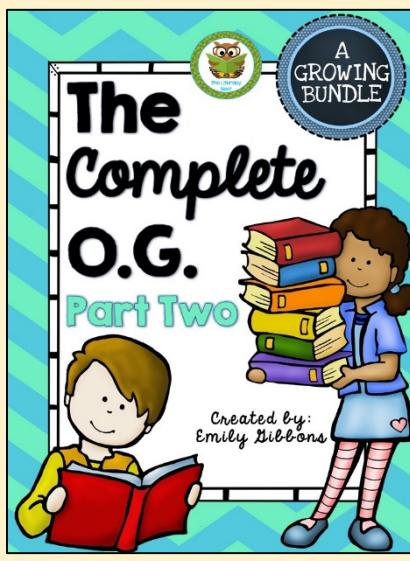
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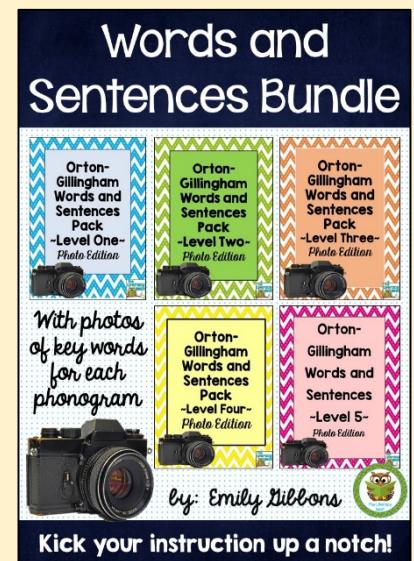
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by: Emily Gibbons

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Dear Educator,

Thank you for your purchase! This is a set of 50 decodable stories for level five OG. They are compatible with OG or other reading interventions. This resource may be used in a 1:1 setting, small group or even whole class, depending on your needs.

NOTE: Please pay special attention to the Table of Contents.

This is the order of instruction I recommend. The text is controlled. You will notice the continued practice of each particular phonogram or spelling skill within the story. I also use the OG learned words (or red words, sight words) from level one and two within each story. If you're looking for more practice with learned words, [click here](#).

*If you need a copy of the progression chart I follow, please [email me](#). And as always, use these as they suit your students' needs.

*If you own any of my [multi-sensory phonics packs](#), you'll see some of the stories from those packs are in here. I have made a few small changes to adhere to the progression I follow a little more closely.

I will be adding further levels of decodable stories throughout October. Level ONE stories are available by [clicking here](#).

Level TWO stories are available by [clicking here](#). Level THREE stories are available by [clicking here](#). Level FOUR stories are available by [clicking here](#). Or for the bundle, [click here](#).

Thank you so much for choosing [my store](#) for your classroom needs. Please be sure to leave feedback on this resource. It helps me, future customers, and you'll earn credit towards new purchases!

Sincerely,

Emily Gibbons, [The Literacy Nest](#)



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Fort Knox

Do you know where the United States keeps a huge supply of gold? Head to northern Kentucky and you will reach the place: Fort Knox. Fort Knox was constructed by the U.S. army in 1936. It is protected day and night from theft. Named after Henry Knox, Fort Knox was built as a place to keep gold safe.

Fort Knox is not known as a place to take a field trip or visit with a friend or family. Gold bricks, as well as some important documents, are held there. You would need to gain permission to go inside. Most people will never get to see the inside.

So, how did so many gold bricks get to Fort Knox back in 1937? They were sent through the mail. All those gold bricks were too heavy to be shipped by plane, so they were sent through the mail by train. Each gold brick weighs twenty-seven pounds!

Highlight all the silent letters kn words in **yellow**.

An Autumn Climb

Last autumn, I went for a day hike with my friend, Knox. Knox is a busy plumber by trade, but enjoys hikes on the weekends for exercise.

Knox had some sliced pieces of crumb cake in his backpack. We planned to climb up to Mount Knoll, and stop to look for an old, empty tomb, which people claimed to be haunted, but we didn't believe the tale.

On the way up, a weak limb from an oak tree fell and hit my thumb. It hurt so badly, my thumb felt numb. Knox carried an ice pack in his backpack, so I quickly used it. The ice pack didn't make the numbness in my thumb go, though it helped the pain, though. We were eager to continue on.

Further up the climb, we had to comb our way through some thick ivy and shrubs. Right after that, Knox spotted the haunted tomb! It seemed more solemn than haunted, so we chose not to stay long. Heading back down the trail, we couldn't stop thinking about the tomb. Could it have been haunted?

Highlight all the silent letters mb and mn words in yellow.

Could It Be A Ghost?

Many think ghosts and ghouls do not exist. They are just figments of our imagination. Some believe there are ghosts and they reside in places all over. Which side are you on?

Thinking you have spotted a ghost or ghoul can seem ghastly. You might think you have seen a shadow instead. So how can you be sure if you have seen a ghost or ghoul?

Some people may hire someone to come and investigate the space where a ghost is suspected of being. Most people just shake their heads in disbelief and go on thinking they have seen a shadow or their mind has played a trick on them.

If you suspect a place is haunted by a ghost, you might even try asking a friend for advice. Could they come and check out the space with you? Make sure it is a friend you can trust or they may be left aghast at the thought of a ghost or ghoul!

Highlight all the silent letters gh words in yellow.

Pesky Groundhog

“Who’s been digging in my garden? The tops of all the sunflower buds were gnawed off!” exclaimed Mom. Mom batted some gnats flying in the air and sat down next to her garden gnome. She was feeling dejected and defeated. All of her time spent planting felt like a waste. Who did this?

Dad decided to investigate. He spotted a hole next to the garden gnome and a gnarled tree trunk. The tree trunk had a few gnaw marks on it, and the hole was deep. “This looks like the job of a groundhog,” explained Dad. “That groundhog sure likes gnawing on new flower buds. We may not even have a summer garden at all if this keeps up!”

Mom thought we should fill in the hole and stick the gnome on top, but we agreed that the groundhog would just find a new way out and gnaw on something new. If he wasn’t stopped soon, he’d gnaw his way through the whole garden. How would you stop a pesky groundhog from gnawing?

Highlight all the silent letters gn words in yellow.

The Quirky Guide

Last Sunday, my friend and I thought it would be fun to take a guided bus ride through the city to see some sights. We got on the bus and spotted the guide right off the bat. He strummed a guitar and sang, "Let's take a bus ride, guests!"

This guy was a bit odd to my friend and me, but we decided to make the best of it. He played funny songs on his guitar and the guests on the bus sang with him. Each time the bus stopped at an important site, the guide sang a song on his guitar. I admit, this guy sang a bit off key. It was hard not to giggle. But the guide sure seemed to enjoy his job, and I guess that's all that matters.

At the end of the bus ride, the guests thought it would be best to gather some tips for the singing guide. I walked up to each guest and they dropped coins in my baseball cap. We took the tip money up to the guide and handed it to him for a job well done. Can you guess how excited he was?

Highlight all the silent letters gu words in yellow.

Psychic Minds

A psychic is someone who claims to be able to read minds. Why would someone go to see a psychic? There are a number of reasons.

First, a person you cared for deeply may have died. You might be missing them a whole lot, or have a broken heart. Some people wish they could have a chance to speak to the one who died. Some psychics claim to be able to speak to the dead to find out information to pass to their family or friends.

A psychic may also be used to help crack a case. If someone has been missing a long time and there are no leads as to where they have gone, a psychic might be called to try and locate them. Some psychics have had success with tracking people down, but not all the time.

A psychic is not the same as a psychiatrist. A psychiatrist will try to help someone who needs to talk through his or her own problems and struggles. Seeing a psychic might feel like a fun game for some people. Would you visit a psychic?

Highlight all the silent letters ps words in **yellow**.

Write or Type?

We hear how important it is to write properly. But writing can be hard for those who have a tough time finding a topic to write a paper or report.

Some people decide to stop the wrestle and wriggle with their pen or pencil, and learn to type instead. Typing can help some people write a lot better.

When you wish to learn how to type, it's important to be able to use the keys quickly. You may ask a friend with a wristwatch to time you on your speed. Be sure to lift up your wrists when typing or they can become stiff.

Once you make the choice to type instead of writing with a pen, some like to dictate notes in class and type them later. Be sure to talk to your teacher to find the best way to write for you.

Highlight all the silent letters wr words in **yellow**.

The Vehicle Exhibit

John checked the time. He had one hour to visit the vehicle exhibit in Herb Hall. He couldn't wait to see all the heirloom vehicles on display.

When he walked into the exhibit, a gigantic hourglass stood in the center. It flipped when the sand ran through the hourglass all on its own. The heirloom cars were parked in a circle. You could walk through the exhibit and stop at each car.

John was thrilled to see an old Model T, a red Ford pick-up truck and a 1965 Thunderbird convertible. The wheels of the Thunderbird had white walls, something you don't see on most cars these days. To be honest, John wished he could slide right behind the wheel of each heirloom car, and take it for a test drive!

John realized his hour at the vehicle exhibit was nearly up. He checked the hourglass and saw it flip all on its own. He couldn't wait to return and see the exhibit for a second time.

Highlight all the silent letter h words in **yellow**.

Listen!

Listen to the bustle.

The bustle of the crowd.

Listen to the hustle.

The hustle of the crowd.

Listen to the whistle.

The whistle of a lark.

Listen to the nestle.

The nestle of the lark.

Listen to the jostle.

The jostle of the bags.

Listen to the rustle.

The rustle of the bags.

Listen to the wrestle.

The wrestle of the buckle.

Listen to the fasten.

The fasten of the buckle.

Highlight all the silent letter t words in yellow.

A Newborn Calf

A newborn calf may be born at any time of the year. A female cow will have one baby calf at a time, but sometimes she can have twins.

When a newborn calf is born, it will weigh sixty to one hundred pounds! You didn't weigh even half that size when you were born. A calf is able to stand up, and walk after it is born. Its legs may wobble when they first stand up. Shortly after they are born, a calf will drink milk from their mom. It's important for the calf to stay by its mom for the first few days after it is born.

Some calves may grow to be dairy cows. They drink milk from their moms for the first few weeks of life to receive enough protein and nutrition. When they are four weeks old, calves are placed in a different part of the farm to begin eating grass.

Some calves might grow to be beef cows. They stay with their moms longer to get big and gain weight. Then the growing calves will head to an open field to graze and get bigger. A calf can be raised for different reasons.

Highlight all the silent letter l words in yellow.

Christmas Time

Christmas is a holiday that is celebrated all over the globe. Families celebrate in different ways depending on where you reside.

If you are from Spain, you might go to midnight mass. After that, you will see a chorus of singers strumming guitars or beating drums while they play music in the streets.

If you are from Greece, children will go out at night to sing Christmas carols. They might also carry a model boat decorated with nuts painted in gold.

If you are from Mexico, Christmas is celebrated from December 12-January 6th. They share the Christmas story and decorate their homes with moss, evergreens and paper lanterns.

Christmas is a holiday that may be celebrated in lots of different ways. Do you celebrate a holiday like Christmas with your family?

Highlight all the silent letters ch \k\ words in yellow.

Chicago

It's called the Windy City. The busy city of Chicago is southwest of Michigan. If you drove from Michigan to Chicago, it might take up to four hours.

Once you reach Chicago, you might want to locate a brochure that will tell you some of the places and attractions to see while you visit. A brochure of a major city will include a map to help you find where you're going.

If it's baseball season, check out a baseball game at Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs. Wrigley field is one of the oldest ball parks in America. Maybe you'll catch a fly ball!

Lots of people like to see the tall skyscrapers in Chicago. Some of them have an observation deck or a skydeck where you head to the top and catch an amazing, 360 degree view of Chicago and other places miles away.

Enjoy a trip to Chicago, the Windy City!

Highlight all the silent letters ch \sh\ words in **yellow**.

Greek Myths

Long ago, people shared stories called myths. Greek mythology had powerful gods and goddesses. Zeus was the head god over all the gods and goddesses. He was not a very sympathetic god. Most of the time, he would punish gods or goddesses.

Some myths in Greek mythology might explain a mystery or reveal a dark secret about a god or goddess. Myths showed how people or gods and goddesses could be punished or rewarded for their actions.

Some of the most exciting myths in Greek mythology have monsters in them. The monster myths have a hero, a creepy monster and a battle between the hero and the monster. Greek children enjoyed hearing these myths because they knew the monsters weren't alive.

Greek myths were recorded years later for people to read and enjoy. Myths still mystify and delight readers of all ages.

Highlight all the silent letter y \i\ words in yellow.

Coastal Crash

It started off as a normal day. I planned to ride my bike along the coastal road to pick up a box of cereal and some milk for my mom at the local grocery store. I grabbed my helmet, wallet and jacket in the closet, hopped on my bike and began to pedal.

A postal truck passed me on my right along the busy, coastal road. After that, I spotted a car in a chase with the police screeching down the road. I swerved to get out of the way, but fell off my bike. A neighbor came out and asked if I was okay. He took a handkerchief from his pocket and handed it to me. I had a bad cut on my right leg that had started to bleed. It was tough to walk, too.

My neighbor went to inform my mom about what happened. Mom decided a trip to the general hospital emergency room might be the best thing. My bike was a total wreck. I looked back and shook my head. I guess I'm grateful I didn't get badly hurt.

Highlight all the -al and -et words in yellow.

A Day Off

Dalton, the wise king, was filled with boredom. He longed for his kingdom to be more lively. Even his pet falcon, Jason, brought him no happiness. Dalton was a person who needed freedom to do what he wished. But being a king meant he had to stay inside his kingdom all the time.

Dalton's boredom felt like a prison. He thought hard and realized he seldom left his throne. He had enough, so he packed up his falcon, took off his crimson robe, and dressed up as a common person instead of a king.

Dalton found someone to take him for a ride in a wagon. He passed a field of bison, until hours later, they reached the seaside. Dalton thanked the driver and climbed out of the wagon, falcon in hand.

He breathed in the salty air and looked out over the horizon. It felt good to be a common person without the hassles of the kingdom, even for just one day. Jason, the falcon, enjoyed a flight over Dalton's head as he swooped through the sky, high across the waves.

Highlight all the -om and -on words in yellow.

Mother's Day

It was Monday. That meant less than a week until Mother's Day. My brother and I still needed to come up with a wonderful gift, but we didn't have a ton of money. I knew what Mom would say. "It's okay, honey. Just make me a lovely card." But my brother and I had to do better than a card this year.

My brother and I were going to buy a combined gift, so we sat at the computer looking for an idea. "How about a dozen blossoms in a vase?" I asked. My brother just shook his head. He had a better plan. He thought Mom would love a game called, "Barrel of Monkeys." It was my turn to shake my head. We sat wondering what to do.

Then I got an idea! It was like nothing our mother had ever had. Mom might not like a dozen blossoms in a vase, but she sure would like a dozen tasks done. We decided to make a booklet of tickets. Each ticket could be cashed in for one task, which we agree to complete. Our Mother was going to love it!

Highlight all the schwa o words in yellow.

On The Radio

Mario sat at the kitchen table one morning, eating a bowl of Cheerios and milk. The radio was playing the typical morning talk show. Mario wished there was less chatter and more songs. He looked out onto the patio, ate his cereal and listened.

Just then a contest was announced by the DJ. The audio wasn't very clear, so Mario adjusted the reception on his radio. That's when he heard the grand prize: The tenth caller would win a trip to the studio to record their own song! "Wow!" thought Mario. "I've always wanted to record my own song in a studio. Hoping to be caller number ten, he quickly began to dial the number to the radio show.

Mario belonged to a trio of singers that had played for a few years. They weren't well known, but this contest could change that. He waited on the line when suddenly, a cheerful radio voice told him, "Hey! You are the tenth caller. You win a trip to the studio!" Mario jumped for joy. He couldn't wait to tell the trio the good news.

Highlight all the i (e-o) words in **yellow**.

The Antique Shop

Monique Boutique is a fancy antique shop run my by Grandmother, Monique. Grandma Monique used to reside in Paris, but relocated to the states about twenty years ago.

Grandma Monique always dreamed of owning her own antique shop. She collected rare pieces at estate sales and yard sales and kept them safe in her basement. She finally ran out of room and decided to open Monique Boutique.

Monique Boutique is located in a picturesque part of town. Behind the boutique is a duck pond and to the left are rolling hills. Grandma Monique enjoys talking about a set of old plaques she keeps whenever anyone comes in to look around.

Monique Boutique is a unique, antique shop. Grandma Monique likes to display knick-knacks, and odds and ends when you first walk in. She thinks they might make a unique birthday gift to buy for someone. Monique Boutique is a rare find among ordinary shops.

Highlight all the consonant -que \k\ words in **yellow**.

Walter The Watchdog

Walter the watchdog was always ready to watch his property. Each night, his owner, Waldo, gave Walter a waffle and a bowl of water, patted him on the back and sent him on the porch.

Waldo and Walter's home was near a waterfall on the waterfront. Walter and Waldo could hear the rushing water at any time of day. Walter enjoyed waterfalls, but he really loved being a watchdog. He imagined catching thieves and sending them to jail.

One stormy night, Walter was in his usual place on the porch. It was cold and windy, but he did not wallow. Walter could hear footsteps on the sidewalk. They seemed to be getting closer. Walter's ears perked up and he let out a loud howl and a bark. A would be thief spotted Walter, turned around and ran. Walter's barking grew louder and woke Waldo. When Waldo realized that Walter spooked a thief away, he was sure to give him extra waffles for a job well done. Good boy, Walter!

Highlight all the a \o\ words in yellow.

The Thoughtful Daughter

Wanda was a thoughtful daughter to her mother. Her mother taught her how to bake her own loaves of bread (instead of buying store-bought), tend a garden, and even change a flat tire if needed. Wanda never gave those things a second-thought, but knew they'd come in handy.

Since Wanda's Mom was in a wheelchair, Wanda had become self-taught in even more tasks. She caught fish and brought it home for dinner, bought groceries at the market, and trained her naughty brother to clean up his room when he was told. Wanda was fraught with handy skills, and she was proud of it.

Even though Wanda was a thoughtful daughter, she sometimes felt like all of the tasks her mother needed help with were an onslaught. Her mother felt badly and realized Wanda needed some time off to relax. She thanked Wanda for thoughtfulness and rethought the many tasks she gave her to complete.

Highlight all the aught and ought words in **yellow**.

Finding Caterpillars

Crawling among the cedar trees, poplar trees and milkweed, a caterpillar munches its way through leaves to grow plumper. Inchng forward, it finds an orchard to spend its final days before it transforms into a butterfly.

Edward walks towards the same orchard. He's wearing a pair of binoculars and a lanyard. His collar itches in the hot summer heat. Edward hopes to find a monarch caterpillar and take it home with him. He walks upward towards a hill in the orchard, stops to check his calendar, and continues forward.

It's a regular summer day, but hunting for monarch caterpillars can be tricky. They blend in, making it hard to locate one. Edward wishes he had invented a sonar tool to find caterpillars.

The caterpillar munches through one last milkweed pod and rests on a branch. Edward inches toward the branch and spots it. Using a circular container, he gently places the caterpillar inside. His search is complete.

Highlight all the ar \er\ words in yellow.

A New Inventor

Taylor Victor was a skilled doctor. People sought her as an advisor. Taylor was also an author of science fiction and biography. But what Doctor Victor wished for most was to become an inventor.

Doctor Taylor had a workshop in her basement, where she could spend time tinkering and designing. She wanted to be an inventor of a new kind of baby monitor. She tested it many times, but there were a few factors that kept it from operating properly. She needed a mentor or advisor that could do her the favor of offering some help.

Doctor Taylor Victor called Trevor Windsor, a trusted councilor and director of new inventors. Trevor could offer free labor and had a great sense of humor. He detected a minor error, prior to turning the monitor on. Trevor was a skilled evaluator of problems. Once he and Doctor Taylor fixed the error, the monitor went on! Thanks to Trevor Windsor, Doctor Taylor Victor was able to make her dream come true.

Highlight all the consonant or \er\ words in yellow.

Warthogs

What's that warty, hog looking animal you see? It's a warthog! A warthog may not seem as warm and sweet as a pink pig on a farm to some people, but they enjoy an interesting life.

A warthog has a lot of, you guessed it, WARTS! Warts are all over the top of their flat heads. The warts protect their skin, which is mostly bald. They have four sharp tusks and more hair on their backs. Their hind quarters may have some hair.

Some may wonder if a warthog is a fierce fighter because they can run so rapidly. If a warthog is in danger, it will usually choose flight instead of fight.

When a warthog is warm, it will cool off in water or mud. Birds assist warthogs by pecking at and eating tiny insects off their backs.

Warthogs live and raise their babies in dens. They may give birth to up to four baby warthogs at a time. The baby warthogs will stay with their mothers until about four months old. Warthogs are more than just warts!

*Highlight all the war words in yellow.

Skateboarding

Are you interested in skateboarding, but have never tried it? Skateboarding is a fun way to get exercise. Some prefer it to riding a bicycle or scooter.

You will want to get a sturdy skateboard with wheels that are well attached to the board. Next, make sure you have a fitted helmet and pads for your knees, elbows, and wrists. Those are the spots most likely to get hurt if you fall off the skateboard.

Most skilled skateboarders enjoy skateboarding at a skate park. There's lots of ramps and places to try vertical tricks. You'll want to have plenty of practice on flat surfaces first before trying vertical tricks on a skateboard.

Once you have mastered skateboarding, there are contests for skateboarders to show off their skills. If skateboarding becomes more than just a hobby, you may want to enter one day!

Highlight all the oar words in **yellow**.

WWW

We know WWW stands for the World Wide Web, but do you know how the internet got started?

Tim Berners-Lee, credited as the inventor of the World Wide Web, enjoyed playing with trains as a child. As he grew up, he traded in trains for working with computers.

Tim was looking for a seamless way to pass along information between computers. There was a lot of hassle and legwork to have to login to one computer, find what you were looking for, and then login to a different computer, possibly with a new program and network to find different information.

Tim worked for CERN and presented his idea for the World Wide Web in 1989. People were interested in his plans, but needed to know more. How could Tim send information rapidly over the internet? By the end of 1990, Tim took the guesswork out for people and made his first webpage. Tim's plan laid the framework and a new wave of innovation began all over the world.

Highlight all the wor \er\ words in yellow.

Earth's Water

Have you heard that Earth is called the blue planet? Why do you think Earth is known as the blue planet? If you guessed because of all the water on Earth, you are right!

Earth is mostly water, but not all of it is for drinking. Only a very small amount of the water on planet Earth is for drinking. Most of it is salt water. Drinking salt water to quench your thirst is unheard of for humans. It could dehydrate you very quickly and make you sick.

So how much of Earth's water is fresh water? Less than three percent of Earth's water is fresh water. If you search for it, most of that fresh water is trapped in icecaps, ground water or glaciers (gla-shers). Research shows that of the tiny three percent of fresh water, only 0.3 percent can be used for drinking. That is not a lot at all!

So what can we learn from knowing Earth doesn't have a lot of drinking water? Isn't it time we find ways to protect this life saver?

Highlight all the ear words in **yellow**.

A Miracle

Rex was staring out his bedroom window one morning. He noticed cirrus clouds and thought to himself, "Could be a rain storm in a few days." Cirrus clouds seemed a bit irrelevant to him, though. What Rex needed was a miracle.

A miracle you might ask? What was wrong with Rex? Was he ill? Well, not exactly. Rex was irritated because he didn't want to move to a new neighborhood. Leaving his home was going to be rough. But his parents insisted that he would love the new home they bought last week.

Since Rex heard the news, he became irrational. So he spent a great deal of time moping in his bedroom, staring in the mirror with a mad face, or doodling in his sketchbook. It would take a miracle for his parents to stay in this home.

Rex decided to stop being so irritated and talk with his parents. He'd tell them how leaving their home would hurt his spirit. Maybe he could reason with them. What would you do?

Highlight all the ir \eer\ words in yellow.

Build Your Vocabulary

If you want to build your vocabulary,

It is customary to use a dictionary.

A dictionary can be found in a library,

Or maybe with a secretary.

If you want to build your vocabulary,

It is necessary to be a visionary.

Don't build it to be contrary,

Use it to be extraordinary.

If you want to build your vocabulary,

You may sometimes use a glossary.

It's in the back, so be discretionary,

Look carefully, not arbitrarily.

Building your vocabulary isn't momentary,

It may not be hereditary.

But make sure it is necessary,

And you may become quite literary.

Highlight all the consonant -ary words in **yellow**.

Forty-Four

Forty-four have been essential,

Presidential and influential.

Forty-four have not been judicial,

But sometimes have to be confidential.

Forty-four have been special,

They've been sworn in to be official.

Their speeches are quite substantial,

And they try to remain impartial.

Forty-four have been crucial,

To America they are partial.

Their job is never circumstantial,

And they try to remain quite social.

Who are the forty-four you ask,

So special to the states?

We've had forty-four presidents.

Influential candidates.

Highlight all the ti, si, and ci words in yellow.

Touchdown!

My cousin and I organized a game of touch football over our vacation. My cousin asked if he could invite his younger, twin brothers to join the game. I knew that might be a case of double trouble, but I agreed to it.

On the day of the touch football game, we all met in the country, at a field behind the library. The grass was a little damp and muddy, but we didn't mind. My cousin brought a couple of cases of icy cold water. It was enough for us to drink at half time or time outs.

The game began and the double trouble twins were helping to win the game. I wasn't sure how my team was going to beat them at touch football. My cousin's team was tough, but we needed a winning touchdown or suffer a major loss.

My younger brother kicked the ball. The double trouble twins tried to intercept, but missed! One of my younger teammates caught the ball and ran to the end zone. **TOUCHDOWN!**

Highlight all the ou \u00b9 words in **yellow**.

Garbage Woes

Garbage is something people make a lot of every day. Even one package might have garbage just from all the packing supplies. Garbage can be found all over our planet. So how do we manage the garbage we have?

On average, most of the garbage we have comes from paper. The percentage of paper garbage in a landfill is about forty percent. Our paper usage is substantial. We need it for lots of things. But is it possible to salvage some of the paper to be used in new ways rather than sitting as garbage?

We can encourage people to recycle instead of throwing paper in the garbage. Right now, only half of all the paper used is recycled. That means the rest is just sitting there in, you guessed it, garbage.

If we looked at an image of Earth from space, we might see two major sites: The Great Wall of China and a huge landfill filled with garbage sitting in New York. Isn't it time to manage our garbage in a smarter way?

Highlight all the -age words in yellow.

The Thrift Shop

Mary Chamberlain owns a thrift shop at the foothills of a mountain in a tiny village in Great Britain. Each day, Mary Chamberlain goes for a short hike in the mountains. Then she climbs back down and opens her thrift shop.

Mary Chamberlain has a certain style for things she wishes to stock in her thrift shop. When people ask to drop bags of goods off as donations to be sold there, Mary Chamberlain looks them over carefully.

Shoppers can be certain they will find bargains each time they shop at Mary Chamberlain's thrift shop. She sells fountains for a backyard birdbath and vintage, porcelain dolls.

Sometimes, people come looking for costumes to dress up. One man found a captain's costume, while another lady found a villain costume. Mary Chamberlain is pleased to see her shoppers finding bargains.

Highlight all the -ain words in yellow.

Nature Adventure

Over the summer, Mom and Dad planned a nature adventure. My older sister thought a nature adventure sounded like torture, but we managed to get her to come along.

On the day we ventured out on our nature adventure, Mom and Dad gave us a short lecture on safety in the woods. Dad reminded us what to do if we came across a wild creature. Mom reminded us what to do if we tripped and got a fracture. After their lecture, we made our departure!

The nature adventure began in a wide pasture. Next to the pasture was a narrow trail. I was hoping to capture an image of a wild creature on my camera. But I knew I had to be quiet as I walked. One loud gesture could spook a wild creature and my moment would be lost.

The nature adventure continued through wide open trails, mature and immature plants and trees, and a cool pond to rest at the end. I knew if I kept waited calmly, my wild creature would soon show up.

Highlight all the -ture words in **yellow**.

Hero or Villain?

A hero can be famous,
Adventurous and boisterous.

A hero might be nervous,
Perilous or generous.

A villain can be villainous,
Monstrous and dangerous.

A villain is slanderous,
Jealous and disastrous.

Will you be a hero?
Be wondrous and marvelous.
It might be a bit rigorous,
But you can be stupendous.

Or will you be a villain?
Mutinous and clamorous.
It might be quite hazardous,
And even a bit ridiculous!

Highlight all the -ous words in yellow.

Presentation Jitters

Constance waited at the entrance of the banquet hall. Her feelings of hesitation and reluctance were not helping her prepare for the speech she had to give to a huge audience. Her nervousness had become a hindrance. Sweaty hands didn't make holding her index cards easier. How was she going to get past this?

Constance had sought guidance from her teacher and explained that she didn't enjoy speaking in front of crowds. Her teacher's assurance helped a little, but Constance needed even more assistance.

She sought the advice of her older brothers and sisters. How did they get over their jitters? Each sibling reminded her of the importance of remaining calm and relaxed. But how?

It was almost time for Constance to give her presentation. Her strong performance was important. Slowly, she took deep breaths, and walked up to the stage, hoping her fears would make a quick disappearance.

Highlight all the -ance words in yellow.

The Science Fair

The Science Fair at our school is a way to feature persistence and excellence. Students show their intelligence in a certain aspect of science, and showcase it for an audience.

Students pick a science topic they wish to learn more about. They are expected to conduct an experiment and show the evidence. This takes careful planning. After conducting the experiment and gathering evidence, students need to write a report and create a display of their work for the Science Fair.

Teachers have a brief conference with each student before they present. Every sentence in their report must be double checked. There must be no interference from parents. Students need to show confidence in their project without the dependence of adults.

Does entering a science Fair interest you? If it does, contact your science teacher and let them know!

Highlight all the -ence words in **yellow**.

Theatrical Performance

Mrs. Focal was the drama teacher at our school. Each spring, she organized a theatrical performance for the students. The audience enjoyed her theatrical performances because they were whimsical and comical. She would have the crowd in stitches!

This year, Mrs. Focal wanted to start planning early. She gathered a committee to help brainstorm some plans. Most agreed that a whimsical and comical play was the best way to go. Mrs. Focal wished to make the performance a musical, and add vocal singing to each act. Others on her committee had different plans. They wanted a classical performance play with no vocal singing parts at all. They even suggested a performance of something magical or mystical.

It was a tough decision to make. How could Mrs. Focal consider each one's plans and make it work? She finally came up with a compromise. A classical, but magical, whimsical musical!

Highlight all the -cal words in **yellow**.

A National Memorial

When you think of places in Washington D.C. to visit, the White House is probably at the top of your list. We'd all love to catch a peek at the president, working in the Oval Office. But Washington, D.C. is also known for its solemn memorials.

When you take a trip to Washington, D.C., there are many memorials dedicated to people who risked their lives to uphold the freedom that the United States enjoys each day. These memorials are not trivial spots on a map. They mean a great deal to those people who lost family members or friends.

When you walk around the memorials in spring or summer, you may notice the perennial flowers growing or tourists preparing to give a testimonial of their trip to a memorial.

All memorials in Washington, D.C. are free for everyone to visit and pay their respects. It is an important part of United State's history.

Highlight all the -ial words in **yellow**.

A Glorious Palace

Buckingham Palace in London is a spacious, royal home where the Queen of England and some of her family resides. There are 775 glorious rooms in the palace. This might make some people envious at the thought of such a huge number of rooms. Others might be curious or even a bit suspicious. What exactly is in Buckingham Palace?

The spacious, Buckingham Palace has fifty-two luxurious bedrooms. Some of those bedrooms are for guests staying over. There are one hundred, eighty-eight, illustrious staff bedrooms, ninety-two offices for staff and seventy-eight bathrooms! Doesn't the thought of cleaning all those rooms make you a little delirious?

Over four hundred, industrious people work at Buckingham Palace. You'll find the palace has its own post office, swimming pool, cinema and police station, too. Would you like to see the inside of the glorious, Buckingham Palace?

Highlight all the -ious words in **yellow**.

Surprise Party

My dad was turning fifty soon, so we thought we'd show how much we love and appreciate him with a surprise birthday party. We couldn't wait to get to the hall and begin to decorate.

Not wanting to humiliate him in front of his friends, we decided on some stories and jokes that would stimulate a conversation about our dad. I would initiate it by talking about the time Dad tried to fumigate the kitchen and we had to evacuate. Yikes! Thankfully we were all safe!

Adding fifty candles may not be appropriate on Dad's cake, so we found two candles shaped like a five and a zero. That way when Dad goes to blow them out, it wouldn't frustrate him. Then we'll hand him a birthday crown to congratulate him on turning fifty!

My family and I are proud of Dad, and would like to nominate him for a Dad of The Year award every year. That may depreciate the value of being an extra special dad, though. We hope our love will radiate as we celebrate him at his surprise party!

Highlight all the -iate and -ate words in yellow.

Magic Magician

A magician is to magic,
As a musician is to song.
An optician is to glasses,
As a technician can fix what's wrong.

A physician is to medicine,
As a dietician is to fare.
An electrician is to lights,
As a beautician is to hair.

A mathematician is to numbers,
As a statistician is too.
A cosmetician is to beauty,
As a politician needs you!

Highlight all the -cian words in **yellow**.

The New Couch

The day my little sister spilled grape juice all over our family room couch, was the day my mother insisted it was time to buy a new couch. The stain was quite noticeable. When Dad noticed it, he was agreeable to a new couch, too.

We piled in the car and headed to an affordable, furniture store. It was an enjoyable car ride as we chatted about what kind of couch we hoped to get for the family room. When we arrived at the affordable, furniture store, there was a sign outside that read, "Unbeatable Prices!" Mom hoped the style couch she had in mind would be available.

After searching for half an hour, we finally saw the couch we wanted. Dad said, "Let's give it a test drive." We all sat down. This couch would not only fit all of us, but it was comfortable, too. Mom checked the price tag. It was reasonable and available in the color she wanted. I wondered if it was replaceable if grape juice spilled on it. That's when everyone shouted, "No juice in the family room!"

Highlight all the -able words in **yellow**.

A New Convertible?

It's hard to believe, but my grandmother just bought a brand new convertible. When she drove it into our driveway last Saturday afternoon, we were speechless. When she spoke of buying a convertible in the past, we always thought she meant a small, collectible, toy convertible. Nope. This was the real thing.

We wondered how it was possible for Grandma to buy a convertible. She explained how the salesman helped her manage to buy it with flexible payments. Grandma was always a responsible and sensible shopper, so seeing her in a convertible was a bit incomprehensible.

Grandma showed us a button to press to make the roof collapsible. Then she put on her baseball cap and asked who wanted to go for a ride down the beach. It appeared Grandma was invincible in her new convertible. Nobody was going to stop her! So we hopped in the backseat and said, "Let's roll!"

Highlight all the -ible words in yellow.

Lights And Display Contest

The holiday season is here once again. Our town is ready to begin a lights and display contest. It is a collaborative way to make the shop windows more decorative. Each shop in town will compete to have the most creative and impressive display in their windows. Each shop should be ready for the yearly, festive, Light The Night parade. This event is massive and always draws a huge crowd.

Shops start thinking of inventive ways to make their windows look the most impressive to onlookers. There's a lot more planning and initiative than just hanging a string of lights in the window. Some shops will even have a holiday locomotive racing on tracks as shoppers pass by. That is always a big hit with the little kids.

Town representatives come to judge the shop windows. They walk by each window and make a final choice for the winner. The most decorative and creative shop is announced at the tree lighting. I can't wait to see who wins this year!

Highlight all the -ive words in yellow.

The Lost Necklace

Lady Horace was a wreck. Her brand new ruby necklace had slipped through a grate in the furnace at her spacious palace. She needed to get the ruby necklace back to wear to the ball that night. When it slipped through the grate in the furnace, Lady Horace wasn't sure it would ever resurface. She decided to call Wallace, the palace technician.

When Wallace showed up to Lady Horace's bedroom, he could tell by the grimace on her face that the necklace was very special to her. "Do not fret, my lovely lady," said Wallace. "I will fetch the ruby necklace in no time." Lady Horace's grimace turned into a half smile. She trusted Wallace to retrieve the necklace.

Wallace opened his tool box and went right to work. He tinkered around the furnace for thirty minutes, when finally, he could reach the clasp of the ruby necklace. Wallace reached in carefully and fished the necklace out! When the necklace was returned to Lady Horace, a feeling of solace came over her. She graciously thanked Wallace for his skilled work.

Highlight all the -ace words in **yellow**.

Notice At The Office

I was working one day as an apprentice at a law office downtown, when Alice the mail carrier delivered a notice to my boss. It was sent all the way from Venice and looked urgent. I thanked Alice and brought it into my boss right away.

Ms. Beatrice, my boss, had had a law practice for twenty years. She'd seen it all until the notice from Venice arrived. Ms. Beatrice had a concerned look on her face. Since I was only a novice, I thought it was best to leave her alone.

Ms. Beatrice informed me that there was a great injustice done to one of her clients in Venice. She needed help tracking down notes she had taken on the client from three years ago. As an apprentice, my job was mainly filing and taking phone messages, but I felt confident that I could assist Ms. Beatrice. I located the notes and brought them into her office directly.

The next thing I knew, Ms. Beatrice was booking the next flight to Venice. I wonder what injustice could have been done?

Highlight all the -ice words in **yellow**.

Bakery Mystery

A powdery trail was left from the display case to the back entrance of the Village Bakery. Someone had stolen three dozen, buttery cupcakes last night and Mr. Archery was trying to find out who conducted such thievery.

There were several shops near the Village Bakery. Mr. Archery took a walk to the flower nursery first to ask if they noticed anything fishy. The owner just shook his head no. Mr. Archery tried the gallery, the winery, and local eatery. It was the first time that each shop owner had heard of the robbery. Sadly, Mr. Archery had no leads to solve the mystery.

He walked back to the bakery to start some cake orders. As he entered the supply room to grab some flour and sugar, he saw the same powdery trail again. He followed it and this time it lead to the embroidery shop next to the bakery. Mr. Archery was in utter shock. Could this be the one clue that would help him solve the missing cupcake mystery?

Highlight all the -ery words in **yellow**.

College Tour

Part of our summer camp activities included a trip to the local university campus. The camp counselors would come along with tour guides. We met the guides at the university directory near the entrance of the campus. After hearing a brief history of the university, we began our tour.

Our first stop was at a dormitory. All the campers, including myself, enjoyed seeing where university students stayed when they lived away at school. It made me wonder if they were homesick.

The next stop was to a science laboratory. There were long lab tables with tools, stools, and wash stations. Once I saw what a university laboratory looked like, I knew I could picture myself working in one someday.

The last stop on our tour was to the history hall, where a lecture was just about to begin. Students taking summer classes filled the rows of seats in the lecture hall. Life at a university seemed like it was an exciting experience!

Highlight all the -ory words in **yellow**.

The Medicine Heroine

Dr. Pearl Kendrick contracted pertussis, or whooping cough, at the age of three. Pertussis is an upper respiratory infection and considered a deadly disease. If you examined someone with pertussis, they would have a terrible cough. Years ago, many children died from pertussis. The best that many cities or towns could do to prevent the spread of pertussis, was to have a quarantine.

Dr. Pearl Kendrick survived the deadly disease. As she became an adult, she created a life-saving vaccine for pertussis. When people got the vaccine, it built up their immune system, which prevented them from getting pertussis. By 1943, Dr. Pearl Kendrick's vaccine, an incredible gift to medicine, was widely used and became a routine shot at checkups.

Dr. Pearl Kendrick helped to create an even stronger vaccine that prevented other diseases. Thanks to her efforts, she has saved many lives, which makes her a medicine heroine.

Highlight all the -ine words in **yellow**.

One In A Million

One million has six zeros.

What a huge number to count.

But once you start talking millions,

You might imagine a higher amount.

One billion has nine zeros.

Now that's an even bigger number to count.

But once you start talking billions,

You might imagine a higher amount.

One trillion has twelve zeros.

Wow! That must be the biggest number to count.

But once you start talking trillions,

You might imagine a higher amount.

So what's bigger than a trillion?

Has it ever crossed your mind?

Quadrillion is the next biggest.

With fifteen zeros you will find.

Highlight all the -ion words in yellow.

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