

## Reviews - Phonics Stories for Older Learners



Frances Woodward's Phonics Stories is an excellent text for low beginner students, supporting both phonics, whole word and real story approaches to literacy.

ESOL tutor, Derby - August 2025

This is a great resource.

Literacy tutor, Kent - October 2025

The resources are so very good for our Year 7 students.

High School teacher Queensland, Australia - June 2025

I love your resources and use them as a volunteer literacy tutor here in Perth. I have no training in literacy tutoring but I can use your resources as my curriculum. Thank you, Frances, for your high quality resources.

Volunteer literacy tutor - Perth, Australia - June 2025

We very much enjoy using your resources.

Literacy Specialist - Read Easy UK - January 2024

Forward with Phonics has great resources.

Literacy Tutor - Western Australia - January 2024

Both books are perfect for the beginner students I plan to use them with. Thank you for making them available as PDFs.

Literacy Tutor - Western Australia - June 2023

Thank you Frances for creating and sharing these fabulous literacy resources. The Phonics for Older Learners books have become staple resources of my collection, something I've personally purchased and enthusiastically recommended to fellow educators and Speech Pathologists. Their seamless alignment with curriculum standards makes lesson planning effortless, and the positive engagement from students aged 5 to 15 speaks volumes. Highly recommended for any educator or Speech Pathologist – these resources are a must-have!

Speech Pathologist - South Australia - November 2023

“The phonics stories are proving very popular with my learners. They are enjoying the content and the format of the exercises. I would now like to order the blue book (Phonics Resources for Older Learners) for added tasks and resources.”

Donna - Secondary teacher - Dyslexia and EAL, June 2020

“I work with students from other countries who have no literacy in English. My students and I love this book. We use it to consolidate the new sounds and common words we've been practising, and it really helps them improve their reading fluency. It's hard to find stories which are appropriate for older learners so this book is exactly what I was looking for!”

EAL Teacher, Edinburgh, May 2020

I have a copy of this book and it is brilliant. Use it almost daily.

Amanda, NSW Australia, April 2020

I use your resources all the time, it saves me sooo much work. Thank you.

Paula Thomas, ESOL tutor, Tower Hamlets, June 2019

**A great resource**, these stories are brilliant to use with learners who struggle to read. They are short and focus on a particular sound - so they are great when extra practice is needed. The activity/question sheets are brilliant as well. Thanks - these have quickly become an essential resource for my teaching.

Dave Stacey, October 2015

**Phonics Stories for Older Learners is such a great resource!** I am using it with a couple of groups now; we use the story as Guided Reading then the children complete the comprehension, sound search and writing task independently. All this achievable in half an hour and the children love it!

Caron Callaghan – LSA in a primary school in Milton Keynes, September 2015

**Fantastic resource for older children with gaps on their phonic knowledge,** I have found these stories a fantastic resource for pupils with gaps in their phonic knowledge. The short snappy stories and clear illustrations set within real life contexts motivate older pupils without patronising them and provide an excellent source of structured phonic support.

Drew Wilson, June 2014

**Brilliant resource for adult learners,** I have been using these stories with adult learners and have found them invaluable. They feature scenarios that learners can relate to and the accompanying activities are great too. Feedback from learners was very positive as so often struggling adult learners are presented with material designed for children. I particularly liked the stories in Section Two where we could focus on a particular sound, and as I would usually photocopy the sheets for learners having the sound identified at the bottom of the sheet, as well as well as in the contents, made quick copying for rushed teacher easy. Quite honestly I don't know what I did without them.

Sheila Mulvenney, June 2014

**Excellent stories - I'd be lost without them!** I use these stories (along with Phonics Resources for Older Learners) with my Pre-Entry ESOL students who have no or little reading and writing skills. The stories and related comprehension activities are an excellent and appropriate resource to use with adults. My students enjoy reading them and love the fact that they can actually read and understand a story in English. The stories are graded so you can gradually progress your students from simple cvc words to more complex phonemes. The same goes for the related activities so students may start with finding words in the text with particular sounds and progress to writing their own sentences. This also means that students can easily see their own improvements in reading which is so motivating for them. I use this book frequently in class and would be lost without it!

Vicky Lloyd, April 2014

**Excellent resource for older learners,** another long awaited resource supporting the phonic work presented in the resource book 'Phonics for Older Learners'. It has been virtually impossible to find phonic entry level stories for adult learners, so this collection (each with accompanying comprehension) is very much appreciated. For teachers the introduction clearly outlines what is being taught in each story and for the adult learners the text is clear and simple and paced so that they will succeed.

Rachael, February 2013

**Excellent resource for adult learners!** This book contains brilliant, clearly thought through resources for adult learners who struggle with reading, of which there is an ever increasing number. I use it frequently for just such learners in literacy classes and several of them have commented on how useful, and appropriate, the resources are. The comprehension and writing questions following each story allow the learners to put the theory of synthetic phonics into practice.

Kevin, November 2012