

# THE USBORNE READING PROGRAM

## FIRST READING

### Level One

Short single narrative followed by reading and comprehension puzzles

32 pages

up to 150 words

10 words per page (1-3 lines)

Sentence length on average 2-8 words

**Themes:** Classic tales (e.g. Aesop's Fables) and folktales

**Grammar:** Present and simple past tenses; modal verb: can; comparative adjectives

**Vocabulary:** Simple everyday vocabulary, familiar items

**Titles Include:**

The Fox and the Crow  
The Fox and the Stork  
The Sun and the Wind

### Level Two

Single narrative plus character sheets and/or maps, and puzzles

32 pages

up to 250 words

20 words per page (2-4 lines)

Sentence length on average 6-10 words

**Themes:** As Level One, including less familiar folktales

**Grammar:** As Level One plus future; modal verbs: could and must; comparatives and superlatives

**Vocabulary:** More descriptive and evocative vocabulary, always clear in context

**Titles Include:** Clever Rabbit and the Lion

### Level Three

Single narrative with repeated elements, plus character sheets and/or maps, no puzzles

48 pages

up to 450 words

30 words per page (2-5 lines)

Sentence length on average 8-12 words

**Themes:** As Level Two plus original fiction and non-fiction (natural history life cycles)

**Grammar:** As Level Two plus present and past perfect; range of modal verbs

**Vocabulary:** Powerful verbs and adjectives, clear in context

**Titles Include:** Bugs, Frogs, The Enormous Turnip, The Gingerbread Man, The Goose That Laid The Golden Eggs, and more!

### Level Four

Single narrative

48 pages

up to 750 words

40 words per page (3-6 lines)

Sentence length on average 8-15 words

**Themes:** As Level Three plus classic fairy tales

**Grammar:** Full range of tenses

**Vocabulary:** More exotic elements and controlled use of idiom

**Titles Include:** Percy and the Pirates, The Dragon Painter, Little Red Riding Hood, The Runaway Pancake, Princess Polly and the Pony, and more!!

## YOUNG READING

### Series One

Several linked stories or one longer narrative in chapters. Direct and indirect speech, intertextual references

48 pages

1,000-1,500 words

50 words per page (up to 10 lines)

Sentence length up to 15 words, varied length, but generally short

**Themes:** Fairy tales, fantasy, fiction, non-fiction ("the story of...")

**Grammar:** Past tense narratives; avoid passives, embedded clauses, semicolons and colons

**Vocabulary:** Wide-ranging every day vocabulary

**Titles Include:** Stories of Dogs, Stories of Dolls, Jack and the Beanstalk, Sleeping Beauty, The Frog Prince, Cinderella, and more!

### Series Two

Single narrative in chapters. Introduce irony and subplot, allow opportunity for inference and deduction

64 pages

2,000-2,500 words

70 words per page (up to 15 lines)

Sentence length up to 20 words, more varied length

**Themes:** As Series One plus adapted classics

**Grammar:** Introduce more challenging sentence structure, including embedded clauses

**Vocabulary:** More challenging, building on Series One; specialist or technical terms explained

**Titles Include:** Around the World in Eighty Days, A Little Princess, King Arthur, Romeo & Juliet, The Stinking Story of Garbage, Robin Hood, and more!

### Series Three

Single narrative in chapters. Assume some relevant background knowledge

64 pages

4,000-5,000 words

120 words per page (20 lines or full page)

Sentence length up to 30 words, varied length

**Themes:** History, Biographies, Classics

**Grammar:** Full use of grammatical range, comparable with mainstream contemporary fiction or general journalism

**Vocabulary:** Building on Series Two, may assume knowledge of specialist or technical terms

**Titles Include:** Anne Frank, Florence Nightingale, Gladiators, Little Women, Great Expectations, The Story of Pirates, The Story of Spying, Napoleon, Oliver Twist, Animals at War, The Vietnam War, and more!



**Your Consultant:**