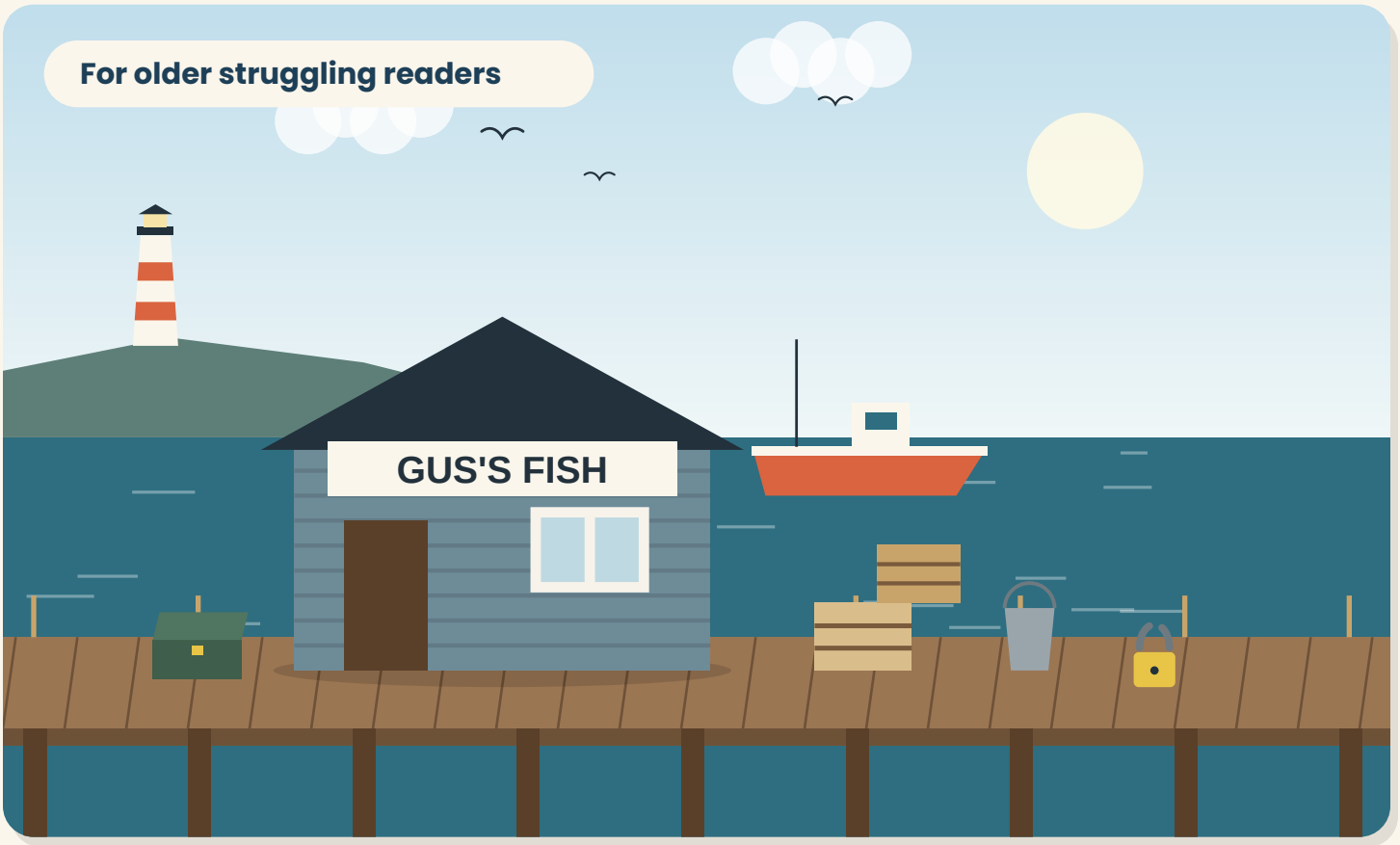
Orthos

FREE SAMPLE

LEVEL 1 · CLOSED SYLLABLES · STEP 1

Decodable Passages 1

Short Vowels & Digraphs



A 10-PART STORY

The Fish Shop

Beck needs cash to fix his mom's van, so he takes a job at Gus's fish shop on the dock. Then cash goes missing, the shop lock is cut, and Gus thinks Beck did it.

Part 1: read page + respond page + answer key

START HERE

How to use these passages



These are decodable passages written for students who are older than the books at their reading level. Every word in the passages uses a spelling pattern the student has been taught, or a preview word you introduce first. The stories are written for middle-school readers, so a 7th grader practicing short vowels is not reading about a cat on a mat.

One routine, every passage

1. **Preview**
   Say each preview word at the top, point out its tricky part, and have the student read it back. Preview words are irregular or use a pattern taught later.
2. **First read**
   The student reads aloud. Correct errors by pointing to the spelling, not by guessing from pictures or context.
3. **Find it**
   On the Respond page, the student finds and marks words with the pattern.
4. **Reread**
   Reread for smoothness. Time up to three rereads and record them on the two-page tracker (pages 26–27), which shows how to score words correct per minute and accuracy.
5. **Think and write**
   Four items: one answered right in the text, one inference, a multiple-choice check and a word-meaning question. Read them aloud as needed.
6. **Dictation**
   Say the sentence from the teacher key. The student writes it, then checks it.

Why the stories connect

The ten passages tell one story in order. Each passage ends where the next one starts, so students have a reason to keep reading. Names, places and key words repeat across passages, which frees up attention for decoding. Teach them in order.

Place by skill, not by grade

Use this step when the student can read the patterns taught in earlier steps. The step check at the back tells you whether to move on or reread. Reading level: about grade 1 (Flesch-Kincaid estimate); about 150 words per passage.

The Van

1

Name _____ Reread ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 141 words

PREVIEW WORDS the · by · a · she · is · of · said · me · to · my · no · they · do · have · he · has · and · go

Mom's van will not run. It sits in the mud by the shed with a big gash in the back. Mom kicks it. Then she kicks it a lot. 16 29

"It is not much of a van," she said, "but it gets me to my job." 45

No van, no job. No job, no cash. 53

The man at the fix-it shop said the fix is a big bill. Beck did the math on the back of a bag. It is a lot of cash. It is cash they do not have. 70 88 90

Beck sits on the hill in back of the shed. Then he gets up. He will get a job. He will get the cash. 105 114

Gus has a fish shop on the dock. Gus is big, and Gus yells. Kids do not go to Gus's shop. 129 135

Beck will go. Beck has to. 141



The Van

Name _____ Date _____

Find it

1 Write 3 story words with sh, ch, th, wh or ck.
2 Underline those letters.

EXAMPLE

ship

_____ _____ _____

1 Why does Mom need the van?

2 Kids do not go to Gus's shop. Why do you think Beck goes anyway?

3 Where does Mom's van sit? Circle one.

(A) in the mud by the shed (B) at the fix-it shop (C) on the dock

4 "gash" means... Circle one.

(A) a pile of mud (B) a long, deep cut (C) a flat tire

Dictation Listen. Write the sentence.

Answer key: The Van



Find it (words with sh, ch, th, wh, ck)

shed, with, gash, back, kicks, then, much, cash, shop, beck, math, fish, dock

1. Why does Mom need the van?

She needs the van to get to her job. No van means no job and no cash.

2. Kids do not go to Gus's shop. Why do you think Beck goes anyway?

Accept: Beck needs cash for the fix; he will do a hard thing to help his mom.

3. Where does Mom's van sit?

A: in the mud by the shed

4. In the passage, "gash" means...

B: a long, deep cut

Dictation sentence

Gus has a fish shop on the dock.

Preview words in this passage

the, by, a, she, is, of, said, me, to, my, no, they, do, have, he, has, and, go. Read these together before the student reads.

What to use next

Beck gets the job at Gus's fish shop. Then ten bucks goes missing from the cash box, the shop lock is cut, and Gus thinks Beck did it. The rest of the story is in the full Step 1 set.

Where this fits: Orthos Step 1 (Level 1)

Step 1 is short vowels and digraphs (sh, ch, th, wh, ck). Steps 2 and 3 add blends and two-syllable words with -ed and -ing. Each step's passages are decodable through that step, with tricky words previewed.

Ready for more? The full resources



Decodable Passages for Older Students | Short Vowels & Digraphs | SOR | SPED

All 10 parts of The Fish Shop, a step check, a fluency tracker and a complete answer key.

Open on TPT



30 Decodable Passages for Older Students | Short Vowels, Digraphs, Blends | SPED

Steps 1–3 in one bundle: short vowels and digraphs, blends, and two-syllable words with -ed and -ing.

Open on TPT



250 Decodable Passages for Older Students | Full Year | Science of Reading

All 25 steps, from short vowels to Greek roots.

Open on TPT

FREE Where to Start: Phonics Screener for Older Students

Not sure which step a student is ready for? Six words per step, 25 steps, one-on-one in about 10 to 15 minutes. One page shows where to start and what to use.

Thank you

From Keegan

Thanks for downloading. I'm Keegan Meredith, a special education teacher in New Hampshire.

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