



DECODABLE PASSAGES FOR UPPER ELEMENTARY

recommended for grades 3+

Includes:

- 10 Decodable Passages
- Skills covered:
 - consonant blends,
 - trigraphs
 - vowel-consonant-e
 - welded sounds
 - floss rule
- Interesting, relevant content for upper elementary students
- Tips & tricks for reading intervention in the upper grades

DECODABLE PASSAGES

These passages help older striving readers practice reading engaging and accessible connected text while supporting their foundational literacy skills!

PRE-READING

- Review **phonics rules** that will help the student decode the passage.
- **Preview** the text for examples of words that follow the rule(s).
- **Pre-teach challenge words.** These are words the student can't yet decode.

WHILE READING

- Have the student read as much as possible, filling in for the challenge words you took note of during pre-reading.
- Encourage the student to **scoop the text into meaningful phrases.**

AFTER READING

- Have the student **summarize** what they read.
- **Discuss** how they felt after reading. Was this a successful reading experience? Why or why not?
- Make a **prediction** for what will happen next.

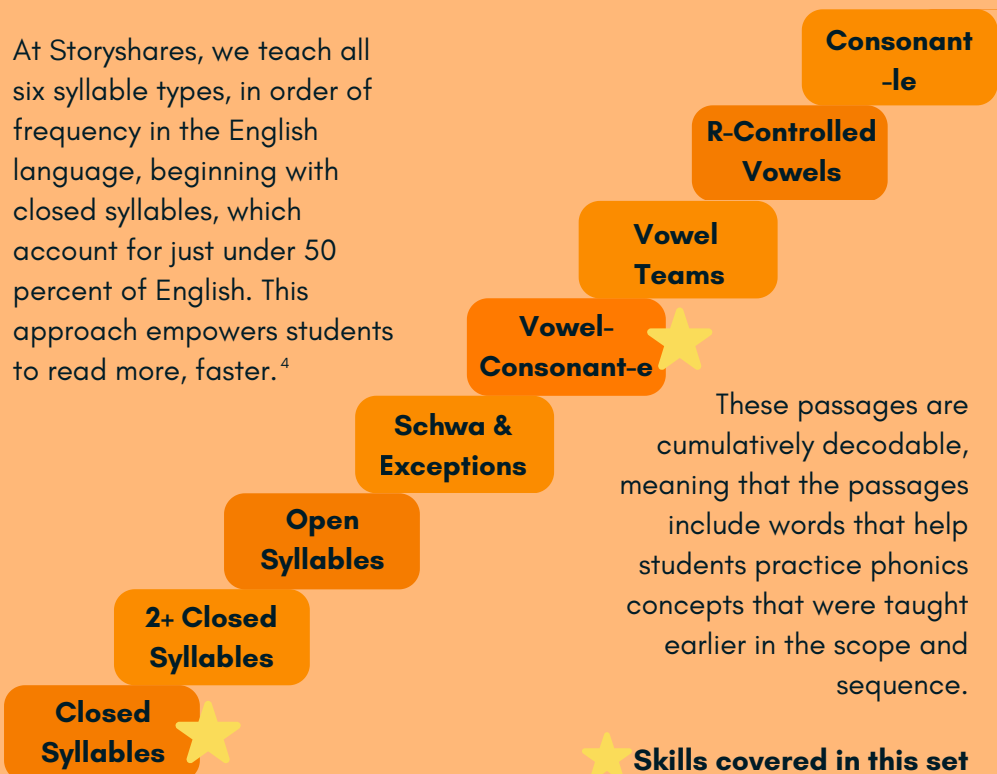
ABOUT STORYSHARES

Storyshares is dedicated to bringing the transformational power of books to students *beyond the 3rd grade* who are still working on foundational reading skills.

These decodable texts are designed to be engaging for older developing readers and are closely aligned with best practices from the science of reading, following a research-based scope and sequence, with each decodable text providing opportunities for scaffolding and spiraling phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension practice as students strengthen their skills.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

At Storyshares, we teach all six syllable types, in order of frequency in the English language, beginning with closed syllables, which account for just under 50 percent of English. This approach empowers students to read more, faster.⁴



Name: _____

PASSAGE 1: THE TRIP TO THE ZOO

Consonant Blends

"You cannot slack as a zoologist!" Jack calls out at the start of the day.

A pack of black ducks quack. This time, they dash from the water to Jack, who has a tub of small fish and big bugs. Jack flicks the food at the ducks. The ducks like it. They clack their bills and spit out bits as they peck at the food. They are glad. Don looks on from the shack.

"What is Jack's job?! I want to be just like him!" Don gushes.

"This is Pip, the orca whale," Jack quips. Pip does a flip, and Don and his class clap!

"A ship clipped Pip. There are a number of nicks on Pip's black fin. Pip bled a lot. Some zoologists help Pip. We track Pip with a chip. That way, we can learn more about Pip and others like her."

Don and Glen slip on the slush!

"Look out!" Jack yells. The mob of emperor penguins plop down and slam into the water.

Name: _____

PASSAGE 1: THE TRIP TO THE ZOO

Consonant Blends

"Zoologists plot graphs for many things. Could you make a graph from what you see here?" Don and Glen check the number of penguins and chicks.

"We can find out when most of them were born and graph that, too!" Don and Glen are stunned by the big shark that swims in the water and spins to them.

"Being a zoologist must be scary."

"Animals are also scared of us," Jack says. He scans the cuts from stabs and the scabs on the shark's skin.

"Zoologists want to stop animals from getting hurt. Our skills help us do that."

"Are zoologists vets too?" Don and Glen ask.

"Some zoologists are vets, but not all," Jack says. "But most just want to stop people from killing animal habitats."

"That's a lot of work. Do you like your job?" Glen asks.

"I like being outside and fixing snags. And I love to help all animals. If they are bats, foxes... I will step up to help them all."

The boys yell, "We will, too!"

Name: _____

PASSAGE 2: THE TRIP TO THE FIRE STATION

Consonant Blends

"We're going to a fire station now!" Mrs. Frill says.

The class buzzes. They will each see bright lights and dress in thick gear!

"Is this a scam?" Kim asks. "I'll swap classes if so!"

"That would be a fright. This is real!" Mrs. Frill laughs. "Pick your partners, and don't be slow! We'll learn a lot and see firefighters!"

"I'm Firefighter Fred!" Fred grins. "Let's go do some drills!"

The class fills and drags tubs of water. They crab-walk with hoses. Fred shows them a wall grid full of gear. Brad, going too fast, slams a hose down!

"Brad!" Mrs. Frill is not thrilled, but Fred laughs.

"No need to fret! These hoses don't have frills!"

"The truck is the best bit!" Fred says. He preps the truck and drops chock blocks under the tires. "These stop the truck from going."

The class preps the gear to put on in the truck. Kim trips and falls. The thick gear helps her.

Name: _____

PASSAGE 2: THE TRIP TO THE FIRE STATION

Consonant Blends

Kim and Brad drag big bags of sand. "Being a firefighter is hard!"

Fred helps Kim and Brad into their kit. Go! They get out of traps and learn how to drag each other out of danger.

"You look great!" Fred laughs as Kim and Brad had on their kit. They smile smugly.

"You are swimming in that kit!" Mrs. Frill laughs brightly.

The alarm goes! "Someone is sick, so we must help them," Fred says. The firefighters jet into the truck. The class grins as the truck chugs to life.

"A firefighter's job spans many things. They fight fires, but they also help people!" Mrs. Frill chips in.

"That's right! Next, we will swing by the school!" Fred says.

Name: _____

PASSAGE 3: THE TRIP TO THE FARM

Consonant Blends, Trigraphs

The cows splashed in the mud. They rubbed on the shrubs to scrub mud from their skin.

"Cows are so strong!" Skip the farmer led the class by the pond. They squished in the mud as they went.

"What grub do cows eat?" Tim asked.

"They eat grass and corn." Skip said to look at her shrubs.

"At times, only stubs are left!"

"Come on, Squid! She helps me get the cattle in a bunch!" Squid the dog yapped brightly.

Squid went after the cows' smell. She got the cows to go around two trenches. She yapped so the cows would not fall into the shrubs.

Squid got the cows onto a grassy hill.

"Good job, Squid!" Skip gave Squid a scrap of flesh.

"Who's a good dog? You are!"

"We have crops here." Skip shredded hay, strutted between the plants, and put hay on the grass. "We also tend to the animals."

Name: _____

PASSAGE 3: THE TRIP TO THE FARM

Consonant Blends, Trigraphs

Horses went to munch hay with Skip.

Tim fed scraps of hay to a horse and felt a thrill!

"Farmers scrub stalls! Animals need a clean place to live!"

Skip tossed water onto the stall walls. Splat!

Tim picked herb sprigs and split logs. The best part was getting into a scrum with his class to get the cattle to go!

"Let's all work to do this!" Tim said.

The cattle smashed into the shrubs. The class split in two, to box the cattle in. Squid led them all the way home!

Skip clapped her hands and yelped. "Yes! What a trip!" The class munched on their lunch.

"I have an itch!" Tim sobbed.

"You must have brushed against poison ivy," Skip said. She put a patch on him.

"Do you like being a farmer?" Tim asked.

"Farming is hard. You must take it inch by inch. But it is a path for people who love animals and being on the farm. I love it!"

Name: _____

PASSAGE 4: THE TRIP TO THE OFFICE

Consonant Blends

Computers hummed. Screens lit up. The room was a nest of wires!

"Programmers sift through lots of code!" Maggie told the class. "We make and test many drafts."

"That's a fact!" Tess puffed her chest. "The best codes are for video games!"

"Codes are also used for robots and websites," Maggie said with tact. "Coding is fun; it makes my heart melt!"

"A code's font is important." Maggie put in code. "What does this say?"

Lee bent down to see it. "I am stumped! It's just a clump of text!"

"I'm next!" Tess jumped in. But she could not read the list! She made a fist.

"It's called a coding block. Let's try to write our own codes!" Maggie said, grinning.

Maggie showed the class how to write codes for games! Len coded an elf that played golf. Tess coded a hat of

Name: _____

PASSAGE 4: THE TRIP TO THE OFFICE

Consonant Blends

gilded silk for his elf. Maggie coded the elf into a hand-held game. The class was shocked! They took turns playing the game.

"We like coding!" Tess and Len gave each other a fist bump. "Can we make more?"

"Yes, you can make different codes!" Maggie said. "I made a fantasy film. I could code elm trees, but not kelp! So I yelped for help! We worked together and made the best film!"

Len put his hands to his scalp. "You can code for films, too?!"

Maggie laughed. "Yes! I would do it again if I could!"

"Are programmers stuck at desks?" Tess asked.

"Not at all!" Maggie said. "I can code by a pond. I travel to help people become fond of new bands. I even coded a wireless lamp! Whatever the task, I can mend it quick as the wind!"

Len clasped his new game. "When I grow up, I want to be a programmer!"

Name: _____

PASSAGE 5: THE TRIP TO THE SKYSCRAPER

Vowel-Consonant-E (ā)

The skyscraper faded into the sky. Kate's wide eyes were shaped like plates. "How long did that take to make?"

"It takes years to shape. This skyscraper was used in a film about a big ape called King Kong," Mrs. Frill said.

"What about the picture of men stranded on a steel beam?" Kate asked.

"Let's ask the engineer here."

"I'm Jamal the engineer. I make skyscrapers. I even made the one you're in!"

Kate looked at a frame. A superhero with a cape was trying to shake a building! "What does that mean?"

"It means this building can't break! It's not held together with tape! It'll make it through an earthquake without a scrape!"

Kate flexed her arms. "Maybe I can!"

"Being an engineer is no game. You can't flake on class." Jamal led the kids through the Engineer's Hall of Fame. He pointed to a black and white picture of a woman. "Her name

Name: _____

PASSAGE 5: THE TRIP TO THE SKYSCRAPER

Vowel-Consonant-E (ā)

is Hedy Lamarr. She was an actress. She also made the framework for the Internet."

"Wow! It's a shame I can't meet her today," Kate said.

"Engineers help on different scales. We help zoologists make homes for whales. We make trucks for farmers to move kale. We help make video games!"

"That's a tall tale!" Kate said. "How can you help chip in on everything?"

Jamal laughed. "It is fun to help so many people. It keeps my day from getting stale!"

That night, Kate was up late. She made plans for electric skates on a tablet.

Her brother, Nate, came in with a plate of food. "What are you doing?" he asked.

"I am making a plan," Kate said. "I will be an engineer!"
The room was full of drawings.

"At this rate, you'll be one in no time!"

Name: _____

PASSAGE 6: THE TRIP TO THE SPACE STATION

Vowel-Consonant-E (ē & ī)

"Stay on my side!" Lea the astronaut called out. The class was in the Space Station. It looked like it was five miles long!

Bill smiled wide. He could glide in the air! He went up like a kite. He wanted to see the rest of the Space Station. He would have such a good time. It would be the ride of his life!

"Mike is from Japan. We mine moon rocks together. We see how to make food grow in moon soil."

"Have you dined on plums that come from moon soil?" Mike smiled. He cut nine plums and slipped them to the class.

Bill had a big bite. "Wow! These are in their prime!"

"We also have bee hives!" Mike and Lea grinned.

"We study animals in space," Lea said. "We take notes on what they do. We hope to see the effects of space on us."

Bill poked Mike. "Have you ever had a mole in space?"

"No, but let's take a vote. Class, should we bring a mole to space?"

"There's a picture of a mole on my tote! Does that count?"

Name: _____

PASSAGE 6: THE TRIP TO THE SPACE STATION

Vowel-Consonant-E (ē & ī)

Glen asked.

"What do you do about smoke?" Glen spoke.

"Once, our batteries broke. The smoke was thick and made us choke. We wore thick masks to help us breathe," Mike said.

"I shut the batteries down and let air in the room," Lea added.

"I was glad it was fixed. When I woke up, it smelled like a camping grill!" Mike joked.

"The best part is looking at the globe." Lea took them to a glass window. The class could see stripes of white clouds. They saw big slopes and vast oceans.

"My tablet could never show me this," Bill spoke, his face pressed on the glass.

"Astronauts do so many things. But this is why I love my job." Mike smiled.

Name: _____

PASSAGE 7: THE TRIP TO THE MUSEUM

Vowel-Consonant-E (ū, review)

It was now June. The air smelled like pine. The class was going to a museum to see whale bones, ancient tiles, and even a caveman's tonsils!

"This rules, dude!" Leo smiled and hummed a tune.

"Remember class, stick with the rules!" Mrs. Frill said. "I hope you rate this trip tops and ask many questions!"

Mr. Lopez, the curator, met the class in the hall. Fossils sat inside glass cubes. Leo gazed at the mule-sized whale bones.

"Fossils show us history," Mr. Lopez mused. "They are mute storytellers of the past. It's my job to tell their tales to you."

"This is cool, but I want to see something cute," Kim fumed.

"You will like these artworks." Mr. Lopez led them to a gallery. There were five vast walls of tiles from Egypt and Greece.

"Artisans, past and present, make these tiles from clay. It could take years to make one wall of tiles."

Kim noted one special wall. "Look! This one shows the June

Name: _____

PASSAGE 7: THE TRIP TO THE MUSEUM

Vowel-Consonant-E (ū, review)

harvest!"

"Let's hope we celebrate, too!" Leo stated.

Mr. Lopez used a pole to show the caveman's mouth.

"There was a time when there were no dentists. This caveman snagged his tooth. He pushed it out with a rock. Now there's a hole in his jaw."

Leo smiled. "Glad we stopped doing that!"

"I'm glad we live in this time!" Kim chimed. "I'd wake from that nightmare fast!"

Mr. Lopez wore white gloves. He swiped a long tube and pulled out a painting of a woman standing with a cane at a grave.

"I also fix paintings. Sometimes the paint flakes. I must replace it with fresh paint."

"Do museums trade art?" Leo asked.

"Museums trade knowledge, Class," Mr. Lopez stated.

"That is the best trade of all."

Name: _____

PASSAGE 8: THE TRIP BACK TO SCHOOL

Digraph: ph, Welded Sounds (-ng & -nk)

"Today, you'll be the teacher, and I'll be the student!" Ms. Phil said. The class morphed into a big ball of joy. Steph grabbed a pen. "Okay! We will take notes about dolphins!"

"No!" Mia yelped. "We will make graphs!"

Ms. Phil hushed the class. "It takes skill to be a teacher, doesn't it? That's why I make plans!"

"What things do you see me do as your teacher?" Ms. Phil asked the class.

"You make songs about Spring!" Steph said.

"You showed us an animal's strong fangs!" Mia shouted.

Ms. Phil scanned the long list. "Let's take another swing! What do I do to help you learn?" Just then, the bell rang! "We'll chat after lunch!"

Mia and Steph chatted during lunch.

"Ms. Phil chunks hard subjects into smaller ones," Mia said.

"Her classes have never stunk. They are always fun," Steph added.

Name: _____

PASSAGE 8: THE TRIP BACK TO SCHOOL

Digraph: ph, Welded Sounds (-ng & -nk)

"If there is a tree of knowledge, she is the trunk," Mia mused.

"People never flunk her class because she will always dunk into the learning with us," Steph stated.

In class, Mia and Steph wrote on a blank page.

Ms. Phil is a think tank, Mia scribed. Her ranks of books help us understand what we thought was junk.

Ms. Phil is a bank of knowledge, Steph jotted down. She cranks my curiosity by taking us on field trips. Even when her time was scant, she never shrunk from helping me.

"Do you know what teachers do now?" Ms. Phil asked.

"Even if it takes time, teachers help us think." Mia winked.

"Teachers always help, even when things stink." Steph nodded.

Ms. Phil blinked and took a quick drink. She did not think they'd say such grand things!

"Thank you for teaching us, Ms. Phil. You tickle us pink!"

Name: _____

PASSAGE 9: THE TRIP TO THE RESTAURANT

FLOSS Rule, Welded Sounds (ind & old), Sounds of Y

There was a big puff of smoke. The class sniffed the air. It smelled of such great stuff!

Two chefs met them at the door. One was small, and the other was tall! "Kitchens have stress, but that does not mean they are a mess!" they said.

The class pressed through the kitchen. It was loud and hot. Good food was everywhere!

"Chefs are bold and have strong minds." Dan, the small chef, took the class to a vast freezer. "This is important, because at times, we have to work in the cold!" He shivered.

"Chefs work in teams. If one is in a bind, we all chip in, because we are all kind!" Kat, the tall chef, said.

"We fry food, but we don't make simple grub." Dan grabbed a pan of cakes. "Eat these. Don't be shy! As long as you try, the sky is the limit!"

The class ate everything on the tray.

"This is so good, I feel happy!" Kim said.

"This is so good, I feel I will cry!" Lee wept.

Name: _____

PASSAGE 9: THE TRIP TO THE RESTAURANT

FLOSS Rule, Welded Sounds (ind & old), Sounds of Y

"Being a chef is strict work." Cindy gave the class a French menu. "You may have cooked for five people, but try fifty!"

"I am so clumsy, the food I'd make would be nasty!" Kim whined.

"Cooking for others makes me happy," Cindy said. "Some think it's silly, but I love it so much, I'd even do it for a penny!"

"Have you ever wished to do something else?" Lee asked.

"No, not ever. Even when the town was snowed in, I jumped at the chance to be called in!" Dan grinned.

"Cooking is hard, but it makes me feel rested and happy." Cindy smiled. "When you find a job that makes you feel that way, you will know what path is right for you."

Name: _____

PASSAGE 10: THE TRIP TO THE HILLTOP

Welded Sounds (ild, old, olt, ind, ost)

Ling picks up the staff. The gold flickers. The staff gets hot in her hand. There is a flash of light. Ling blinks. When Ling opens her eyes again, the classroom is gone.

Ling sits up with a jolt. She is on a hill that is full of wild flowers.

"Where am I?" asks Ling.

Nobody says anything. Ling is all alone. She looks at the staff in her hand. How did she get here?

"How do I get back?" Ling asks.

"Go find Monkey King."

"Who said that?" Ling asks, looking around. There is nobody there.

The stem of a flower winds and folds around most of her leg.

"Can flowers talk?" asks Ling. "Am I losing my mind?"

"I am a flower elf," says the flower. "Monkey King needs your help."

Name: _____

PASSAGE 10: THE TRIP TO THE HILLTOP

Welded Sounds (ild, old, olt, ind, ost)

"How can I help?" asks Ling. "I am just a girl."

"The bold, old Monkey King needs his staff," the flower says. The flower is kind.

"How do I find him?" asks Ling.

"The staff will take you there," says the flower.

Ling holds up the staff.

"Take me to Monkey King," says Ling. Nothing happens.

"Bring me to Monkey King."

Still nothing happens. Ling shuts her eyes. Ling thinks of Monkey King. The staff begins to fly.

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