

GUIDE TO REPOSITORIES USING READS

What is READS?

READS stands for *Repository of Ebooks And Digital Stories*. A repository or database is an organized collection of material that may be searched. Thus, READS is a multilingual catalogue of digital books and it is accessible through the LTK+ Lobby Page. The books in READS may be used to complement the fluency and comprehension activities in ABRA by providing access to additional stories. The latest version of READS includes over 1200 online books in a multitude of languages and genres. Since teachers are always searching for new and diverse reading materials, READS provides easy access to a variety of online books. Furthermore, pupils are taken on an exploration of various cultures, countries, and interesting customs, as we have books published from all over the world!

To help teachers, parents and learners access books related to their needs and interests, READS has categorized book by themes, language, country of origin, reading level difficulty, type, and format available.

THEMES

READS has identified 15 common themes between all of the books within the repository. This can be a useful search strategy if teachers are building a unit on a particular theme, or if the child has shown interest in a particular subject.



Adventure: These stories have a particularly exciting plot where the main characters explore unknown lands or try new things.



Animals: Animals are commonly found in stories for young children. Often these animals act in human-like ways and have a moral to teach us.



Body: These types of books can help children learn about human and animal bodies. This can help promote health and care for others.



Colours: These stories can help children build their colour identification skills.



Family and Friends: The people that matter the most to us are our families and friends. They are especially important to young children. These stories will help children see that while everyone has a family, everyone's family looks different.



Feelings and Values: These stories encourage learners to recognize their own feelings and to think about others.



Food: These stories allow learners the opportunity to become familiar with food groups (ex: fruits), explore different tastes (sweet vs, salty), learn about where their food comes from, and how much work goes into making meals.



Games and Sports: Children love to play, so stories that include games and sport are very appealing to them and may lead to discussions around teamwork, and fair play.



Imagination: Imagination is an important skill for children to develop, as it will inspire new ideas and creativity. These stories depict characters using their imagination and resourcefulness.



Nature: Nature is an important theme as it teaches children about our planet. This includes learning about plants, rocks, rivers, and even weather.



Numbers: Counting is another skill that young children are learning at this age. These stories help reinforce those skills in a creative and fun way.



Other Themes: This is a miscellaneous category.



Outer Space: These stories can teach children about our solar system. They can also inspire children's imagination about what or who else might be out there.



Places: These stories offer a window into different parts of the world and cultural backgrounds. These stories can be used to encourage children to learn about their place in their own community.



School: These stories can help children understand the various routines that are part of their school environment.



Languages

READS has compiled stories in a variety of languages. The majority are in English, but READS contains stories in 43 other languages as well (see table on the right). Some of the books have been translated into multiple languages. Others are only available in one language.

Countries in READS

In addition to offering stories in multiple languages, READS has compiled stories from various countries across the world. This allows children to find and read stories relevant to their own culture, and/or explore and learn about new cultures and places.

Difficulty Levels

To help teachers, parents, and children select books, READS uses a 5-scale system. Each book is tagged as either: beginner, easy, average, advanced, or expert. This helps ensure that children select books at an appropriate level. If selecting a more advanced book, they will require assistance.



Beginner: First words, simple themes, large font, and lots of images.



Easy: Short sentences, simple themes, introductory vocabulary, and lots of images.



Average: Mix of simple and complex sentences, variety of themes, basic vocabulary, and less reliance on images for comprehension.



Advanced: More complex sentences, may include more mature themes, some challenging vocabulary, and may or may not include images.



Expert: Many complex and compound sentences, more mature themes, challenging vocabulary, and few images.

Countries Current Count (2023)

Australia	14
Bangladesh	22
Canada	38
China	75
Ethiopia	2
France	11
Germany	1
Ghana	5
India	501
Iran	4
Kenya	45
Lesotho	5
Morocco	4
Mozambique	6
Nigeria	34
Russia	1
Saudi Arabia	7
South Africa	299
Sri Lanka	14
Tanzania	10
Uganda	37
UK	24
Unknown	1
USA	136
Yemen	1

Languages

Current Count (2023)

Afrikaans	58
Arabic	66
Assamese	10
Ateso	8
Bangla	253
Chinese, simplified	157
Chinese, traditional	89
ChiTonga	12
Ekegusii	15
English	1273
Farsi	100
French	603
Fulfulde	16
Gujarati	14
Hausa	18
Hindi	91
isiNdebele	17
isiXhosa	23
isiZulu	55
Kannada	20
Kanuri	15
Kikamba	33
Kiswahili	212
Lingala	13
Luganda	53
Lugbarati	39
Lumasaaba	26
Lunyole	31
Lusoga	47
Maa	28
Marathi	20
Ng'aturkana	31
Odia	21
Oluwanga	30
Portuguese	30
Punjabi	10
Sepedi	16
Sesotho	28
Setswana	22
Tamil	13
Telugu	35
Urdu	19
Zarma	8



Type

READS has categorized the books within it into three groups: fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.

Fiction: Made up or "not true" stories created by an author.

Non-fiction: True stories about real people, places, events.

Poetry: Writing that uses verse and rhymes to awaken the imagination and emotion as the reader interacts with the text.

Format

The stories in READS are available in at least one of the following formats: PDF, audio, or html. The majority of the stories are available as a PDF. Some will have an audio version as well. Some of the stories are not hosted on READS. Rather, there will be a link to a html version on the publisher's website.

When a child selects a book, they will see one or more of the following icons. They must choose which version of the book they want to access.



PDF



Listen



HTML (external link)

