About the books at this level...

**PM Plus and PM Story Books**

- New high frequency words continue to be introduced at a gentle rate. Children should be familiar with about 95% of the words before they begin each story. The PM Readalongs reinforce many of the high frequency words introduced at Green and Orange: e.g. could (The Bear went over the Mountain); everywhere (Old MacDonald); when (Coming round the mountain).

- Children will meet several favourite characters from earlier levels (Clare and Abby, Matthew and Emma, Rachel and Sam, Sarah, Chug the Tractor, Little Dinosaur) as well as new ones. A chart about Characters and Families in the PM Story Books is printed on pages 93–99.

- In Guided Reading children should become aware of syllables. Enormous, dinosaur and Gingerbread are exciting words, and a memorable way of drawing children's attention to 3-syllable words. Once children have Reading Ages of 7–8 years, longer words of 3 syllables or more become more frequent in their reading. They need to be shown how to break apparently difficult words into shorter one-syllable parts that are easier to decode: di-no-saur.

- The Ant and the Dove (Aesop) is a fable first told in Ancient Greece. It should be compared with The Lion and the Mouse, The Donkey in the Lion’s Skin, The Crow and the Pot. Explain that the animals in fables behave more like people than animals.

- All stories have the same underlying structure: the central character has a problem (something goes wrong). Children who are reading at Level 15 are old enough to discuss this. Teachers and children who can identify and articulate the problem at the heart of each story read with greater understanding, and can predict outcomes. A feeling for story structure helps them to write satisfying stories for themselves.

- Many stories will help trigger children’s own story telling, e.g. The Blow-away Kite may inspire other stories about a misadventure (with a scooter, or a skate-board?). Saving Hoppo could suggest other stories about rescuing a pet. Sarah and the Barking Dog could encourage children to write about their own fears. Good writing depends on such first-hand experiences. The Blow-away Kite, Look Out!, The Little Blue Horse and Just One Guinea Pig are all ‘true’ stories, inspired by real events.

For PM Software for Orange Level see page 57.
About the books at this level...

**PM Traditional Tales and Plays**

- In each book the tale is printed first, followed by the play. Reading and acting the spoken dialogue is much easier after this preparation.
- Children read these well-known tales with great confidence. Practice, over and over again, with reading the same high frequency words in context is so important at this level, as reading is learned by reading. The familiar repetitive structure in these books helps fluency and expression.
- Because a printed play is a new text style the parts have been widely spaced and colour coded to eliminate confusion.
- The elision *I’ll* is repeated several times in The Three Little Pigs. Most children will read it accurately: *I’ll* huff and *I’ll* puff is a familiar and much enjoyed line! (*I’ll* is therefore brought into other stories at Level 15, e.g. The Blow-away Kite, Saving Hoppo and The Goats in the Turnip Field.)
- The Teachers’ Guide for the six plays at Orange Level (15 and 16) provides templates for making the characters’ masks. See page 57.

For **PM Teachers’ Guides** for Orange Level see page 57.
About the books at this level...

PM Plus and PM Story Books

- Together these books reinforce the same small set of particular high frequency words. (Note that could and would appear in three of the text pages printed here. These words are deliberately introduced at Levels 15 and 16.)
- Children's adventures outdoors, an Aesop's fable, animated vehicles, true life animal stories, dinosaurs, pets, sport, music, play acting ... a wide range of subjects makes it easier for teachers to match child and book.
- All the stories in In the Days of the Dinosaurs series show prehistoric creatures behaving as they might have done; science is respected. In The Dinosaur Chase, Big Dinosaur is Megalosaurus, and Little Dinosaur is Compsognathus. Both lived in the Jurassic Era in Europe. Pterosaur's Long Flight is set in the Cretaceous Era when Pterosaurs, Tyrannosaurus rex, Triceratops and crocodiles co-existed in North America. The Careful Crocodile and The Triceratops and the Crocodiles also belong to the Cretaceous. Lost in the Forest is another Cretaceous story, introducing the 'duckbill', Parasauralophus, that was often eaten by Tyrannosaurus rex.

PM Shared Book

The PM Shared Book When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth can be used to provide supporting information for most of the Days of the Dinosaurs stories from Levels 15–24.
About the books at this level...

**PM Traditional Tales and Plays**

- Once upon a time is a story opening that signals fantasy.
- Many folk stories still reflect their place of origin. The Tale of the Turnip is Russian, The Three Billy Goats Gruff and Goldilocks and the Three Bears are Scandinavian, and this is reflected in the illustrations.
- Children are thrilled when they discover that they can read traditional stories all by themselves. They feel empowered.
- Children need to be helped to understand that there are different types of fiction. In the collection of stories on this page, for example, there are:

  1) some stories that could never have happened. Animals do not talk! The Little Red Hen, The Tale of the Turnip and The Three Billy Goats Gruff are pure fantasy.

  2) some stories that could easily have happened, such as Jessica in the Dark, Mitch to the Rescue, Rebecca and the Concert, Roller Blades for Luke. These stories were inspired by real events.

  3) some stories that definitely have happened. The Careful Crocodile and The Busy Beavers, for example, set out in narrative form the natural behaviour of real crocodiles and beavers.

Fiction can be every bit as true as Non-fiction: the great divide is between fantasy and reality, not between fiction and non-fiction.

▶ For **PM Teachers’ Guides** for Orange Level see page 57.
About the books at this level...

**PM Animal Facts: Pets**

- PM Animal Facts: Pets introduce children to many of the conventions of the non-fiction format:
  - contents page
  - chapter headings
  - labelled illustrations
  - question and answer boxes.

  The books are written with very simple sentence structures, to boost confidence as the new text forms are mastered.

- A simple linear self-correction program runs at the foot of the pages. (see page 62 for a detailed explanation.)

**PM Plus Non-fiction: Looking at Ourselves**

- These PM Plus Non-fiction titles are graded at Levels 16-17 because they introduce a few more high frequency words than the Story Books at Level 16.

- Form of writing — this is mostly explanatory (ideas are defined, cause and effect explained, information imparted) but the books include pages in other styles or genre, e.g. a diary or a letter (both recounts), a procedure, or a verse. See page 40 for the definition of text forms.

- Non-fiction has conventions (contents pages, question boxes, chapter headings, labelled diagrams, indexes). These all appear in Animal Facts and Looking at Ourselves, with the addition of a glossary in Looking at Ourselves.
The PM Software - Orange Level

The PM Story Books Software and PM Plus Software complement the books in Orange Level and have been developed to enhance literacy learning by utilising computers to help create contexts for meaningful reading.

Children can choose the book they wish to read — they can see the book on screen and listen to it being read.

They can then explore the book’s content and meaning by completing a range of interactive activities. The activities are highly focused and offer a variety of interactions with the language of the PM and PM Plus books, and have been designed to encourage and promote reading success. The activities focus on all aspects of the texts — whole text, sentence, word and word parts.

The PM Software also allows children to practise a range of writing styles, and to improve their keyboard skills, through carefully designed writing activities.

All PM Software includes tracking systems and assessment measures, to allow teachers to monitor children’s progress.

The 4 Teachers’ Guides are packed with well-tested practical ideas for a balanced approach:

- guided reading
- teaching many specific skills
- reading to children
- developing their oral and written language
- blackline masters
- reading record sheets.

The key to the PMs
About the books at this level...

PM Plus and PM Story Books

- Careful grading — new words are brought in steadily, but no faster than one word in 20. By the end of Turquoise (Level 18) children should have a secure bank of about 450 high frequency words, as well as knowing many more interest words.

- Most children enjoy reading about danger, sometimes. Many plots at Turquoise Level involve children with fear and excitement: a fox who tricks a hungry tiger, an erupting volcano, a strange noise in the dark, a flash flood, a struggle in deep mud, a car accident, thunder and lightning, a jammed lift, a predatory dinosaur, crocodiles. These are high interest books that children want to pick up.

- Children can monitor their own reading and self-correct only when stories are meaningful. Every PM Story Book has a plot that shows cause and effect; they are all centred on meaning and logic. Guided Reading helps children focus on the meaning of each story. Why didn’t Jacob recognise Rex? (That’s Not Our Dog!)

- Children’s understanding grows when they read a cluster of books about the same or related subjects. At Turquoise Level (17,18) the story books — Nelson the Baby Elephant, Rescuing Nelson and Nelson Gets a Fright (Level 19) are supported by Animals in the Wild: Lions and Tigers. The PM Plus Non-fiction set Big Machines also has a cluster of PM and PM Plus Story Books about vehicles to link with: Toby and the Accident, Number Plates, A Surprise for Zac, First Flight, Danger in the Car Park, The Seat Belt Song, Bird’s Eye View, Riding to Craggy Rock, The Race to Green End, and Rally Car Race (Level 19).

The In the Days of the Dinosaurs Story Books continue with When the Volcano Erupted, Little Dinosaur Escapes (17), The Nesting Place (18), and each species is shown again in the (non-fiction) PM Shared Book, When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth.
About the books at this level...

PM Traditional Tales and Plays

- When six- and seven-year-olds read a well-known traditional tale they know what to expect before they begin, and so read with insight.

- The collection of tales are a resource for teachers, too — just right for reading aloud to younger children.

- The illustrations in PM Traditional Tales and Plays are mostly anchored to particular times and particular places: Goldilocks and the Three Bears is a Scandinavian story, and this is shown by the mountains, the conifers, the houses and the bears’ clothing; Little Red Riding Hood is set in medieval Germany; The Elves and the Shoemaker is the seventeenth century when ornate shoes were fashionable. The Ugly Duckling shows Denmark, the land Hans Anderson knew in the nineteenth century. This accuracy brings life and credibility to the tales. Little Red Riding Hood was written when wolves roamed European forests.

- Bettelheim (1976) believes that... children learn about how a story is assembled [with] rising action, turning point ... and resolution. This ‘story grammar’ is intrinsic in PM Story Books as well as PM Traditional Tales. Children who have an innate understanding of story grammar — an expectation that the problem the central character faces will be solved — are better able to predict events, and so read with greater insight.

For PM Teachers’ Guides for Turquoise Level see page 63.
About the books at this level...

PM Plus and PM Story Books

- ‘Keeping Ourselves Safe’ — road safety messages are strong in Puppy at the Door, Danger in the Car Park, The Bird That Could Think, Ducks on the Run!, Toby and the Accident, Number Plates, The Seat Belt Song, Bird’s Eye View, Jordan’s Lucky Day and The Race to Green End. Riding to Craggy Rock describes safe behaviour in a thunderstorm. Some of these books overlap with the theme of Big Machines (Non-fiction, Levels 18–19)
- Many irregular high frequency words are introduced at Green, Orange and Turquoise Levels and secured by frequent practice: believe, bought, busy, could, eight, fight, knew, light, many, minute, move, night, people, quiet, should, right, their, there, towards, thought, through, want, watch, what, would.
- Children need opportunities to re-read for pleasure. Skills can be taught in Guided Reading, but it is when children read for pleasure that skills are cemented in place.
- Ant City, with the words city and Georgia, is a useful book for drawing attention to soft ‘c’ and soft ‘g’.
- There are many opportunities for discussing and mastering elisions: let’s, what’s, that’s, he’s, she’s, it’s, who’s; can’t, don’t, won’t; isn’t, didn’t, hasn’t, hadn’t, mustn’t, couldn’t, wouldn’t; I’ve, I’ll have all been met by Turquoise Level. The most confusing elisions such as they’re and they’ve are postponed until later levels.
- There are many PM Story Books written about courage and determination, kindness, tolerance and support for physical disabilities, because positive role models are important. On the other hand some of the PM Story Books look at the darker side of human nature, because reality demands it, and discussion is helpful. Some of them are:
  - Sibling rivalry: Hermie the Crab (18)
  - Bullying: Look Out! (15), The Marble Patch (20), The Bully (23)
  - Jealousy, teasing: The Hut in the Old Tree (17), The Ugly Duckling (18), Bend, Stretch and Leap (19), Owls in the Garden (22), Running Shoes (20), The Best Part (23)
  - Lying: The Boy Who Cried Wolf (19), The Night Walk (22)
  - Vandalism: Jack and Chug (15), The Carnival Horse (20)
  - Anger, hostility: The Clubhouse (21), The Bear and the Bees (19)
  - Cruelty: The Horse and the Bell (21), Cinderella, Snow White (21), William Tell (24)
# About the books at this level...

**PM Traditional Tales and Plays**

- The tale section is designed for Guided Reading. Then, when children come to the play, the plot and the words are already familiar, so that reading aloud is easy. Plays have to be practised, and each run through increases children's control of high frequency words, empowering them, at the same time as giving enjoyment.

- Oral reading skills develop only when children have the opportunity of reading aloud to an audience, and play-reading provides this. In Goldilocks and the Three Bears everyone knows that Father Bear has a deep slow scary voice, and Baby Bear has a high fast excited voice — before play reading begins the voices needed for the characters should be discussed and rehearsed.

Some adults read aloud monotonously! Teachers need to provide excellent reading aloud models, and show children how to do the same thing, using variation in volume, pitch and speed to enhance meaning and keep the audience's attention. The part of Reader demands a very clear and interesting voice, in all plays.

- Plays have their own layout conventions. In the PM Traditional Tales and Plays colour-coding is used to connect speakers and script. Stage directions appear in smaller print — children learn not to read these aloud. The cast is listed on the opening page for each play.
PM Animal Facts: Animals in the Wild

• Even though the Non-fiction books use many interest words, the rate of new word introduction does not exceed one word in 20.

• Story Books and Non-fiction titles often interlock — Nelson the Baby Elephant is supported by Elephants, First Flight (18) is supported by Big Machines In the Air, Bird's Eye View (18) is supported by Big Machines On the Road.

• All Non-fiction titles have been thoroughly researched. Room has been found in Animals in the Wild for some interesting less well-known facts: grizzly means grey (not bad-tempered), hippos can be dangerous, tigers can be at home in the snow, gorillas are gentle, and eagles prey on young kangaroos.

• Picture maps are introduced at Turquoise Level in Animals in the Wild.

• All the PM Animal Facts including Animals in the Wild contain a simple linear self-correcting program (the questions and answers at the foot of each page). The answer to every question can be found on the double spread where the question is printed. This is designed as a confidence booster, and as an introduction to the concept that texts can provide specific information. For some children this will be their first successful experience in 'looking something up.' The answer to the question Do chimpanzees have thumbs? is found in the sentence Their fingers and thumbs are just like ours. For a child of seven or so the discovery of the right answer demands concentration: finding the answers is a new skill.

• The text genres in Big Machines are set out in the inside front covers. All texts are informative, as in a report, but each includes at least one page with a different text form: Big Machines On Rails: A letter (a persuasive exposition) ... In the Air: A procedure (or set of instructions) for making a paper jet ... In Emergencies: A procedure: What to do if there is a fire at home ... For Fun and Sport: Labelled photographs and an explanation about hot air balloons ... On the Road: A truck driver's logbook (a recount) ... At Sea: A timeline about the development of ships, and a verse.
The PM Software and PM Plus Software complement the books in Turquoise Level and have been developed to enhance literacy learning by utilising computers to help create contexts for meaningful reading.

Children can choose the book they wish to read — they can see the book on screen and listen to it being read.

They can then explore the book's content and meaning by completing a range of interactive activities. The activities are highly focused and offer a variety of interactions with the language of the PM and PM Plus books, and have been designed to encourage and promote reading success. The activities focus on all aspects of the texts — whole text, sentence, word and word parts.

The PM Software also allows children to practise a range of writing styles, and to improve their keyboard skills, through carefully designed writing activities.

All PM Software includes tracking systems and assessment measures, to allow teachers to monitor children's progress.

The 4 Teachers' Guides are packed with well-tested practical ideas for a balanced approach:

- guided reading
- teaching many specific skills
- reading to children
- developing their oral and written language
- blackline masters
- reading record sheets.
PM Maths: Numeracy and Literacy - Stage C

A Game of Skittles 0 17 010666 1
Animal Symmetry 0 17 010689 6
Eleven in a Team 0 17 010685 3
Favourite Books 0 17 010690 X
Grouping Shells 0 17 010683 7
Making a Castle 0 17 010688 8
One More Frog 0 17 010679 9
The Take-away Puppy 0 17 010681 0
Take Two 0 17 010682 9
Twenty Steps to the Treasure 0 17 010684 5
Two Halves and Four Quarters 0 17 010687 X
Win a Prize! 0 17 010680 2
A Game of Skittles
Animal Symmetry
Eleven in a Team
Favourite Books
Grouping Shells
Making a Castle
One More Frog
The Take-away Puppy
Take Two
Twenty Steps to the Treasure
Two Halves and Four Quarters
Win a Prize!

About the books at this level...

PM Maths: Numeracy and Literacy

The Stage C books cover a range of topics and strands related to the second year at school, with the greater proportion of texts being based around the number strand. Again, the mathematical concepts are developed sequentially, with emphasis being placed on exploring the numbers between 10 and 20. The processes of addition and subtraction are presented in equation format, using internationally recognised symbols. The procedures outlined in the texts are supported by detailed icons.

Additional features at Stage C include:

- following a procedure
- classifying data
- extending knowledge.
At Stage D, the range of high frequency words, mathematical terminology and language structures are extended and consolidated. While the solving of mathematical problems is inherent throughout the series, a specific problem-solving procedure is presented at this stage.

Question-and-answer boxes, which reinforce understanding and ensure that children focus on mathematical information, are part of these texts.

Concepts and procedures include:

- The place value and function of numbers between 10 and 20
- Exploration of numbers to 100
- The study of multiplication as a form of repeated addition
- Understanding and memorisation of basic facts
- Utilisation of symbols
- An introduction to time and measurement.

The second PM Maths: Numeracy and Literacy Guide covers the 24 books at Stage C and Stage D, which cater for the second year at school.

For each book, one page of teachers’ notes is provided, together with three blackline masters. The blackline masters are suitable for use as independent or extension activities, and can also be utilised for assessment purposes.
**Key to the PMs**

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**PM Plus Story Books**

### Purple Level 19

**About the books at this level...**

**PM Plus and PM Story Books**

- Most of the high frequency words in the language will have been met by the end of Purple Level. This is an important stage and equates with a Reading Age of almost 8 years.
- Characterisation is strong in the PM Story Books, and is especially noticeable when characters reappear in several stories. For a list of characters, see page 93...children enjoy reading sequels. Nelson Gets A Fright is the third book about the vulnerable baby elephant. Moppet on the Run, Star and Patches and Rex Plays Fetch are sequels too.
- Careful grading means that new challenges arrive in small manageable increments. If children can read one book with success, the others at the same level will also match their skills, and these skills grow steadily.
- Sports and games attract many children. The PM Story Books include a wide range of different activities and sports, both traditional and modern, at Purple Level: Rally Car Race; Star and Patches; Bend, Stretch and Leap; The Roller Blade Run; The Green Dragons; Megan; The Hare and the Tortoise; The Running Shoes; Roller-Coaster Ride; Diving at the Pool; A Bike for Brad; The Surf Carnival; The Marble Patch; Jordan's Catch; Riding High. Non-fiction: Big Machines For Fun and Speed, How People Move Around.
- Work with common orthographic patterns becomes memorable when connected to children's current reading — catch, watch, patch, hatch, match; fetch, stretch; stitch are all found in Bird Watching. Star and Patches, Rex Plays Fetch, and Bend, Stretch and Leap at Level 19.

The words tight, bright, right, night, fright, light all appear in books at Level 19, too. Could, would and should are found on the last pages of The Bear and the Bees. Guided reading allows pupils to focus on these orthographic patterns.

- Bird Watching (Level 19), A Spider in My Bedroom and Anyone Can Have a Pet (20) show children observing the wildlife in and near their own homes. This could encourage children to report their own observations. Writing should always have a purpose.
- All PM books are written in clear plain style: sentences have controllable structures and are ordered in ways that enhance comprehension.

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For **PM Software** for Purple Level see page 71.
PM Story Books
PM Traditional Tales and Plays
Purple Level 19

About the books at this level...

PM Traditional Tales and Plays

- Some seven-year-olds are mature enough to grasp the morals embedded in these Aesop's fables. The Hare and the Tortoise and The Boy Who Cried Wolf, first told in the 6th Century BC, still deliver a relevant message. Even if the moral is imperfectly understood, the stories are full of drama and fun to read and act.

- Some of the simplest Aesop's fables were told as PM Story Books at earlier levels. Children could re-read these and turn them into plays for the puppet theatre or for acting, e.g. The Lion and the Mouse (11), The Donkey in the Lion's Skin (12), The Fox and the Crow (17).

Some folk tales, published as PM and PM Plus Story Books, could also be turned into plays by young writers, e.g. The Goats in the Turnip Field (15), Tricking the Tiger (17), The Mouse-deer and the Crocodiles (18), The Pedlar's Caps (19).

Traditional story structure always includes a dramatic crisis (will the hero solve the problem or will he be overwhelmed?), and it is this crisis that makes play form possible: the word ‘drama’ implies a crisis.

- The plays at Level 19 include phrases that are satisfying when read aloud, e.g. Hare would dance and prance... He saw a dark shadow... an owl swooped down...

For PM Teachers' Guides for Purple Level see page 71.
About the books at this level...

**PM Plus and PM Story Books**

- Children need Reading Ages approaching 8 years to cope successfully with stories at Level 20.
- Specific skills such as the ability to: break spoken and written words into syllables, respond to digraphs and blends in medial and final positions, decode from grapho-phonetic cues, identify silent letters, notice common prefixes a-, be-, in-, de-, un-, read common suffixes -er, -ing, -ed, -ly, -ful, -est, can be practised in context at Purple Level.
- In the Days of the Dinosaurs. Three books at Purple Level add to the set. Zala was an early mammal that evaded dinosaurs by being nocturnal (a useful idea to plant before children read The Asteroid at Gold Level). Gorgo Meets Her Match shows how some plant eaters could defend themselves. A Troop of Little Dinosaurs shows herd behaviour.
- At each level from Blue to Silver there is a story about a child with a temporary or long-term disability, e.g. Tom’s Ride, A Friend for Max, New Glasses for Max, The Hospital Party, The Big Bad Wolf, Number Plates, Riding High, The Surprise Invitation, The Fishing Trip, Picked for the Team, The Walkathon. Each book emphasises the child and his/her skills rather than the ‘disability’: what can be done, rather than what can’t.
- The real life animal stories in the PM Library and PM Plus Story Books are intensively researched. These stories include as much information as the parallel Non-fiction series Animal Facts. Many of the titles pair up — the Nelson stories pair with Elephants; Prickles the Porcupine with Foxes; Winter on the Ice with Antarctic Penguins. The animal Story Books take children beyond national boundaries:
  - Africa — Four stories about Nelson, the baby elephant (17, 19, 24), The Youngest Giraffe (16), The Lions and the Buffaloes (16), Dash the Young Meerkat (21)
  - North America — The Busy Beavers (16), Prickles the Porcupine (19), Sea Otter Goes Hunting (19), The Freeway Turtles (22), Silver and Prince (24), Survivors in the Frozen North (24)
  - Europe — The fox who foxed (13), The Fawn in the Forest (14), Red Squirrel’s Adventure (14), Bird Watching (19)
  - Asia — The Mouse Deer and the Crocodiles (18), Gibbon Island (18), Pandas in the Mountains (22)
  - Australia — Joey (14), Swoop (16), Anyone Can Have a Pet (20), The Dolphins (22), Bushfire in the Koala Reserve (22), The Night Walk (22), Penguin Rescue (23)
  - Antarctica — Winter on the Ice (20)
  - New Zealand — The Waving Sheep (14), Swoop (16), Bird Watching (19), The Dolphins (22), Penguin Rescue (23), The Right Place for Jupiter (24)

For **PM Software** for Purple Level see page 71.
**About the books at this level...**

**PM Traditional Tales and Plays**

- These plays are full of lively parts that appeal to keen young actors: crowing roosters, fierce robbers, cruel giants.
- The special language of traditional tales is absorbed by children who read folk stories. Some phrases are found almost nowhere else: once upon a time, lived happily ever after, beautiful princess, handsome prince, magic wand, came riding by, he was overjoyed, fairy godmother, far, far away, make your fortune, my master, a soft feather bed, never to be seen again.

- Repetition of useful words and structures: Nelson the baby elephant has cousins, Brad has a cousin called Ashleigh, and Town Mouse has a cousin in the country ...
- Folk tales have underlying themes: The theme of neglect and abandonment of unwanted animals reflected in The Animal Band (20) recurs in The Horse and the Bell (21), and has modern parallels. The problem of poverty and a desire for riches (still relevant today) runs through a great many folk tales, e.g. Stone Soup (17), Puss-in-Boots (20), The Kindest Family (20), Patrick and the Leprechaun (21), Cinderella (21), Jack and the Magic Harp (22). Children could use these themes in their own writing.

For PM Teachers' Guides for Purple Level see page 71.
Key to the PMs

PM Animal Facts: Farm Animals

- These Non-fiction books can be read by children with Reading Ages of only 7–8 years, but the detailed information holds the attention of adults ... they can be used well beyond Purple and Gold Levels. Each book takes an in-depth look at a farm animal and its long relationship with mankind, in many countries.

- Many children will be able to read Farm Animals at the end of Level 20, but others may need to wait until Gold Level. Much depends on the concepts that each child brings to the book; prior knowledge and experience always make reading easier.

PM Plus Non-fiction: Movement and Change

Many of the concepts in Movement and Change come into the PM and PM Plus Story Books at Turquoise, Purple and Gold Levels. Such links between fiction and non-fiction lead to greater understanding and insight.

How People Move Around links with: Riding to Craggy Rock (18), A Bike for Brad (20), The Special Ride (21), The Jets and the Rockets (18), The Green Dragons (18), Bend, Stretch and Leap (19), Jordan’s Catch (20), Swimming Across the Pool (17), Diving at the Pool (20), The Surf Carnival (20), Picked for the Team (22), The Surprise Invitation (21), Star and Patches (19), Riding High (20), Roller Blade Run (19)

How Animals Move Around links with: The Youngest Giraffe (16), The Busy Beavers (16), Swoop! (16), Gibbon Island (18), Prickles the Porcupine (19), Nelson the Baby Elephant, Rescuing Nelson (17), Nelson Gets a Fright (19), Winter on the Ice (20), Arky the Dinosaur with Feathers (21), Dash the Young Meerkat (21), The Dolphins (22), Pandas in the Mountains (22), The Freeway Turtles (22)

Seasons and Weather links with: Roller Blades for Luke (16), The Giant Seeds (20), Winter on the Ice (20), The Horse and the Bell (21), The Ant and the Grasshopper (21), The Gigantic Bell (22)

How News Travels links with: The Boy Who Cried Wolf (19), Mack’s Big Day (20), Jordan’s Catch (20), Two Red Tugs (20), Toby at Stony Bay (20), The Surprise Invitation (21), The Horse and the Bell (21), Solo Flyer (21), Bushfire in the Koala Reserve (22), Pandas in the Mountains (22), The Family Tree (22), Charlie’s Great Race (24). All of these PM Story Books centre round an old or new form of communication, from the pealing of a bell to computers and cell phones.

About the books at this level...

PM Animal Facts: Farm Animals

- Horses
  1 86955 688 7
- Sheep
  1 86955 939 8
- Goats
  1 86955 941 X
- Pigs
  1 86955 940 1
- Cattle
  1 86955 938 X
- Chickens
  1 86955 694 1
The PM Story Books Software and PM Plus Software complement the books in Purple Level and have been developed to enhance literacy learning by utilising computers to help create contexts for meaningful reading.

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- guided reading
- teaching many specific skills
- reading to children
- developing their oral and written language
- blackline masters
- reading record sheets.
About the books at this level...

**PM Plus and PM Story Books**

- Children learn to read by enjoyable practice. The many PM authors at Gold and Silver Levels cater for a variety of interests, and strong plots with tension keep children reading to find out what will happen next.
- The inside front cover of Arky, the Dinosaur with Feathers has a panel of informative paragraphs that let readers know that this Story Book is based on scientific fact … narrative fiction need not be fantasy.
- Gold Level demands a Reading Age of 8 years. Sentence structures can now be more complicated and so the average sentence length has risen to 10 words.
- In Guided Reading teachers can check whether children have the strategies that will help them tackle longer words. One strategy is an understanding of syllables: di-no-saur, grass-hop-per, raft-ing, hol-i-day, mo-tor-bike, sail-ing, sur-prise, in-vit-at-ion, meer-kat. Now that all the really common short words of English have been met and mastered by frequent practice, such skills become increasingly important. Multi-syllable words used in Arky, the Dinosaur with Feathers include: beautiful, meat-eating, dinosaurs, suddenly, enormous, terrifying, thundering, terrified, different, terrible, important. Children will not be able to make successful progress at Gold Level unless they have a set of strategies which they can apply. Peter and the Wolf includes beautiful, Grandfather, dangerous, remembered, however, answered, meanwhile, escaping, swallowed, mouthful, happening, carrying, happily. The Ant and the Grasshopper includes beautiful, colourful, underground, grasshopper, arrived, gathering, family, carrying, happily, favourite, followed, different, miserable, disappeared … Long words are a frequent challenge at Gold Level. Can children read common suffixes such as -ful (wonderful, beautiful, colourful, mouthful), -ly (suddenly, happily, family), -tion (invitation, plantation, station)? Can they see the two parts in compound words such as meat-eating, however, meanwhile, underground, grasshopper? Are they good at tackling word onsets — spr in spread, squ in squawk, str in strong, scr in scramble, sw in swoop, sp in speed, spiders; sm in smooth? (All these occur in Arky, the Dinosaur with Feathers.) Guided Reading is the time to observe children’s skills and to assist where necessary. Exercises work best when they arise out of current reading and children’s needs.

For PM Software for Gold Level see page 77.
About the books at this level...

PM Traditional Tales and Plays

- Play reading gives children the valuable experience of reading aloud to an audience.
- The language used in traditional tales has a flavour of its own: weep and wail, ragged and torn, sad and lonely, lost forever, overjoyed, dark and stormy, may good luck go with you ...
- Some traditional tales have been printed as Story Books only, because of the physical problems of acting them as plays. Patrick and the Leprechaun (21) could, however, be dramatised for the puppet theatre, with a script written by children. So could The Horse and the Bell and Peter and the Wolf (21).
- Peter and the Wolf is not a traditional tale, although it reads like one. It was written by the Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev in the 1930s to help young listeners appreciate the different sounds of orchestral instruments. (Children will enjoy listening to a recording.)
- Fact or Fantasy? By using reasoning skills children can be helped to see what is fantasy and what is reality. Patrick and the Leprechaun, Cinderella, and Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs are pure fantasy, and could never have happened; children should be sure of this. These things should be discussed in Guided Reading.
About the books at this level...

**PM Plus and PM Story Books**

- High frequency words — by the end of Gold Level the 600 or so words that dominate written English should be known at sight. Gold Level books are written for children with Reading Ages of 8–8½ years.

- Keeping ourselves safe — because stories stir emotions, story form is a good way of driving safety messages home. At Gold Level Solo Flyer, The Secret Hideaway, Car Trouble, Kayaking at Blue Lake, Bushfire at the Koala Reserve, and Picked for the Team all have strong safety themes.

- Why did the dinosaurs disappear? The Asteroid puts the answer in story form, and is the last of the 17 In the Days of the Dinosaurs books in the PM collection. The whole series is supported by the Non-fiction PM Shared Book: When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth.

- Caring for the environment This important theme is found in several books at Gold and Silver levels: The Freeway Turtles (22), The Japanese Garden (22), Bushfire at the Koala Reserve (22), Penguin Rescue (23) and In Search of Treasure (24). The theme for PM Plus Non-fiction Gold and Silver is Our Environment. (More links are set out on page 76.)

- Fry Readability Formula and Grading Now that high frequency words have been mastered, PM Books correlate with the Fry Readability Formula. ([www.timetabler.com/reading.html](http://www.timetabler.com/reading.html))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fry Readability</th>
<th>PM Colour Band</th>
<th>No. of PM Books</th>
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<tr>
<td>7.5–8 years</td>
<td>Purple 19, 20</td>
<td>56</td>
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<td>8–8.5 years</td>
<td>Gold 21, 22</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5–9 years</td>
<td>Silver 23, 24</td>
<td>56</td>
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- Reading Mileage Progress in reading ability is closely related to practice (reading mileage). Nearly 60 books for each colour band provide average learners with 10 books a month (2 or 3 a week). This ‘mileage’ equates to 6 months reading — a resource for the steady practice that children must have.

- Grading for Concepts At each level the concepts match the conceptual growth of young children. For example, 8-year-olds understand the child-parent-grandparent relationship, and so can make sense of The Family Tree (22).

- Grading for Structure and Sentence Length As language structures become more complex, with two and three clause sentences appearing, sentences grow in length. On average, sentences at Orange are 8 words long, Turquoise 8.5, Purple 9, Gold 10, and Silver 11 words long.

- Grading for Vocabulary Vocabulary control (at least 96% of the words used in every story have been met in earlier books) allows children to read with accuracy and understanding.
About the books at this level...

PM Traditional Tales and Plays

- The only way to meet the interests of all children is to provide a wide variety of books and allow for choice. Some of these traditional tales meet the needs of those children who enjoy romantic fantasy, and others, such as Jack and the Magic Harp, have a strong element of humour.
- King Midas and the Golden Touch makes the disastrous consequences of a foolish wish obvious. Can children recall other fairy tales in which a magic wish brings real disadvantages? This theme could stimulate their own writing. What would it really be like if a wish came true?
- Why, in fairy tales, do heroines so often dream of marrying princes? This was because, in the time when these tales originated, women had very little chance of improving their hard lives. Marriage to someone wealthy was their only hope... or failing that, a magic spell!
- A poor young man had little chance of betterment either. So audacious cunning (as in Puss-in-Boots, The Brave Little Tailor or Robin Hood) is another common theme in traditional tales. Children of 8-9 are old enough to learn something of the harshness of medieval life.

Traditional tales often show characters in medieval dress, to match the time of the original tellings.
By now children should be familiar with the layout of reference books. In Guided Reading teachers should check that children can use the title, the contents page, the chapter headings and the index as they hunt for specific information. Their skills with alphabetical order grow with practice.

The theme of ‘Nocturnal Animals’ matches several PM Story Books: Prickles the Porcupine (19), Owls in the Garden (21), The Night Walk (22) and The Asteroid (22). The Asteroid makes it clear that some of the first mammals and birds were nocturnal, and Zala Runs for her Life (19) develops this idea.

Not all animals are cuddly; this set includes skunks, Tasmanian devils and vampire bats ...

**PM Animal Facts: Nocturnal Animals**

- Different text forms (genre) are listed for teachers inside the front cover of each book. The books include labels, diagrams, indexes, contents pages, page headings, question boxes, aerial photographs, glossaries, maps, letters, diaries, emails, posters, letters. Children of 8 years should be able to use these words with understanding: they are part of the technical vocabulary of non-fiction.

**PM Plus Non-fiction: Our Environment**

- Levels 22-23

**PM Animal Facts: Nocturnal Animals**

- Level 21

Rivers, Streams and Lakes; Waterfalls, Glaciers and Avalanches: River Rafting Fun (21), The Secret Hideaway (21), Seven Foolish Fishermen (21), The Freeway Turtles (22), Kayaking at Blue Lake (22), The Japanese Garden (22), Raccoons (22), Skating at Rainbow Lake (23), In Search of Treasure (24).

Oceans, Seas and Coasts: Sea Otter Goes Hunting (19), Winter on the Ice (20), Toby at Stony Bay (20), Two Red Tugs (20), The Surf Carnival (20), Sailing to a New Land (21), The Fishing Trip (22), The Dolphins (22), Penguin Rescue (23), Holiday at Lighthouse Rock (24), Survivors in the Frozen North (24), Polar Bears, Whales, Antarctic Penguins, Antarctic Seals (24)

Deserts: Dash, the Young Meerkat (21)

**PM Plus Non-fiction: Our Environment**

- Levels 22-23

Forests: Bushfire in the Koala Reserve (22), The Secret Hideaway (21), Pandas in the Mountains (22), A Little Adventure (23), In Search of Treasure (24), Robin Hood stories (23, 24), Silver and Prince (24)

Mountains, Hills and Cliffs: Tiny Dinosaurs (22), Pandas in the Mountains (22), Adventure in the Hills (23), In Search of Treasure (24)

Deserts: Dash, the Young Meerkat (21)
**PM Software - Gold Level**

The PM Story Books Software and PM Plus Software complement the books in Gold Level and have been developed to enhance literacy learning by utilising computers to help create contexts for meaningful reading.

Children can choose the book they wish to read — they can see the book on screen and listen to it being read.

The 4 Teachers' Guides are packed with well-tested practical ideas for a balanced approach:
- guided reading
- teaching many specific skills
- reading to children
- developing their oral and written language
- blackline masters
- reading record sheets.
PM Plus and PM Story Books

- Most children will reach Silver Level at the end of their fourth year at school (between 8 and 9 years old). The stories match their growing maturity, touching on some of the real problems of life: losing one’s sense of direction, the mixed emotions of an adopted child, the stresses of competitive sport and public performance, the dangers wild animals have to cope with, the responsibility of caring for a pet, the problems of bullying, the emotional upheavals of separation and divorce, natural disasters that threaten life ...

- Growing sentence lengths reflect greater use of conjunctions. Sentences with two or three clauses (notice the verbs) are becoming more common. ‘You have done some excellent work in science this year, and I would like you to choose something that you were really interested in during the year, for your project.’

  When Troy and Danny were down in the basement, Mum shut the heavy door behind her, and came down the stairs to join them.

  Long sentences such as these are a new challenge that most children can cope with as their Reading Ages approach 9 years.

- At Silver Level some of the most visually confusing elisions are introduced. They have trickled in at every level in the PMs, beginning with the most common I’m at Yellow, can’t and it’s at Blue, isn’t and didn’t at Green. Now, at Silver Level even the visually confusing elisions we’re and we’ve, you’re and you’ve, and they’re and they’ve are no longer excluded.

- Text lengths match the children’s growing fluency: about 450 words at Level 19, 500 words at Level 20, 600 words at Level 21, 700 words at Level 22, 850 words at Level 23, 950–1000 words at Level 24.

- Constant revision of grapho-phonic patterns, and association with meaningful text, means that children at Silver Level should have the word analysis skills that allow them to read with growing confidence.

- ‘Children use their prior experience to make sense of their reading’ Clay 1991. PM Books at Level 23 bring in many experiences that eight- and nine-year-olds have known at first hand ... teachers will often be able to match book to child with precision.

- Rereading for pleasure cements skills in place. If children are to become lifelong readers, enjoyment is essential, and that means practice with easy books.
About the books at this level...

**PM Traditional Tales and Plays**

- In Guided Reading, teachers and children should identify and discuss the crisis in each story — the moment when it seems that things will go badly wrong for the hero. If children are aware of this moment, their acting will reflect their understanding.

- The Strange Shoe is a fable that expects children to see mankind through the eyes of animals; this viewpoint will challenge their thinking.

- Humour. When children act in many of the PM plays they will find they can make the audience laugh. The Brave Little Tailor (18), The Animal Band and Puss-in-Boots (20), Seven Foolish Fishermen (21), Jack and the Magic Harp (22), and now The Strange Shoe and The Bear and the Trolls (23) make play-acting fun.

- A universal desire for equality and respect: In A Fair Swap (23) the boastful husband finds that his wife's tasks are difficult, and learns humility. Tricking the Tiger (17) shows downtrodden Mrs Fox demonstrating that she is more skilled than her husband. Fire and Wind (24), too, shows a brilliant woman. These three tales originated long ago, and show women battling successfully against oppression. Androcles and the Lion (23), Dick Whittington (24) and The Man Who Rode the Tiger (24) are tales in which downtrodden men come up in the world — a slave, a kitchen hand and a poor potter all win rewards. Children of 8 or 9 could look for the same theme in modern stories ... the central characters in The Running Shoes (20), The Night Walk (22), The Bully (23), The Best Part (23) are all teased or bullied but stand up for themselves. Children could write about their dreams of equality.

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**PM Story Books**

**PM Traditional Tales and Plays**

**LEVEL 23**

**PM Story Books — Set A**

- **A Little Adventure**
  - 1 86961 350 3
- **Nelson is Kidnapped**
  - 1 86961 352 X
- **A Fair Swap**
  - 1 86961 351 1
- **Kerry**
  - 1 86961 355 4
- **Kerry’s Double**
  - 1 86961 354 6
- **My Two Families**
  - 1 86961 333 8

**PM Story Books — Set B**

- **The Dolphin on the Wall**
  - 1 86961 365 1
- **Skating at Rainbow Lake**
  - 1 86961 364 3
- **The Best Part**
  - 1 86961 363 5
- **A Fair Swap**
  - 1 86961 362 8
- **PM Story Books**
  - 1 86961 361 2

**PM Traditional Tales and Plays**

- **The Strange Shoe**
  - 1 86961 391 0
- **Androcles and the Lion**
  - 1 86961 390 2
- **The Bear and the Trolls**
  - 1 86961 392 9
- **The Bear and the Trolls**
  - a tale ... and a play

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For **PM Teachers’ Guides** for Silver Level see page 83.
PM Plus and PM Story Books

- Reading should open children's minds, challenge their thinking and stir their emotions. The stories at this level have been chosen because they allow these things to happen. Reading helps us to empathise with other people, and other societies, and enlarge our experience. What was it like to live under repression in old China? (Fire and Wind) ... to cope with the death of a loved pet (Our Old Friend, Bear) ... to struggle with learning English as a second language (Spanish Omelet and Minh’s New Life) ... to be a vulnerable polar bear cub in a dangerous world (Survivors in the Frozen North) ... to be injured in a car accident (Charlie’s Great Race) ... to dangle in a crevasse (In Search of Treasure) ... to be a starving young wolf in a hostile environment (Silver and Prince) ... to be in a wheelchair (The Walkathon) ... to battle with the disappointment of rejection (Jordan and the Northside Reps). What was it like to suffer oppression and injustice? (The Story of William Tell). The experiences gained from reading help children to grow, and face inevitable challenges in their own lives.

- The acquisition of skills is important in many of the stories at Level 23 and 24, Silver: photography, sport, music, gymnastics, acting, singing ... Many eight- and nine-year-olds respect skills, want to succeed and are willing to practise.

They can identify with characters who also want to succeed.
- Comprehension: Strong chains of cause and effect hold these stories together. In Guided Reading causes can be identified and discussed. For example, Prince was the dominant wolf cub (in Silver and Prince) because he was stronger, larger and bolder. His bold temperament led to disaster — so, in the end, it was not Prince, but Silver, who became the leader of the pack.

When children are taught to look for such causes and effects they read with greater insight. ‘Why’ questions should be a central part of Guided Reading. The habit of searching for and finding reasons is central to comprehension.

- Stories at the end of Level 24 demand a Reading Age of 9 years. Young fluent readers can cope with stories of 1000 or so words and many can process the text with few noticeable pauses.

- A story such as In Search of Treasure can be read at two levels of comprehension: (1) as an adventure story about a Native American who survived danger on a great volcano, and (2) as a story with a strong message about values: the gaining of wisdom after a near-death experience. Guided Reading can help children grasp the underlying meaning of this and other stories.
PM Story Books
PM Traditional Tales and Plays
Silver Level 24

**About the books at this level...**

- **Sequels** On page 93 the characters in the PM and PM Plus Story Books have been listed on a chart ... when a new story is introduced children enjoy revisiting the earlier stories.
- **Separated or absent parents** At least 10 books at Levels 23 and 24 avoid the traditional two parent family; this reflects many children’s experiences.
- **Language structures** The average length of sentences at Level 24 is 11 words, but in some (Robin Hood Meets Little John and In Search of Treasure) it has risen to 13. These books are more demanding and match young readers’ growing maturity.
- **At round about 8,** children who can read at Silver Level are already able to read a great many picture books from the library; there are many outstanding classics which should not be missed. During this year they will discover that they can cope with ‘proper’ chapter books.

Young fluent readers may enjoy:
- Rev W Awdry: Thomas the Tank Engine
- Michael Bond: A Bear Called Paddington, The Adventures of Peter Rabbit
- Beverly Cleary: Ramona the Brave, Henry Huggins
- Dorothy Edwards: My Naughty Little Sister
- Shirley Hughes: Tales of Trotter Street
- Astrid Lindgren: Pippi Longstocking, All About the Bullerby Children
- Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Little House in the Big Woods

**PM Traditional Tales and Plays**

- The language of traditional tales is often rhythmic and satisfying and should be savoured: They roared and growled, and screeched and howled and chased her through the trees; The arrow flew straight and true; the horse galloped through fields, past villages, and over streams.

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For **PM Teachers’ Guides** for Silver Level see page 83.
PM Animal Facts: Polar Animals

- Non-fiction is the preferred reading of many people, all their lives. The PM Animal Facts with their simple texts and fascinating photographs can be read for pleasure and information.
- The polar animals at Level 23 come from the north (Arctic) and those at Level 24 from the south (Antarctic). A globe is a better tool than a map for showing children the poles.
- Making connections with PM Story Books from this and earlier levels: Winter on the Ice (Level 20) pairs with Antarctic Penguins; Wolves and Caribou (Level 23) pair with Silver and Prince; The Right Place for Jupiter pairs with Antarctic Seals; Survivors in the Frozen North pairs with Polar Bears.

PM Plus Non-fiction: Natural Forces

- Links with PM and PM Plus Story Books, and PM Animal Facts include:

- Water and Wind: Winter on the Ice (20), Skating at Rainbow Lake (23), Snow; Survivors in the Frozen North (24), Rain: The Man Who Rode the Tiger (24), Wind: Bushfires in the Koala Reserve (22), Oceans: Sea Otter (19), The Dolphins (22), Animal Facts: Polar Animals (6 books) (24), Penguin Rescue (23), The Right Place for Jupiter (24)
- Storms: The Hailstorm, Riding to Craggy Rock (18), Winter on the Ice (21), The Tornado (23), In Search of Treasure (24)
- Volcanoes and Geyseres: When the Volcano Erupted (17), In Search of Treasure (24)
- The Sun: Seasons and Weather (19/20), deserts: Dash the Young Meerkat (21), nocturnal animals: Animal Facts: Nocturnal Animals (6 books) (22/23), Zala Runs for Her Life (19), The Night Walk (22), fossil fuels: Penguin Rescue (23)
- Gravity and the Solar System: Carl’s High Jump (22), The Contest (23), Roller Coaster Ride (20), The Asteroid (22), The Shooting Star (22)
The PM Story Books Software and PM Plus Software complement the books in Silver Level and have been developed to enhance literacy learning by utilising computers to help create contexts for meaningful reading.

Children can choose the book they wish to read — they can see the book on screen and listen to it being read.

They can then explore the book’s content and meaning by completing a range of interactive activities. The activities are highly focused and offer a variety of interactions with the language of the PM and PM Plus books, and have been designed to encourage and promote reading success. The activities focus on all aspects of the texts — whole text, sentence, word and word parts.

The PM Software also allows children to practise a range of writing styles, and to improve their keyboard skills, through carefully designed writing activities.

All PM Software includes tracking systems and assessment measures, to allow teachers to monitor children’s progress.

The 4 Teachers’ Guides are packed with well-tested practical ideas for a balanced approach:

- guided reading
- teaching many specific skills
- reading to children
- developing their oral and written language
- blackline masters
- reading record sheets.

Blackline master from PM Animal Facts: Polar Animals Teachers’ Guide page 29