

What is phonics?

Phonics is one method of teaching children how to read and write.

Phonics is all about sounds. There are 44 sounds in the English language, which we put together to form words.

Some are represented by one letter, like 't', and some by two or more, like 'ck' in duck and 'air' in chair.

Children are taught the sounds first, then how to match them to letters, and finally how to use the letter sounds for reading and spelling.

Synthetic phonics refers to 'synthesising', or blending, the sounds to read words. It is based on the idea that children should sound out unknown words and not rely on their context.

The future of reading

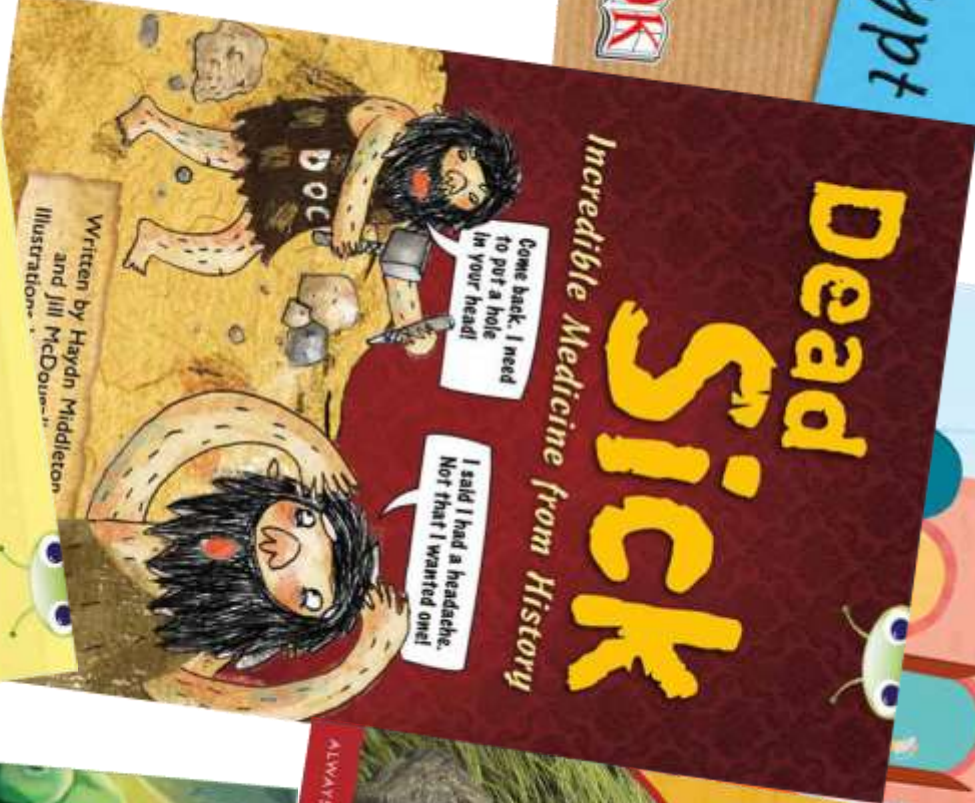
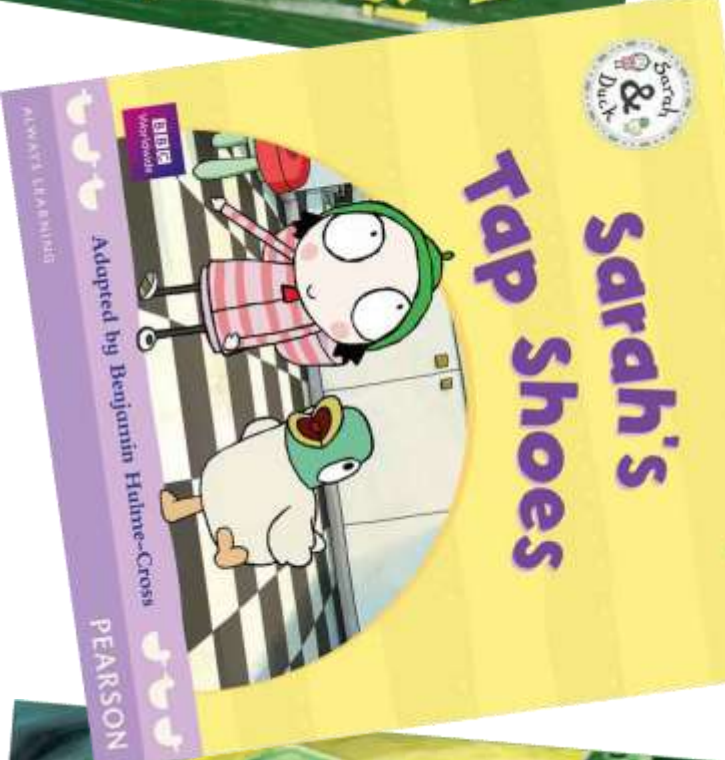
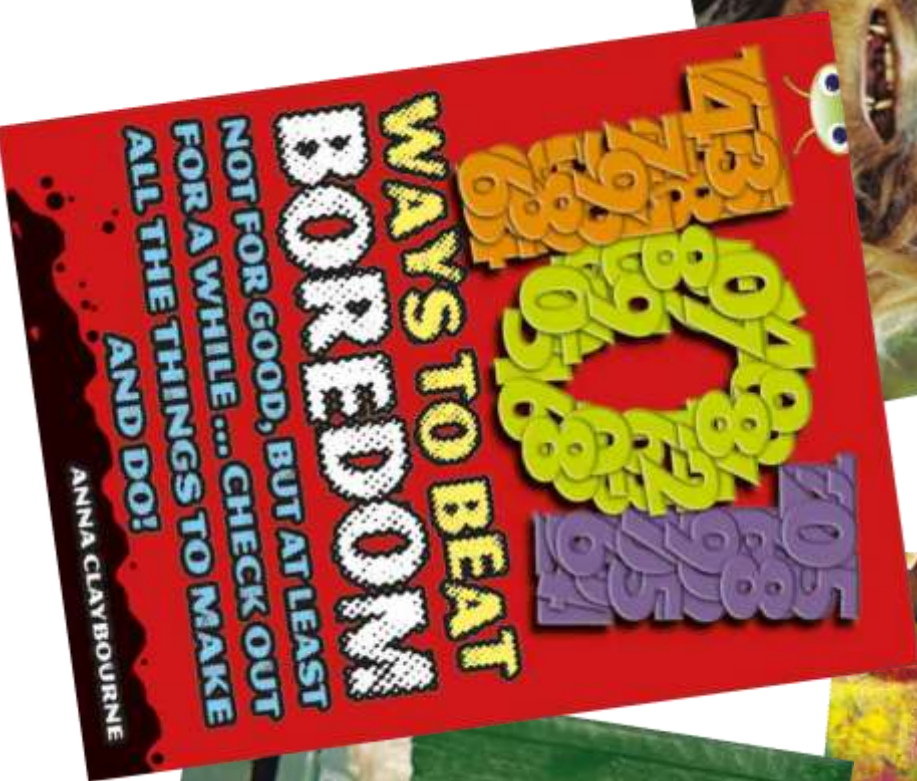
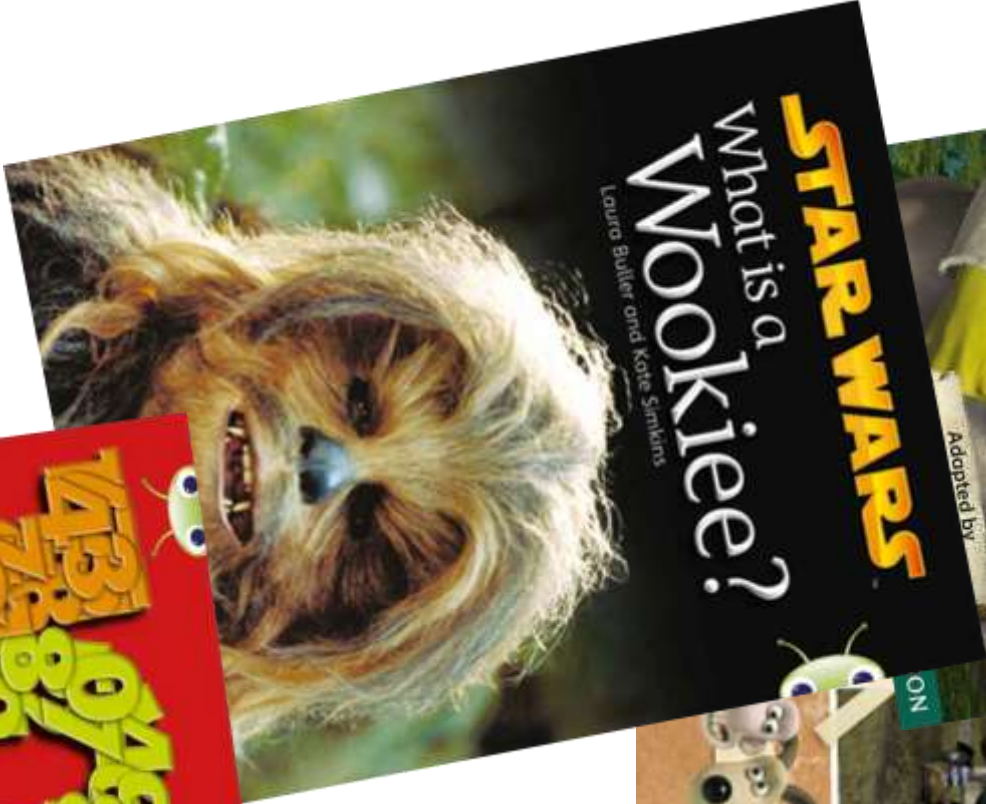
Loved
by over a million
children in the UK.



What is Bug Club?

- A reading programme that the school will use to help teach your child to read
- It has carefully graded reading books and eBooks
- Your child can take home the books as well as accessing eBooks via a personalised website

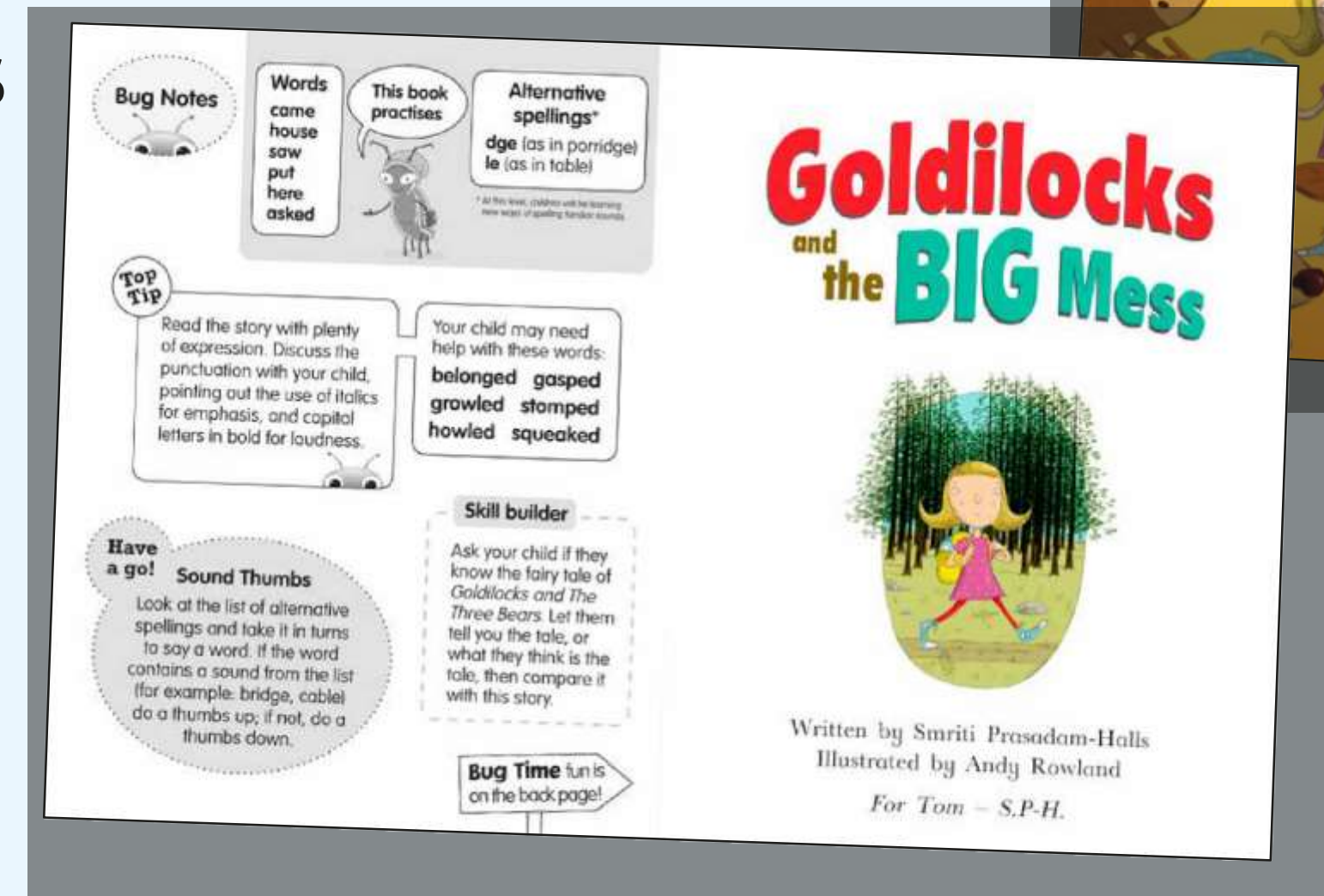




Using the books

Notes for parents on the inside front covers

- Practise high-frequency words and sounds that appear in the book with your child
- Don't worry if your child struggles on the tricky words
- You can use the games and questions for discussion with your child



Using the books

Children's activities on inside back covers

- Play the games to encourage your child to read back through the book
- There are ideas for making things and drawing things



"It's not," I agreed. "Not if you follow the guide."
Tara looked confused.
"I'll show you later," I said. "It's not quite finished yet."
I would show her, but right now Mum had the frying pan out and my stomach was telling me that it had missed breakfast. One fried egg sandwich later, I went upstairs to add my final tip to my guide before showing it to Tara.

HUG YOUR STEPSISTER LOTS
HUGS ARE A THOUSAND TIMES BETTER THAN WORDS — UNLESS YOU'VE BROKEN HER PHONE.

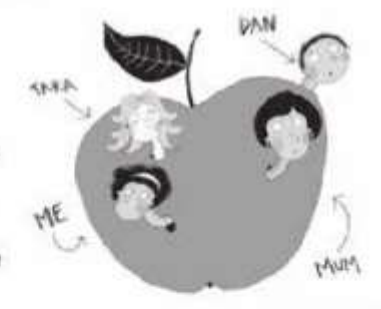


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Find it!
What happened when Lily bit into a cherry tomato? Have you ever had a snack attack?

Share it!
Freaky pictures!
Look at the illustrations in the book. Many of these are funny drawings of Lily's thoughts during a day with her family, e.g. Mum's eyes bulging like a tree frog, or the fireworks of anger fizzing around Tara.

Write about a day when lots of things happened to you and your family or friends. Add drawings to show how you were feeling or what you were thinking at the time. Make your drawings as weird, funny or as freaky as you like, and then share them with someone who was there on the day. Do they recognise some of the events in your story?

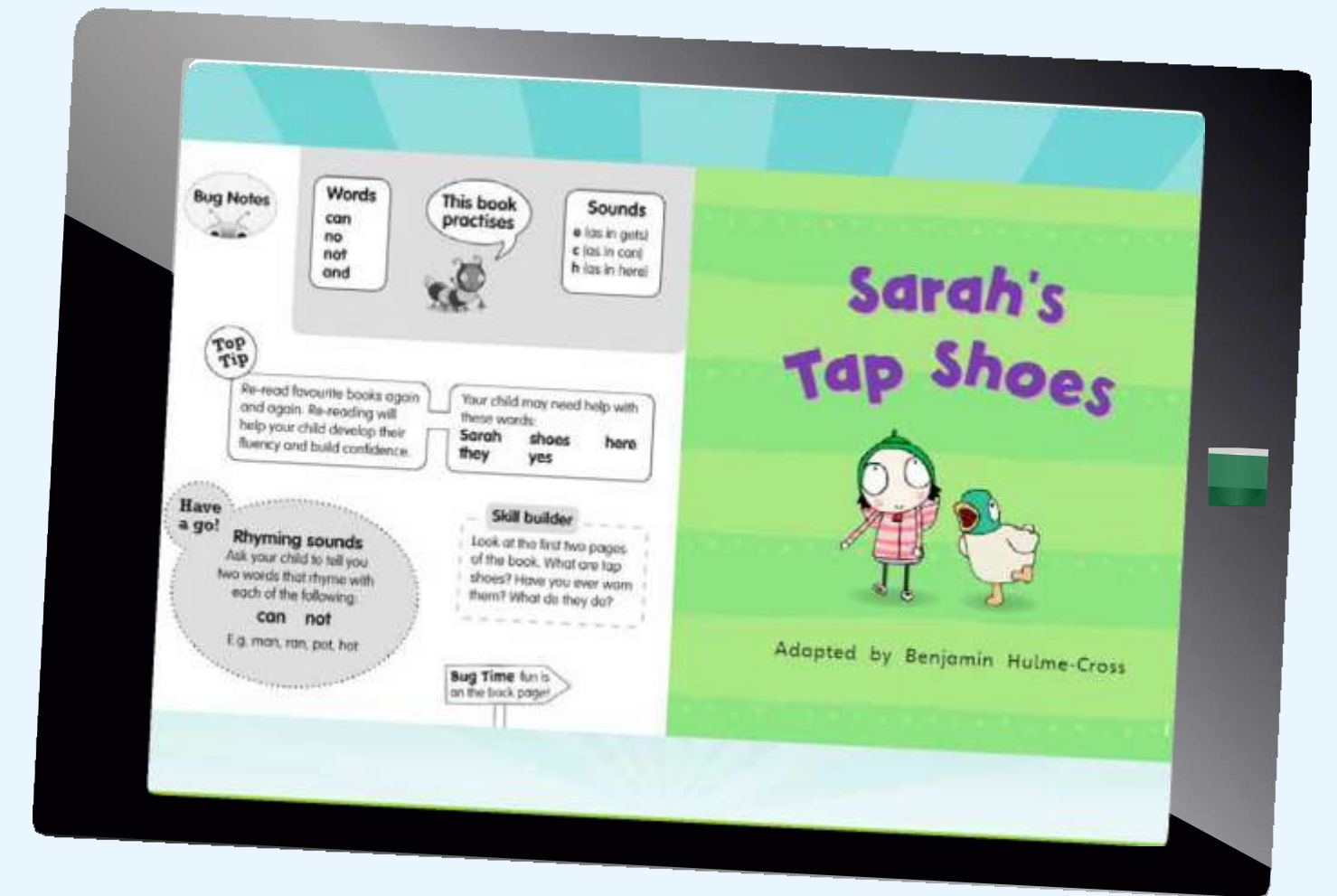


Want to know more?
How many other books can you find that include a diary written by one of the characters?



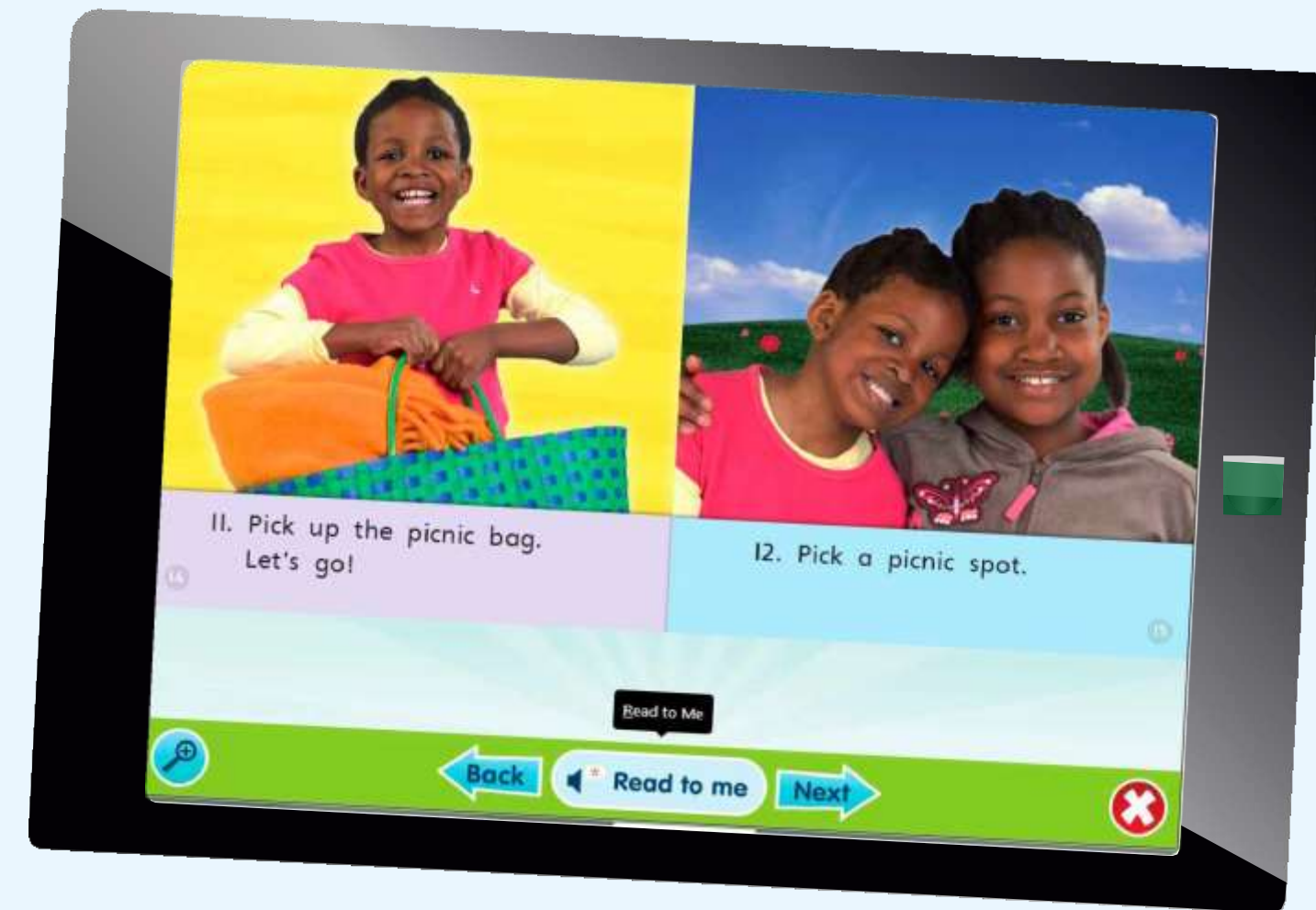
Why are we using eBooks?

- Your child can enjoy reading books on screen and completing fun quiz questions found in the eBooks
- The quiz questions will help the children practise their reading skills
- The Foundation and KS1 eBooks are also audio-books, so children can enjoy hearing an expressive reading of the story



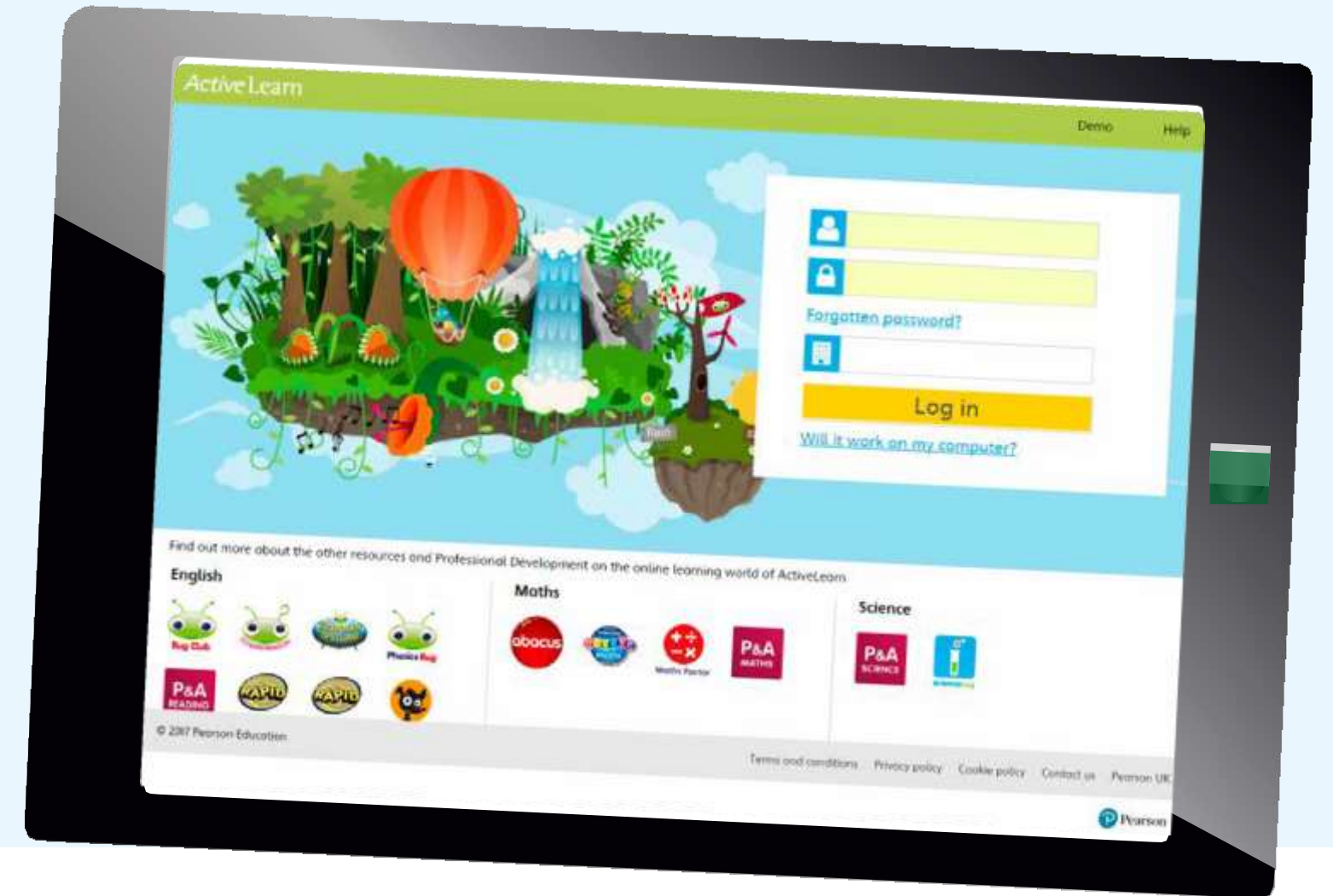
When can children use the eBooks?

- ☐ If you have internet connection at home, your child can log on whenever they want to, from home
- ☐ If you don't have internet access, we will be making computers available throughout the school day



Using the eBooks

We are providing each child with their own login details to the Active Learn Platform which hosts Bug Club. They can read their eBooks here



Each child's login details will be different.

Example login details

Username

Password:

School ID:



www.activelearnprimary.co.uk

A child's homepage

- ☐ Your child will see their eBooks in “My Stuff”
- ☐ We will allocate eBooks according to your child's reading level
- ☐ Your child can have multiple eBooks in My Stuff at any one time



Children in KS1 and KS2 can choose their homepage from a range of worlds



Reading an eBook

- Look at the inside front cover notes and activities with your child
- Read the book and, where they appear, click on the bug icons to open the quiz questions
- Your child can come back to their books at any time to finish the quiz questions



Phonics Bug eBooks

- Phonics Bug eBooks contain a guide which will help you to help your child with new sounds
- Phonics Bug eBooks also have one quiz question that focuses on word-skills



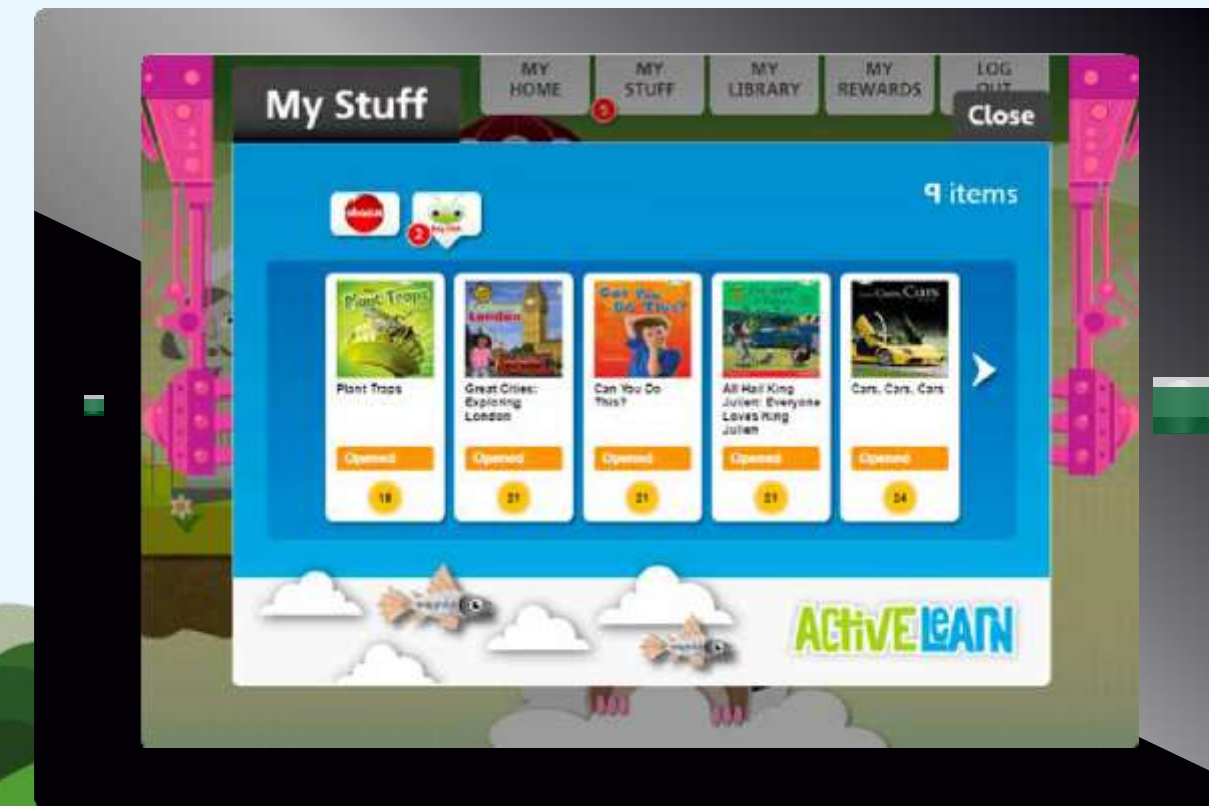
Rewards

- When your child has finished all of the quiz questions in an eBook, they will gain some coins
- When they have read a few eBooks, they will have enough coins to gain a reward
- They can spend their coins in one of the multiple activelearn reward worlds on games, items for their treehouse etc.



My Library

- When your child has finished an eBook, the eBook will move to My Library where they can read it again, if they want to
- They can choose a new eBook from 'My Stuff'



Getting the most out of the eBooks

- Encourage your child to attempt all quizzes
- Your child's teacher can track their progress and help them with types of quiz questions they struggle with
- Allow your child to read a favourite eBook again to build their confidence and stamina



Let's have a go!



Challenges around reading

Effects of parents and schools

The younger a child is, the stronger the impact. At age 5 it is some 5 x the impact of school. At 11 it is about the same strength as school.

Source: Sacker, Amanda et al (2002) 'Social inequality in educational achievement and psychological adjustment throughout childhood: magnitude and mechanisms' *Social Studies and Medicine*, 55, 863-880

'Researchers have shown that, once social and economic factors are removed, parental engagement has a more significant impact on attainment than almost everything else.'



Any questions?

