SyllaSense Decodable Texts

Red Circle

Educators have requested supplementary, practice, or take-home resources for students who are currently reading SyllaSense books in their classrooms. These printable texts can be used in many creative ways, including (but not limited to) fluency practice, at-home practice, literacy center activities, informal assessments, etc.

These resources are intended to support literacy instruction for students with access to purchased SyllaSense Decodable Books.

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SyllaSense Red Series	Grapheme/Phoneme Correspondence	Orthographic Conventions (Patterns and Generalizations)	Morphology	Punctuation/ Text Features	High-Frequency Words and Content Words
Step 1: ● Arctic Hares	- vowel digraph <oa>/ō/ (*coat*)				
Step 2: ● Up High	- vowel trigraph <igh>/ī/ (*high*)	- concept of *vowel trigraph*			
Step 3: ● Sea Glass	- vowel digraph <ea>/ē/ (*sea*)				- *many*
Step 4: ● In the Snow	- vowel digraph <ow>/ō/ (*snow*)				- *once* - *ski*
Step 5: ● Space Tools	- <i>/ī/ (*items*) - vowel digraph <oo>/ū/$_{15}$ (*cool*)				- *Canadarm*
Step 6: ● Puppy!	- vowel digraphs <oi>/oi/ (*avoid*) and <oy>/oi/ (*boy*)	- use <oy> for /oi/ at the end of a base			- *come*
Step 7: ● Orcas	- vowel digraph <ou>/ou/ (*out*)				- *calf* - *ocean*
Step 8: ● Towers and Tunnels	- vowel digraph <ow>/ou/ (*cow)*				- *people*
Step 9: ● Books	- vowel digraph <oo>/o͝o/ (*look*)				
Step 10: ● Clever Dolphins!	- consonant digraph <ph>/f/ (*photo*)	- consonant-le syllables			- *some* - *whistle*

Arctic Hares

Written by Lee-Ann Lear

Arctic hares are native to northern Canada and Greenland. In the winter, an Arctic hare's coat turns white. This thick coat helps the hare hide from foxes and soaring falcons. An Arctic hare sheds its white coat in the summer so it can blend in with plants and grasses.

When it gets cold, Arctic hares may dig holes for shelter. These basic shelters stop the hares from getting soaked in ice storms and winter squalls. They also provide a safe place to sleep.

Arctic hares may need to roam a long way to find a place to feed. A hare can travel at a fast pace!

Baby hares are born in the spring when it's not so cold. A baby hare stays with its mom for a short time. Then, it takes care of itself.

Arctic hares live off plants such as moss and grass. Plants are hard to find in winter, so hares will consume loads of plants in the summer to help them get by.

Life in the Arctic is hard, but these hares have adapted!

Red Series: Book 1
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Up High

Written by Lee-Ann Lear

It can be thrilling to be up high! A jet will take you high in the sky. When flying at night, you can spot the major roads and city lights!

You might love going up, but a rapid drop can give you a fright! This ride spins as it travels up. It holds you at the top for a moment. Then, you plummet to the bottom. Yikes!

From the top of a high cliff, you might see birds in flight or a floating boat. Stay safe, and watch your step!

A bridge can also be a thrilling way to explore a high place. A bridge can span between the treetops. You might get a fright if the bridge sways in the wind!

If you are brave, you can take a lift up a slope. These chairs hang from strong wires, and take you right up to the top. The sights will impress you!

This zipline is high. Strap in tight! You can sightsee as you zip along at a fast pace. Do you like being up high?

Red Series: Book 2
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Sea Glass

Written by Lee-Ann Lear

"Sea glass" is glass that has been polished by waves and sand. Sea glass starts as chunks of glass that have been tossed into the sea.

Many kinds of glass, such as jars, dishes, or tiles, can turn into sea glass. It takes many years for sea glass to form. Over and over, the waves churn up the glass and sand. In time, each sharp edge will be worn away and polished. As each chunk soaks in the sea, the salt etches the glass and makes it appear frosted.

Sea glass might seem nice, but tossing glass into the water isn't right. We try not to do this today, so sea glass is getting hard to find.

If you do find sea glass, you can use it in many ways. Wind chimes, mobiles, and pendants can all be made with sea glass.

Beach glass is formed in fresh water. The water has no salt, so beach glass tends to be clear rather than frosted like sea glass.

One day, you may find a chunk of this glass!

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In the Snow

Written by Lee-Ann Lear

When summer has passed and the snow piles high, why not try skiing or snowboarding?

If you are just starting, you need to go at your own pace. Start slow. Bend your legs, keep low, and stay on the small hills. In time, once your balance grows, you can try steep hills. You can find many ways to reach the high slopes. These chairs will take you all the way to the top!

Once you get better at skiing or snowboarding, you can speed up. You can zig and zag across each slope, and even try basic tricks or jumps! You need to prepare before you take part in winter sports. Dress for the cold, and follow the rules to keep the slopes safe.

On a sunny day, the snow can be blinding! Snow is clear, but the sun reflects off the flakes and makes them seem bright white. Sunglasses can help with the glare. Blowing snow can make it hard to see. Follow the trail, or you might get lost.

Once you start skiing or snowboarding, you will not want to stop. Have fun!

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Space Tools

Written by Lee-Ann Lear

Many cool tools have been invented to help us visit and explore space.

The Canadarm is cool! It was made to mimic a human arm with an elbow. It had a Kevlar coating to keep it from getting too hot or too cold. In 1981, it was sent into space.

Soon, the Canadarm began its job. It transferred cargo, supported trips into space, and helped with minor repairs. In 2001, the Canadarm2 was also sent into space. It has a cool latching "hand" at each end, which can grasp items with a strong grip.

Mars rovers are cool space tools as well! Over the years, many of these robots have been flown to Mars. The basic goal of a Mars rover is to explore the planet Mars, and send back vital data.

Solar panels are attached to the roof of each rover. The rovers drive across Mars, and use a number of tools to study the planet. Mars is not smooth. One rover got stuck in a crater filled with blown sand!

These tools will help us if we decide to live in space one day!

Red Series: Book 5
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Puppy!

Written by Lee-Ann Lear

Have you ever wanted a puppy? It takes a lot of effort to take care of a puppy, but a puppy can provide a lot of joy!

A puppy needs to be at least 8 weeks old before it can come to live with you. It can't take care of itself at this point, and still needs lots of help!

Your puppy will need its own place to sleep, and a spot to eat its food. It takes time for a puppy to adjust, so it's best to keep your voice low when your puppy first comes home.

Keeping your puppy active is a must! It helps to have a wide choice of toys, or lots of room to run.

Make it a point to train your puppy. It needs to come when called, sit, and stay. Your puppy might get lost if it runs too far away.

A puppy may bite and destroy items in your home once its adult teeth start to come in. To avoid this, let your puppy chomp on rubber dog toys.

Enjoy your puppy time!

Red Series: Book 6
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Orcas

Written by Lee-Ann Lear

Orcas, also called "killer whales", live in our oceans. These mammals can be found in all oceans, but are most often spotted in cold water, close to coasts.

A pack of orcas is called a pod. Orcas make a number of sounds, such as clicks or pops. These loud sounds can help an orca locate or stay close to its pod.

Pods are often found hunting as a team. One method they use is to herd fish into a tight space. An orca will then strike the fish with its tail to stun them.

An orca baby is called a calf. A calf will join its mom's pod once it's born. Orcas are loyal. Adults in the pod will stay around the calf, and protect it if needed. After about ten weeks, a calf's teeth will come in. These teeth are sharp, and ideal for grasping and ripping food.

Orcas can swim deep under the water, but they must come up for air. Many orcas enjoy jumping out of the water, which is called "breaching".

If you visit the coast, try scouting for orcas!

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Towers and Tunnels

Written by Lee-Ann Lear

Do you like going up high? How do you feel about going down under the ground? In a city like Toronto, you can find many towers and tunnels.

Towers can stretch high above the streets. If you live near the top of a high-rise, you can see far into the distance. It is quite a sight!

This tower is called the CN Tower. Crowds of people come to visit it each day. It's a long way up! At the top of the CN Tower, you can enjoy a meal, check out the sights, or stand on the glass panels and peer down. Wow!

Tunnels in the city can be big or small, and they allow people to travel under the ground. The subway travels in this tunnel. The tunnel provides a direct way to get from one point to the next, while avoiding the crowded streets.

The PATH also runs under the city. This web of pathways joins the basements of many downtown towers. People can use the PATH to stay cool in summer, or stay dry if it rains.

Do you prefer towers or tunnels?

Red Series: Book 8
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Books

Written by Lee-Ann Lear

Reading a good book is fun! Do you ever think about how books are made? Many kinds of books are printed each day. Cookbooks, comics, fairy tales, and novels all start out as a plan, then follow the printing process to come to life!

The first step is to make a file that contains your book. The file will hold the text of your book, and will include basic details on its shape, size, look, and feel.

Once your file is finished, your book can be sent to the printing press. The press will read your file, then print your book on big paper sheets.

These printed sheets will be sorted, stacked, cut, and folded. Allow time for this vital process. The cuts and folds need to be exact. Even a minor slip can result in crooked books!

Next, the covers are added, and the books are bound. The goal of the binding process is to make a strong book. The final step in the process is to pack up the books and send them out to you!

Find a nook and enjoy your book!

Red Series: Book 9
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Clever Dolphins!

Written by Lee-Ann Lear

Dolphins are super smart mammals!

A dolphin is able to use sound to find its way. It will make a clicking sound, and then track how long it takes for the sound to bounce back. This helps the dolphin "look at" the things around it. Each dolphin has its own high-pitched whistle. Dolphins can tell which dolphin is which, just by the distinct whistle it makes.

Some dolphins are even able to use simple items as tools! This photo shows a dolphin holding a shell. It traps little fish in the shell, then scoops them up to eat! Play time is the best if you are a dolphin. Dolphins love to leap, tumble, and blow bubbles, just for fun. You might even find them enjoying a good game of tag!

Most dolphins live in saltwater seas and oceans, but some dolphins have adapted to live in freshwater rivers. A river dolphin may use its pointed snout to dig and find food in the riverbed. Some rivers are shallow, so a dolphin will bend, flex, and angle its nimble body to slip between tree roots and low branches.

Clever dolphins!

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