

LEARN TO READ



1

A LITTLE BIT OF BACKGROUND...

- Remedial therapist in private practise
- 2011: Assessments - average or above average scores
 - Question career choices / What are children reading?
 - Not decodable
 - Not relatable: characters and content
 - Doesn't focus on typical child development and the way children learn
- 2014: first 8 Tippie-lesboeke published
- 2015+ Leer my lees, continuous growth and development of the series

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- Rainbow nations = many cultures.
- Illustrated as animals = typical children with different personalities
- Fantasy and fun = relatable characters
- Proudly South African adventures.
- Characters grow with children.
- Good manners and decent human beings.
- Inclusive = imagination is the only limit
- Tippie can be whatever you / children need him to be.



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2019

- Dr Nandi Lessing-Venter: new senior publisher at Lapa.
- Tippie registered as a Trademark.
- March 2019, a telephone call changed everything...
 - An English Tippie series?
 - What? Why?
 - There is nothing like Tippie in English.
 - When?
 - 2019 Level 1: Book 1 - 10.
 - Every 6 months another level added.
 - How?
 - The Tippie way = programme for success
 - Based on years of experience in South African classrooms and in consultation with many specialists
 - Backed by "The science of reading" and how children learn optimally

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Learning to read...

Learning to read in English is complex primarily because English has a highly irregular and "opaque" orthography — meaning the relationship between letters (graphemes) and sounds (phonemes) is inconsistent compared to many other languages.

The English language is made up of the 26 letters, A-Z, with 46 sounds or phonemes.

BUT...there is more than 1200 combinations of those 26 letters.

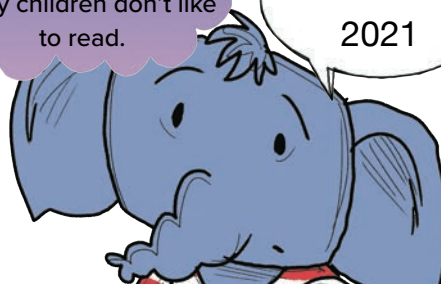
"The English language is a code, it has 26 letters symbols with 46 sounds. Understanding the Speech to Spelling Code allows children to decode any word they see."

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Two years before PIRLS we already knew...

Children are struggling to read with comprehension. Many children don't like to read.

PIRLS
2021



6

Progress in International Reading Literacy Study 2021

South African Preliminary Highlights Report

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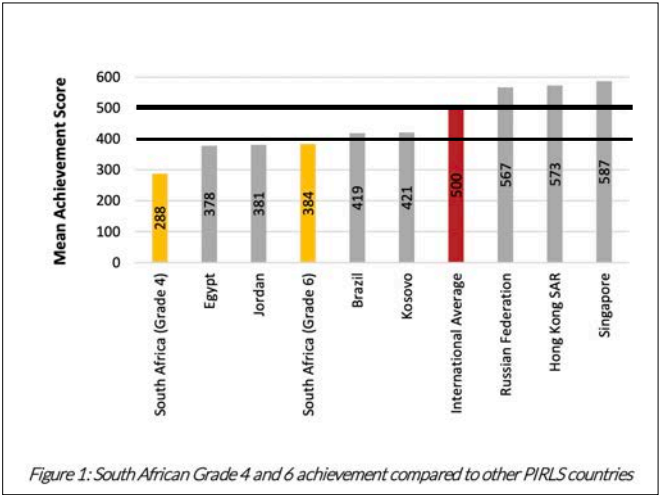


Figure 1: South African Grade 4 and 6 achievement compared to other PIRLS countries

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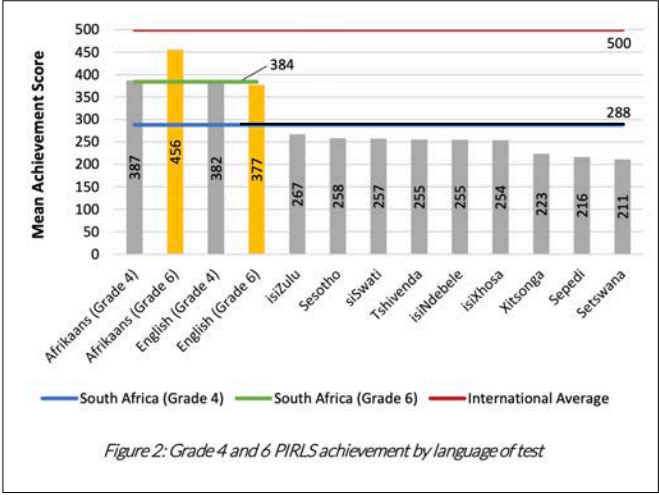


Figure 2: Grade 4 and 6 PIRLS achievement by language of test

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46 PHONEMES AT 6+ YEARS

No way! I need to approach English differently.

- 12 April - Learn to read with Tippie Level 1**
 Book 1 - 5 will focus only on CVC words with a short vowel sound
 Book 6 - 10 will focus and include CVC words and clusters with a short vowel sound
- Pre-requisite knowledge for Level 1?**
 26 letter sounds
 Small number high frequency sight words

★ **“Discussions” with the publisher and authors**

- ★ Learn to read is unique: new stories + new illustrations
- ★ Every language has its own grammatical structure
- ★ Creating our own approach based on experience and practice.

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Level 1: Book 1 - 20

Short vowel sounds Consonant

a cat, pan, jam, lab, dad	b bat, c cat, d dad, f fan
e hen, pig, red, net, web	g gum, h hen, j jam, k key
i kid, pig, bn, zp, six	l lap, m mom, n net, p pen
o pot, mom, dog, cop, fox	q quiet, r rat, s sun, t ten
u bus, bug, sun, hut, gum	v van, w web, x xylophone, z zip

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English publications overview

Tippee the Elephant is a beloved character from a South African book series designed for young readers born to read. Created by our former and current authors, Tippee is a friendly elephant who teaches us to explore the alphabet and discover how to read.

Series	Books	Pages	Illustrations
Tippee's first book of series	10	20	10
Tippee water and soap series	10	20	10
Tippee home sounds	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of words	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of questions	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of numbers	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of colors	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of shapes	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of days	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of months	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of seasons	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of weather	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of animals	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of plants	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of objects	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of actions	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of feelings	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of places	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of people	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of events	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of holidays	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of festivals	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of traditions	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of customs	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of beliefs	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of values	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of virtues	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of character traits	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of personality traits	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of emotions	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of attitudes	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of behaviors	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of habits	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of preferences	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of interests	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of hobbies	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of sports	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of games	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of toys	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of pets	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of animals	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of plants	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of objects	10	20	10
Tippee's first book of actions	10	20	10
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Tippee's first book of places	10	20	10
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In the Foundation phase
children learn to read.

**Grade 1's don't struggle to read in term 2,
they are learning to read in Grade 1.**

In the Intermediate phase
children read to learn.

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"If a child
can't learn the way we **teach**,
maybe
we **should**
teach the way they learn."

- Ignacio Estrada

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WHAT DO WE ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND?

- ☞ Children learn optimally
 - ☞ Concrete
 - ☞ Schematic
 - ☞ Abstract
- ☞ Progressive development
- ☞ Building blocks and solid foundation
- ☞ Importance of prior knowledge

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WHY DO WE KEEP THIS IN MIND?

- ☞ Neurodiversity.
- ☞ Specific learning difficulties.
- ☞ Most children are language poor.
 - ☞ Assumptions - You know what they say...
 - ☞ Socio economics play a massive role.
 - ☞ Parents that work.
 - ☞ Parent that don't work.
 - ☞ Language of instruction not home language.

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HOW DOES TIPPIE THINK DIFFERENTLY?

- ☞ Eclectic and holistic
 - ☞ Outcomes should meet each other
 - ☞ No skills in isolation
- ☞ Multi-sensorial approach
 - ☞ Learn through doing
 - ☞ Active participation
 - ☞ Age appropriate activities
 - ☞ Developmental versus chronological age
- ☞ Combination approach
 - ☞ Books and technology

JC

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HOW DOES TIPPIE THINK DIFFERENTLY?

- ☞ Programme for success
 - ☞ Breaking down outcomes
 - ☞ Success leads to a positive learning attitude
- ☞ Back to the basics
 - ☞ Synthetic sound approach
 - ☞ ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 - ☞ Pre-requisite skills
 - ☞ Building blocks differ between languages - no translations

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Learning is super easy with Tippie!

- 👉 Proudly South African
- 👉 Building blocks of learning
- 👉 Combination approach
- 👉 Multi-sensorial and kinaesthetic approach
- 👉 Progressive builds on previous level
- 👉 Sequential each book builds on the previous book
- 👉 Outcomes as in CAPS but not as prescribed by CAPS

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- 👉 Levels not Grades
- 👉 Home language and FAL
- 👉 Written, illustrated and published in SA
- 👉 Teachers not authors
- 👉 Continuous growth and development
- 👉 Tippie is SMART

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- 👉 Specific
- 👉 Measurable
- 👉 Affordable
- 👉 Relevant
- 👉 Tippie: x10 in a boxset (Book 1 - 10 and Book 11 - 20)
- 👉 10 books a term
- 👉 40 books a year

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Learn to read with Tippie

Learn to read is an engaging, evidence-based early literacy series designed to teach young children how to read in a fun, progressive way. Created by South African authors and illustrators, the series is designed to be used alongside the current CAPS curriculum. It is a multi-sensory, multi-modal, and multi-cultural approach to learning to read. The books are written in a simple, clear, and easy-to-read style. Each book is designed to be used in a variety of ways. The books are designed to be used in a variety of ways. The books are designed to be used in a variety of ways.

SUGGESTED GRADES

Home Language	Level	First Additional Language
Grade R+	R	Grade 1+
Grade 1+	1	Grade 2+
Grade 1+	2	Grade 2+
Grade 2+	3	Grade 3+
Grade 2+	4	Grade 3+
Grade 3+	5	Grade 3+
Grade 3+	6	Grade 4+

The School Editions were developed in accordance with the Department of Basic Education's guidelines as mandatory requirement for the new Foundation Phase reading material.

LOOKING AHEAD

- 👉 January 2027
 - 👉 Grade R Teacher Guide
 - 👉 Level RR (Book 1 - 20)
 - 👉 Level R Core reader: Meet Tippie
- 👉 September 2027
 - 👉 Teacher Guides (Grade 1 - 3, HL and FAL)
 - 👉 Anthologies R, 1, 2 and 3

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DOING ENGLISH THE TIPPIE WAY

- 👉 Natural progression following natural child development.
 - 👉 26 Letter-sounds - starting point
 - 👉 Emergent reading - exposure to high frequency sight words (visual structure)
 - 👉 Decodable beginner readers
 - 👉 Progressively adding phonemes in each level
 - 👉 Learning to read (write and spell) in English is a process.
 - 👉 All 46 phonemes covered by the end of Grade 3, one reader and one level at a time.
 - 👉 Grade R - 3 = solid foundation and no gaps.

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SOUNDS

- 👉 26 Activity books
- 👉 A4 size
- 👉 Synthetic sound approach based on SOR
- 👉 Starting point: Gr R/0

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Tippie learns sounds

Learning sounds in fun with Tippie the elephant!

Tippie learns sounds in a fun and interactive way. This series includes early learning and developmental activities to support phonemic awareness, identification and association of letter sounds, letter formation as well as writing and oral presentation skills for each of the vowel sounds. These series include: letter recognition skills and emergent reading learning. A structured approach to learning and recognizing letters with illustrations to support the learning process. Also includes activities to help the child learn to read. Visual learning for each component and early reading is encouraged with an emphasis on writing from left-to-right.

Phonics	Letter sound	Letter formation
Phonological awareness	Letter recognition	Letter association
Phonological awareness	Letter recognition	Letter association

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LEARN TO READ

- 7 Levels: R- 6
- Level RR January 2026
- 20 readers in a Level
- Eclectic and holistic approach to literacy
- Language outcomes link back to what the child read.
- Repetition, reinforcement and progression
- Core reader suggested per Grade
- Consolidation and accomplishment

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Learn to read Level R: Book 1 - 20

Also available as Big Books (A3-size)

What's inside Level R?

- emergent literacy
- vocabulary
- sight words

Co-author: Heloise Maritz

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Level I: Book 1 - 20

Also available as Big Books (A3-size)

What's inside Level I?

- short vowels
- consonant blends
- decodable
- sight words
- progression
- repetition
- vocabulary

Co-author: Jess Anne Cullen

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Level 2: Book 1 - 20

Also available as Big Books (A3-size)

What's inside Level 2?

- short vowels
- simple consonant blends
- decodable
- vocabulary
- sight words
- repetition
- association
- progression

Reader 1, Hello, Tippie! Consolidation of Level 1 and 2

Co-author: Jess Anne Cullen

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Level 3: Book 1 - 20

What's inside Level 3?

- short vowels
- blends
- digraphs
- association
- sight words
- vocabulary
- progression

Co-author: De Wet Hugo

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Level 4: Book 1 - 20

Reader 2, Tippie explores: Consolidation of Level 3 and 4.

Grade 3+ Home Language / Grade 3+ First Additional Language

What's inside Level 4?

- long vowels
- sight words
- decoding
- association
- repetition
- progression
- vocabulary

Co-author De Wet Hugo

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Level 5: Book 1 - 20

What's inside Level 5?

- consonant +le
- r-controlled vowels
- syllable types
- association
- repetition
- progression
- vocabulary

Co-author Lori-Ann Preston

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Level 6: Book 1 - 20

Reader 3, Discover with Tippie: Consolidation of Level 5 and 6.

Grade 3+ Home Language / Grade 4+ First Additional Language

What's inside Level 6?

- complex spelling
- diphthongs
- contextual vocabulary

Co-author Lori-Ann Preston

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BIG BOOKS

- 3 Levels
- R, 1 and 2 - Book 1 - 10
- A3 size
- Extra LTSM
- Preparation and planning easy
- Shared reading

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Learning to read is super easy with Tippie the elephant.

Learn to read with Tippie. Level R are proudly South African emergent readers to support early literacy skills.

It introduces young children to high frequency sight words through colourful, visually explicit illustrations and engaging stories and everyday adventures.

This big book is a teacher's guide with additional classroom resources for group reading and active participation.

- I am Tippie
- Tippie and a frog
- Tippie, Bud and Fin
- Tippie can jump
- Tippie wants Bear
- Tippie likes pizza
- Tippie wants to go
- Look Tippi!
- Tippie likes to play
- Tippie finds animals

Learn to read
Level R: Book 1

I am Tippie

Jose Palmer & Renette Lombard

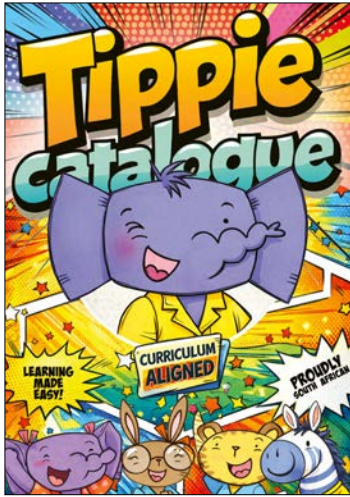
I am not

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ACTIVITY SETS

- 8 Activity sets
- 2 Levels: 1 and 2
- 4 Sets in each level
- Support learning outcomes
- Practical, engaging and concrete

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CONTACT DETAILS

Corné CGrobbelaar@penguinrandomhouse.co.za
(Education project manager)

Jaconette jvandyk@penguinrandomhouse.co.za
(Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Namibia)

Renette RSymington@penguinrandomhouse.co.za
(Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Namibia)

Karen du Preez KduPreez@penguinrandomhouse.co.za
(Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West, Free State)

Sakhi smbatha@penguinrandomhouse.co.za
(Gauteng, KZN)

Helene hdecock@penguinrandomhouse.co.za
(Gauteng)

Reinette Lombard 082 306 7649



Penguin
Random House
South Africa



LAPA

**TELL ME AND I FORGET.
TEACH ME AND I REMEMBER.
INVOLVE ME AND I LEARN.**

– BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

