

KS1 English Resources

Merevale Creek Farm · Book 1 · Zoe and the Great Summer Jubilee

Differentiation notes, guidance on using the book at KS1, and the Year 1 & 2 statutory word lists.

KS1 differentiation notes

Emerging readers

Focus on Chapters 1–4. Pre-teach five words per chapter. Use the feelings check-in before each session. Paired listening works well.

Year 1 listeners

All twelve chapters work as read-aloud. Pause after each chapter ending and ask one question. Short sentences in later chapters are suitable for shared reading.

Year 2 readers

Year 2 readers who are building confidence can access Chapters 1–6 independently. Use the KS1 word lists for pre-reading vocabulary work. Discussion starters in the Read-Aloud Companion support comprehension after each chapter.

EAL learners

Farm vocabulary is largely concrete and contextualised, making meaning accessible without prior knowledge. The fable tradition provides cultural touchpoints across many heritages. The discussion starters in the Read-Aloud Companion work well as spoken language activities before any written response.

Using this book at KS1

Best use at KS1: read-aloud. The book is designed to read as easily at bedtime as in a Year 1 classroom. Vocabulary is deliberately stretching, context usually clarifies meaning, making this a strong inference-building text even for younger listeners.

Interest age: 5+ for read-aloud **Independent reading:** from ~8 **Reading age:** ~7–8

The first four chapters are the most accessible. Chapters 1–4 address concrete, visible lessons (first impressions, honesty, different kinds of ability, patience) before the book moves to more complex social dynamics in Chapters 5–8 (being underestimated, appearance versus reality, self-deception, teamwork) and inner-world themes in Chapters 9–12 (listening to wisdom, injustice and dignity, resilience, belonging and redemption).

Read-Aloud Companion

The Read-Aloud Companion is designed for parents and carers but works equally well for KS1 teachers reading aloud: conversation starters, guidance on sensitive themes, and tips for when a child gets stuck. Available separately at merevalecreekfarm.com/readaloud/.

KS1 Word Lists, Years 1 & 2

Statutory word lists from the National Curriculum (England) 2014. Words in bold, dark green appear in Zoe and the Great Summer Jubilee; the rest do not.

Year 1: Common Exception Words

the, a, do, to, today, of, said, says, are, were, was, is, his, has, I, you, your, they, be, he, me, we, no, go, so, by, my, here, there, where, love, come, some, one, once, ask, friend, school, **she, put, push, pull, full,** house, our

42 of 45 words appear in Book 1.

Year 2: Common Exception Words

door, floor, poor, **because, find, kind, mind, behind,** child, children, wild, **climb, most, only, both, old, cold, gold, hold, told, every, everybody, even, great, break,** steak, pretty, **beautiful, after, fast, last, past, father,** class, **grass, pass, plant, path,** bath, **hour, move, prove,** improve, **sure,** sugar, **eye, could, should, would, who, whole, any, many, clothes, busy, people, water, again, half,** money, Mr, Mrs, parents, Christmas

48 of 64 words appear in Book 1.

Source: National Curriculum (England) 2014, Appendix 1. Free to reproduce for classroom use.