

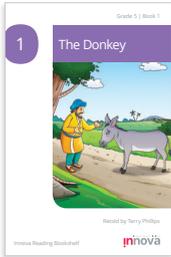
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The Little Tailor



Retold by Terry Phillips

Titles in the Innova Reading Bookshelf, Grade 5



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The Little Tailor



The Little Tailor

Jim was a tailor. He lived in a town with a lot of nice people. "Hello, Jim. How are you?" they said. "Have a good day!" But there was also a gang of young bullies. The bullies made fun of people, stole things from them and even hit them sometimes. All the people of the town were frightened of them. "We're really frightened!" they said to each other.

Jim was very frightened when he saw the teenagers. They made fun of his height. "You're very short!" they said. They made fun of his weight. "You're very fat!" they said. They made fun of his glasses. "Four Eyes!" they said.

Jim was not a brave person. Then one day, something happened to change Jim's life, and the lives of all the people in the town, including the bullies.

Jim was in his workshop that day. It was a very hot day and the window of the workshop was open. The room was full of flies. Jim looked at all the flies and thought, "These flies are terrible!" He did not like killing insects, but he thought, "I can't work with all these flies."

What did Jim decide? Read and choose.

1. "I have to kill the flies."
2. "I have to stop work."

Look at the next page. Check



The Little Tailor

"I have to kill the flies!" Jim decided. So he got a newspaper, rolled it up and tried to hit the flies.

But they were always too quick. He decided to stop and have some lunch.

"I'll have lunch," he thought. "Maybe they'll go home after lunch."

He put butter and jam on a piece of bread. Immediately, the flies landed on the jam.

"Get off! Get off!" shouted Jim.

But the flies got stuck in the jam.

So Jim picked up the newspaper again and hit the jam with one blow. Seven flies lay still.

Jim was very proud of himself. "I'm very clever!" he thought.

Then he had another thought. "Of course, now I have no lunch!"

He threw the bread and jam out of the window.

"The birds will eat it," he thought. He returned to his work table.

After some time, the flies escaped from the jam and flew away, but Jim did not see.

Jim had to finish some trousers for a customer.

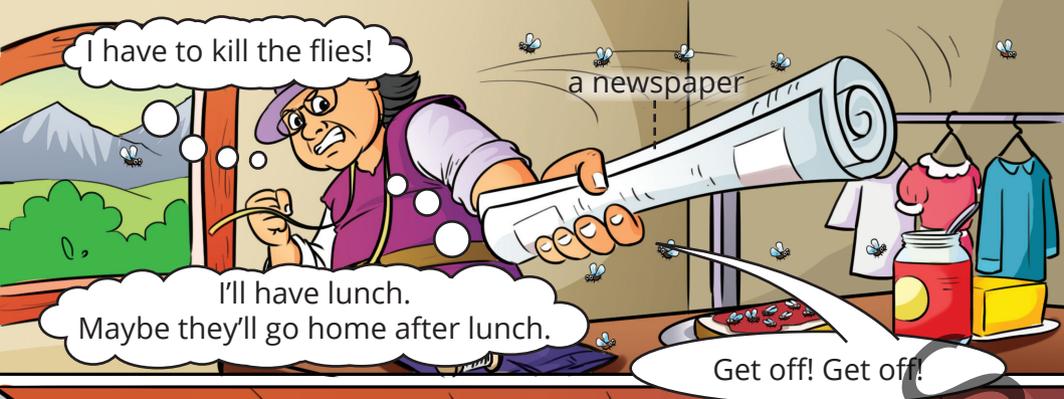
"I have to finish this work," he thought. "But first, I must do something." He took off his belt and sewed some words on it.

What did Jim sew on his belt? Read and choose.

1. I KILLED SEVEN FLIES!

2. SEVEN IN ONE BLOW!

Look at the next page. Check.



I have to kill the flies!

a newspaper

I'll have lunch.
Maybe they'll go home after lunch.

Get off! Get off!



I'm very clever!

Of course,
now I have no lunch!

The birds will eat it.

bread



I have to finish this work.
But first, I must do something.

trousers

a belt

The Little Tailor

Jim sewed SEVEN IN ONE BLOW! on his belt.

That afternoon, he took the new pair of trousers to his customer. In the main street, he met three of the bullies.

They stood in his way.

"Oh, no!" he thought. They made fun of him, as always.

"Hello, Shorty."

"Hello, Fatty."

"Hello, Four Eyes."

The first bully grabbed the new trousers.

The second one knocked his hat off.

The third one saw the words on Jim's belt and pointed.

"Look!" she said. "He sewed some stupid words on his belt."

The first one said, "What do they say?"

The second one said, "They say: 'I'm short and fat!'"

The two bullies laughed. But the third one looked closely and read the words, "Seven ... in one blow!"

The teenage girl jumped back. She was shocked.

The other bullies were shocked, too.

The girl looked at Jim and said, "Did you really kill seven ... in one blow?"

What did Jim reply? Read and choose.

1. "Yes, I killed seven flies in one blow."
2. "Yes, I killed seven in one blow."

Look at the next page. Check.



Oh, no!

Hello, Shorty.

Hello, Fatty

Hello, Four Eyes.



Look!
He sewed some stupid
words on his belt.

What do they say?

They say: 'I'm
short and fat!'

Seven ...
in one blow!



Did you really kill
seven ... in one blow?

The Little Tailor

"Yes, I killed seven in one blow," Jim said.

The bullies were really frightened now.

The first one gave Jim the trousers back and said, "Here you are, sir."

The second one got Jim's hat and put it back on his head. He said, "Here you are, sir."

The third bully said, "Have a nice day, sir."

The three bullies told the other bullies in the town,

"He killed seven in one blow!"

All of them started behaving in a friendly way to Jim and the other people in the town. They said, "Good morning, sir" and "Have a nice day, madam."

The people of the town noticed the change and they asked themselves, "What happened?"

Finally, a woman said to Jim, "The bullies behave nicely now.

It's strange. Do you know the reason?"

Jim said, "I'm not sure. But one of them read the words on my belt and then they changed their behaviour."

"Really?" said the woman, and she bent down to read the words.

"Seven in one blow!" she read.

She said, "Goodness! I understand now. You're so brave!

You saved the town from the bullies."

But Jim did not agree.

What did Jim say next? Read and choose.

1. "No, I don't think so."
2. "Yes, you're right."

Look at the next page. Check.

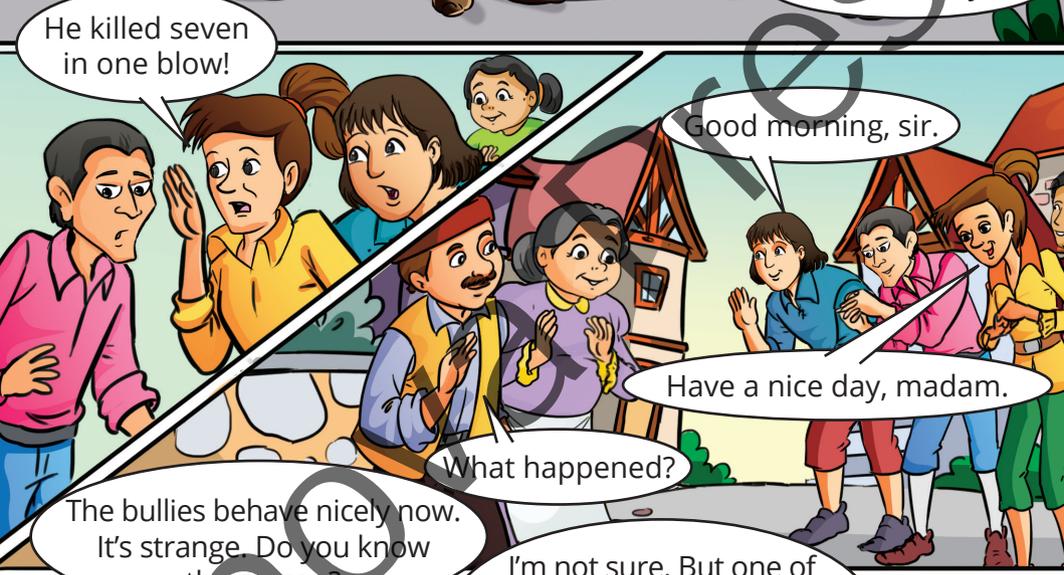


Yes, I killed seven in one blow.

Here you are, sir.

Here you are, sir.

Have a nice day, sir.



He killed seven in one blow!

Good morning, sir.

Have a nice day, madam.

What happened?

The bullies behave nicely now. It's strange. Do you know the reason?

I'm not sure. But one of them read the words on my belt and then they changed their behaviour.



Really?

Seven in one blow!

Goodness! I understand now. You're so brave! You saved the town from the bullies.

The Little Tailor

"No, I don't think so," said Jim. But the woman was certain and she told all the people of the town, "Jim's a brave man."

Finally, the mayor heard the story. He arranged a special meal to thank Jim for his bravery. He said, "We must thank Jim for his brave action. Seven in one blow! Amazing!"

Everyone was at the meal, including two of the bullies. The mayor made a speech. "Thank you, Jim," he said. "This town is a safer place because you're a brave man." Jim came up on the platform and the mayor put a ribbon around his neck with a medal on it. The mayor said, "And now, Jim, please say a few words."

Jim was very shy but he had to speak. He said, "Thank you, Mr Mayor, for this medal, but really, I don't deserve it." The people shouted, "You do! You do!" Jim said, "No, I don't. Listen. It's true. I killed seven in one blow." The people cheered. "But," said Jim, "they were seven flies!"

What happened next? Read and choose.

1. The crowd laughed.
2. The crowd was shocked.

Look at the next page. Check.



No, I don't think so.

Jim's a brave man.

We must thank Jim
for his brave action.
Seven in one blow!
Amazing!



Thank you, jim.

a ribbon

a medal

This town is a safer place
because you're a brave man.

And now, Jim, please
say a few words.



Thank you, Mr Mayor,
for this medal, but
really, I don't deserve it.

You do! You do!

No, I don't. Listen. It's true.
I killed seven in one blow.

But,

they were seven flies!

The Little Tailor

The crowd laughed. They did not believe Jim.

“Really!” he said. “They were flies!”

The crowd laughed again. The mayor stood up and said,

“You’re so brave, Jim. The bullies are just flies to you.”

Jim left the stage and all the people shook his hand and said kind words.

“Thank you,” a woman said.

“Yes, thank you,” a man said, “You’re a brave man!”

Jim left the meal and went out into the main street of the town.

It was very dark. He turned to go back to his house.

But one of the bullies was in the street.

Jim tried to walk past him, but the young man moved into his way.

“Stop!” he said.

“Oh, no!” thought Jim. “Not again!”

What happened next? Read and choose.

1. The young man said, “I want to thank you.”
2. The young man said, “I want to kill you with one blow.”

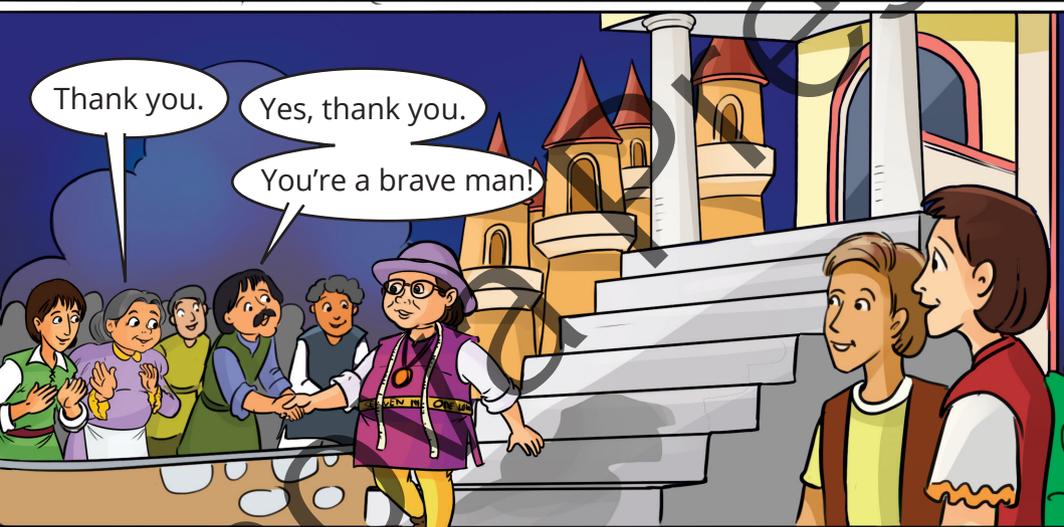
Look at the next page. Check.



Really!

They were flies!

You're so brave, Jim.
The bullies are just flies to you.



Thank you.

Yes, thank you.

You're a brave man!



Stop!

Oh, no!
Not again!

The Little Tailor

The young man said, "I want to thank you."

Jim said, "Really? What do you want to thank me for?"

The young man said, "You changed our lives."

"Really?" Jim said again.

The young man pointed to Jim's belt, then he asked him,

"Did you really kill seven bullies in one blow?"

"Of course not," said Jim. "I killed seven flies."

The young man laughed. "Seven flies!"

"That's right," said Jim. "I didn't say seven *bullies*."

"No," the young man agreed, "You didn't."

The young man thought for a moment, then he said,

"You know, it's funny."

Jim was confused. "What's funny?" he asked.

The young man said, "You were afraid of us, but we weren't brave.

So we became afraid of you, and it changed our lives."

"That's strange," said Jim. "You and your friends changed my life, too."

The two men looked at each other for a long time, and then ...

What happened next? You decide!



I want to thank you.

Really? What do you want to thank me for?

You changed our lives.

Really?



Did you really kill seven bullies in one blow?

Of course not. I killed seven flies.

Seven flies!

That's right. I didn't say seven *bullies*.

No, you didn't.

You know, it's funny.



What's funny?

You were afraid of us, but we weren't brave. So we became afraid of you, and it changed our lives.



That's strange. You and your friends changed my life, too.

Picture dictionary



a bully



a gang



weight



height



a newspaper



a fly



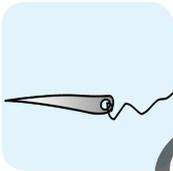
throw / threw



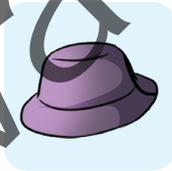
trousers



a belt



sew / sewed



a hat



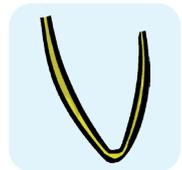
point / pointed



bend / bent



a medal



a ribbon

Exercises

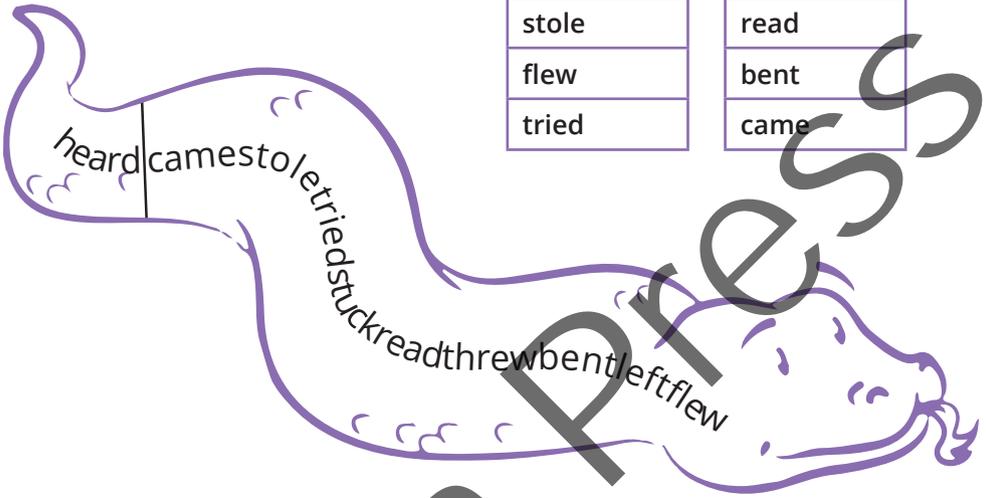
Vocabulary 1

Read the words.

Find the words in the snake.

stuck
left
stole
flew
tried

threw
heard
read
bent
came



Vocabulary 2

Find pairs of words. Draw lines.

frightened

short

fat

amazing

light

kind

full

open

narrow

wonderful

tall

boring

wide

brave

terrible

closed

thin

dark

unkind

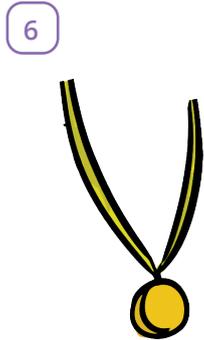
empty

The Little Tailor

Vocabulary 3

Write the numbers.

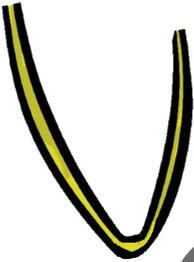
	a bully
	a gang
	a fly
	a newspaper
	a medal
	a belt



The Little Tailor

	a ribbon
	a bird
	trousers
	a hat
	weight
	height

7



8



9



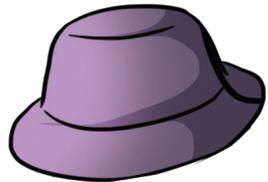
10



11



12



The Little Tailor

Comprehension

Tell the story. Number the sentences in order.

	Jim left the meal and met one of the bullies. He was frightened but the man said, "You changed my life." "Did you really kill seven bullies in one blow?" he asked. Jim said that they were flies. The man laughed and then Jim laughed. The two men became friends.
1	Jim lived in a town with a lot of nice people, but there was also a gang of bullies. The bullies were unkind to people.
	Jim rolled up a newspaper and hit the flies in the jam. He thought that he killed seven flies in one blow.
	Jim sewed on his belt SEVEN IN ONE BLOW! Then he went out of his workshop. He met three of the bullies.
	Jim was in his workshop that day. It was a very hot day and some flies landed on Jim's bread and jam.
	Jim was very frightened when he saw them. They made fun of his height, his weight and his glasses.
	The bullies started to behave well. Finally, a woman asked Jim for the reason. He explained about the words on his belt. She said, "You're so brave!"
	The bullies started to make fun of Jim, then one of them read the words on his belt. She told the other bullies and they were shocked.
	The mayor of the town arranged a meal for Jim. He thanked Jim for his brave action. Jim explained that he only killed flies, but the people didn't believe him.
	Then one day something happened to change the lives of all the people in the town, including the bullies.

The Little Tailor

Grammar

Tell part of the story. Tick (✓) the best way to complete each sentence.

- The bullies made fun ...
 for people. of people.
- One day, something happened ...
 to change Jim's life. change Jim's life.
- Jim was in his workshop ...
 that day. this day.
- The room was full ...
 with flies. of flies.
- Jim thought, ...
 "I have kill the flies!" "I have to kill the flies!"
- He tried to hit them with a newspaper but they ...
 always were too quick. were always too quick.
- Finally, he hit seven flies in his jam and they ...
 lay still. lie still.
- He threw the bread out of the window and thought, ...
 "The birds will eat it." "The birds eat it."
- He sewed ...
 on his belt some words. some words on his belt.
- He went into the street and the bullies ...
 see him. saw him.
- They saw the words and they ...
 was shocked. were shocked.
- The bullies changed ...
 their behaviour. their behave.

The Little Tailor

A poem

[with apologies to Shakespeare]

Jim was a little tailor in the town.
He wasn't very brave. The bullies knew.
They stopped him when he walked around the town.
They laughed about his height, his glasses, too.



One day, he hit some flies upon his bread.
He thought, "I killed them all with just one blow."
He stopped and sewed some words upon his belt.
Then out into the street he had to go.

SEVEN IN ONE BLOW

The bullies stopped him and they read each word.
They suddenly behaved as people should.
The story went around. The people heard.
"Jim stopped the bullies. Now they're very good."

The Little Tailor



The mayor gave Jim a medal. He said, "No! I only killed some flies." The people laughed. "I wasn't really brave. You have to know." He left the medal and went out in the dark.

He saw one of the bullies in his way.
Jim tried to pass him but the man said, "Stop!"
Jim thought, "No, not again!" then heard him say,
"I want to thank you for your action." Jim said, "What?"

"You were afraid of us but we weren't brave.
We read your belt and then we were afraid."

Bullies are not brave, this story shows.
Be brave, and then you'll find, the bully goes.

The Little Tailor

Answer key

Vocabulary 1

heard | came | stole | tried | stuck | read | threw | bent | left | flew

Vocabulary 2

frightened	brave
short	tall
fat	thin
amazing	boring
light	dark
kind	unkind
full	empty
open	closed
narrow	wide
wonderful	terrible

Vocabulary 3

a bully 1; a gang 11; a fly 9; a newspaper 2; a medal 6; a belt 3; a ribbon 7; a bird 10; trousers 8; a hat 12; weight 5; height 4.

Comprehension

1. Jim lived in a town with a lot of nice people, but there was also a gang of bullies. The bullies were unkind to people.
2. Jim was very frightened when he saw them. They made fun of his height, his weight and his glasses.
3. Then one day something happened to change the lives of all the people in the town, including the bullies.
4. Jim was in his workshop that day. It was a very hot day and some flies landed on Jim's bread and jam.
5. Jim rolled up a newspaper and hit the flies in the jam. He thought that he killed seven flies in one blow.
6. Jim sewed on his belt SEVEN IN ONE BLOW! Then he went out of his workshop. He met three of the bullies.
7. The bullies started to make fun of Jim, then one of them read the words on his belt. She told the other bullies and they were shocked.
8. The bullies started to behave well. Finally, a woman asked Jim for the reason. He explained about the words on his belt. She said, "You're so brave!"
9. The mayor of the town arranged a meal for Jim. He thanked Jim for his brave action. Jim explained that he only killed flies, but the people didn't believe him.
10. Jim left the meal and met one of the bullies. He was frightened but the man said, "You changed my life." "Did you really kill seven people in one blow?" he asked. Jim said that they were flies. The man laughed and then Jim laughed. The two men became friends.

Grammar

1 of people. 2 to change Jim's life, 3 that day, 4 of flies. 5 "I have to kill the flies!" 6 were always too quick. 7 lay still; 8 "The birds will eat it" 9 some words on his belt. 10 saw him. 11 were shocked. 12 their behaviour.

For Teachers and Parents

Aim

To develop the **skill of reading** to **non-native speaker young learners**.

Encouraging learning

Classic tales retold with **engaging full-page illustrations**.

A hook at the end of every page: **'What happened next?'** encourages young learners to predict, then check for themselves.

The stories are **fun** and often have a **moral** to discuss in the children's first language after reading.

Illustrations with speech and thought bubbles

Detailed **full-colour illustrations** support every page of prose text. **New nouns** are captioned. The illustrations and bubbles mean that children can understand a lot of the story before they read, or while they read, the prose text.

Audio file

The audio is available for **free** at www.innovapress.com/readers or through the **QR code**.

Exercises and poems

Vocabulary, comprehension and grammar exercises for each story, and **poems**, too!

Level of prose text

Grade 1: **100L – 200L**, 50 – 150 words
Grade 2: **200L – 300L**, 100 – 250 words
Grade 3: **200L – 300L**, 250 – 350 words
Grade 4: **300L – 400L**, 300 – 450 words
Grade 5: **400L – 600L**, 400 – 900 words

Young learners with a slightly lower Lexile level will be able to understand the stories in each case because of the support from the illustrations.

Reading skills in Grade 5

Skill 1: Understanding sentences

Medium-length sentences with basic English sentence patterns are introduced systematically.

Each sentence is on its own line in the prose text in the early stories so children can see the structure clearly, and begin to internalise basic sentence patterns in English. Then the sentences merge into paragraphs in later stories.

The patterns in Grades 5 are:

- all the patterns in Grades 1 to 4 plus
- S V O O, e.g., *Nasraddin gave the man two pennies.*
- adverb and adjective, e.g., *much closer*
- *there is/are/was/were ...*
- *too vs not enough*
- S V *that* S V ..., e.g., *I think that you can carry heavy things all day.*
- closed and open questions in the present simple and past simple
- a small range of modals

Skill 2: Understanding relationships between sentences and paragraphs

Links between sentences – e.g. indefinite to definite article, noun to pronoun – are reinforced from earlier grades, and *this* and *that* are introduced.

Subskill 3: Predicting next events in a continuing story

The 'What happened next?' feature on each page makes this essential subskill fun, and enables a teacher or parent to check how much the young learner has understood about the story and the possible continuation sentences.

Guide for Teachers and Parents

Comprehensive methodology notes

online which include alternative routes through the story, group and individual activities and extension activities for children who finish quickly.

Grade 5

Innova readers are designed by ELT experts in the UK specifically for children whose first language is not English.

- **Classic tales** enable young learners to develop the skill of reading.
- **A controlled syllabus progression** for vocabulary and sentence structure ensures easy comprehension and consolidation of what is learned.
- **An interactive element** at the end of every page challenges young learners to predict "What happened next?".
- **An audio version** is available free at innovapress.com/readers or by scanning the QR code below.
- **Exercises and poems** check vocabulary, comprehension and grammar, and help young learners appreciate English poetry.

