A Big Book of little stories
How to use this Big Book:

As a teacher, you will need to plan and prepare for doing a shared reading activity with your class. Usually when doing shared reading, the teacher works with the whole class, however, if your class is too large, it will be best to work with a group or part of the class. Care must be taken to ensure that learners are able to sit around and see the Big Book so that they can read the text.

In the Big Book shared reading session the child learns how to handle a book, hold the book the right-way up, turn pages correctly. It develops basic concepts of a book – the cover, front, back and title. It also models how the reading process takes place and is important for developing learners' listening, speaking, reading, thinking, reasoning and writing skills as required by the CAPS:

- Develop listening and speaking skills.
- Develop emergent reading skills.
- Answer questions about the story.
- Participate in discussions, taking turns to speak.
- Draw, act out or role play a story.
- Use pictures to predict what the story is about.
- Use shared reading as the basis for shared writing.

Getting ready for a Big Book reading session

- Ensure that all the learners can see the book. If your class is large, rather work with a smaller group.
- You will find it useful to make a book stand so that you do not have to hold the book while reading. (See the instructions to make a book stand on the back cover.)
- Use a ruler or a pointer to point to track words as you read.
- If you want to highlight individual words, you can paste sticky notes around the word to single it out or you can make a ‘magic window’. Use a rectangular piece of paper with a smaller rectangle cut out in the middle and place rectangle over the text so that only one word is visible.

The first session of shared reading

The first session focuses on the enjoyment and first ‘look’ at the text, with the learners giving a personal response to the text.

- Page through the story they will read. Talk about the illustrations.
- Ask learners to predict the story based on the title and the pictures.
- Introduce new or difficult words prior to the learners reading the story.
- Make word cards to introduce new vocabulary.
- Read the story, using expression and varying your voice, speed and tone. Use gestures and facial expressions.
- Track the print as you read by pointing to words with a stick or a ruler so that learners see what you are reading and they associate a sound with the symbols on the page. This will also help them to see the process of reading from left to right and from top to bottom.
- Use this as an opportunity to introduce ‘book language’ such as: words, sentence, page, author, title, etc.
- Let learners participate in the story by joining in on a recurring phase (e.g. “Run, run, run as fast as you can, you can’t catch me – I’m the gingerbread man!”).
- The same story should be read two to three times to give learners the opportunity to chorus language chunks, to role-play activities or to retell parts of the story in their own words.

The second shared reading session

- In the second session the same text is used and the focus shifts to more involvement in the reading with the teacher using the discussions that take place to develop vocabulary comprehension, decoding skills and text structures (grammar, punctuation etc).
- It is up to you, the teacher, to draw attention to the learning focus which deals some of the following: the concepts of print, text features, phonics, language patterns, word identification strategies and comprehension at a range of levels (literal, reorganisation, inferential, evaluation and appreciation questions).

The third shared reading session

- In the third shared reading session, learners should read the text themselves and engage in oral, practical and written activities based on the text.
- Where possible, the shared reading text should inform the shared writing where the teacher models how to write a text and the learners engage in the composition of the text while you take on the role of facilitator and scribe. This modelling of the writing process helps to prepare learners for their own writing tasks.
Ann goes to the doctor
Today Ann feels sick.
Ann feels hot.
She tells Bobo her teddy, “I feel sick. I feel hot.”
Ann goes to the clinic. Mother tells the nurse that Ann is feeling sick.
“Ann is very hot,” says mother. Soon the doctor calls Ann.
“Hello Ann, how are you feeling?” asks the doctor.

Ann tells the doctor that she feels sick. The doctor says she will need to give Ann a check-up.
“Let’s see how heavy you are,” says the doctor.
“Good, you weigh 25 kilograms” says the doctor.
“Let’s see how tall you are,” says the doctor.

“You are 125 centimetres tall,” says the doctor.
The doctor feels Ann’s stomach.

It didn’t hurt.
The doctor listens to Ann’s chest.

The doctor looks in Ann’s mouth.

It didn’t hurt.
The doctor tells Ann, "You are sick. You have flu. I need to give you an injection and some medicine."
The doctor then gives Ann an injection. It hurts a bit.
"Ouch!" cries Ann.
Then Ann asks the doctor to help Bobo.

“Doctor, Bobo is also sick,” Ann tells the doctor.

“Oh Bobo, are you also sick?” the doctor asks.

The doctor listens to Bobo’s chest.

It didn’t hurt.
Then the doctor puts a plaster on Bobo’s leg.

“Now you will feel better,” the doctor tells Bobo.
The doctor gives Ann some medicine. Ann must take one teaspoon of medicine three times a day. She also gives Ann a lollipop. “You were a brave girl, Ann,” says the doctor.

“Thank you doctor,” Ann says. “Please doctor, can Bobo also have a lollipop?” “Oh yes!” says the doctor. “Bobo can have two lollipops.”
Busi buys a bike
Busi always wanted to buy a bike. One Saturday, she went to the bike shop with Pam. A short while later, Busi and Pam were standing in front of a bike they had both fallen in love with: a bright pink bike! They had both tried it out, and it rode well.

She said, “Pam, this is a very nice bike. I wish I could buy it.”

But the bike cost R120 and Busi only had R50. “Now I have nearly enough to buy the bike,” Busi thought.

Soon after, when Busi turned 9, her uncle gave her R50. Busi asked her father to give her R20.
He said, “I will give you R20, but first you must help in the garden.” Pam said, “Let’s get started, Busi.” So Pam helped Busi in the garden.

They cleaned up the leaves and they watered the plants.

“Thank you for helping me, Pam,” said Busi. And then off they went to buy the bike with Busi clutching her purse.
The girls enjoyed riding their bikes. One day while they were riding ...

Oh Pam, it is so nice to ride together.
Yes Busi, this is fun.
I am so glad we both have bikes.
Pam, listen. I hear a cat crying.
Yes! Look – its tail is caught on the fence.
Oh, you poor little kitten!
What should we do with the cat?
I am glad we rescued the cat. Someone must be looking for her.
I saw a LOST CAT poster near the school. Follow me.
I have lost my cat. It is white and ginger and answers to the name of Ginger. If you find my cat please phone Brenda at 01234567.

I will come and collect the cat.

Busi placed the cat carefully in the basket on her pink bicycle and took her home. Then she phoned Brenda. Very soon Brenda came to collect Ginger, and both of them were very glad to see each other.
Welcome to the Big Book series. This Big Book forms part of the wider Rainbow Series which includes workbooks, an anthology, graded readers and posters. We hope that you will find the variety of stories included in the eight Big Books for this grade useful for your teaching and that your learners will enjoy their shared reading experience.

The Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) for the Foundation Phase highlights shared reading as one of the important components of the reading strategy. Shared Reading usually takes place for two to four days a week with each child having the same text to read.

Using a Big Book with enlarged print is an excellent way of doing shared reading because the learners can see the words and pictures, and follow as you read in a way that is similar to traditional family story telling. It is important that they sit around the Big Book, so that they can all see and read the text. The large print of Big Books makes it possible to read aloud to several learners at once in a relaxed and non-threatening atmosphere.

The Big Books in this series will introduce your learners to a range of stories, poems, rhymes and plays as well as information and graphical texts. It is your task, as teacher, to make the stories come to life and to create an environment of fun and excitement. Big Book reading enables you to model the experience of reading in a way that is enjoyable for both you and your learners. We hope that this book will help you to do just that.

Make your own Big Book stand
You will need:
1. Cardboard with the same width as an open Big Book (594 mm) and three times the length (1360 mm).
2. Masking tape.
3. Two washing pegs to keep the cardboard in place.

• Fold the cardboard to make an A-shape and clip the base and the front together as shown below. (Use masking tape to join pieces of cardboard if you do not have a long enough piece.)

Some other ideas for using a Big Book
• Use a sheet of clear plastic as an overlay for your Big Book. It will be useful for you and the learners to write on the plastic.
• Write on the overlay with a water-based washable pen (white board markers).
• Use a clip or peg to attach the transparent overlay to the Big Book.