

Librarian Quick Guide



www.ziptales.co.uk

What does Ziptales offer your library?

Ziptales is an online literacy resource offering teaching and learning tools for pupils and teachers in all levels of the primary school.

Ziptales is based on these principles:

- Children like **reading for pleasure**
- Children enjoy using **digital resources** (PCs and on all devices)
- Children are keen to **interact with the story**
- Children like to **choose what they read**
- The aim of the library is to **promote reading** and to **raise reading skills**



The screenshot shows the Ziptales website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Ziptales logo, a 'SIGN UP / FREE TRIAL' button, and a 'LOGIN' button. Below the navigation bar is a large image of a woman and a young girl looking at a screen. A quote from Sarah is overlaid on the image: "I think Ziptales is wonderful - I really do! It's very child friendly." - Sarah. Below the image, the text reads: "Ziptales is an online literacy library filled with stories, lessons and fun activities!". Underneath this, there are three buttons for "View our content": "NURSERY (Preschool)", "KEY STAGE 1 (P1 - P3)", and "KEY STAGE 2 (P4 - P7)". Below these buttons, the text says "Ziptales is suitable for:" followed by three images representing "Teachers", "Families", and "Librarians". At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Take a FREE Trial" and "Try a Sample Story".

How do librarians access Ziptales?

On the Ziptales home page, choose “Public Libraries”. Find your library and click on the logo or side list link to access your account.



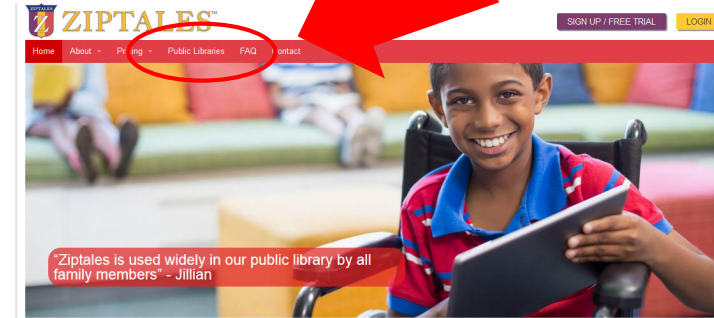
Library Login
Please pick your library region from the list below:

England: FREE access for all residents and schools within these councils in order of A - Z:

- Barking & Dagenham
- Croydon
- Ealing
- Harrow
- Hillingdon
- Hounslow
- Lambeth
- Merton
- Newham
- North Yorkshire
- Rotherham
- Stockport
- Sunderland
- Waltham Forest
- Wokingham

Wales:

- Cardiff



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SIGN UP / FREE TRIAL LOGIN

"Ziptales is used widely in our public library by all family members" - Jillian

Ziptales is an online literacy library filled with stories, lessons and fun activities!

View our content

- NURSERY (Preschool)
- KEY STAGE 1 (P1 - P3)
- KEY STAGE 2 (P4 - P7)

Ziptales is suitable for:

- Teachers
- Families
- Librarians

FREE Trial Try a Sample Story



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SIGN UP / FREE TRIAL LOGIN

Please enter your public library barcode number below:

Login

Don't have a public library card? [Click here to find out how to join...](#)

About Ziptales:

Ziptales offers you 500+ interactive stories with voiceovers, animations, games, quizzes and more to help make reading FUN! This is available for FREE within this council area for all children, parents and schools, either at your library, school or at home. As you need a library card.

More details about using Ziptales can be seen in our interactive guide: [www.ziptales.com/pdfs/LibrariansGuideAUS.pdf](#)



Login using your barcode!

The Librarian Dashboard

The default view on Ziptales is the **Pupil Dashboard**, as seen here.

However, by clicking on the view tab (top left), you can select the librarian dashboard.



This screenshot shows the Ziptales Pupil Dashboard. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with the Ziptales logo, a welcome message for Richard McRoberts, and a LOGOUT button. Below the navigation bar is a dropdown menu with options for Student, Teacher, Parent, and Librarian. The main content area is titled "Pupil Dashboard" and features a section for "Content Libraries" with three cards: "Nursery (Preschool)", "Keystage 1 (P1 - P3)", and "Keystage 2 (P4 - P7)". Below these cards are two buttons: "Reading Level Test" and "Zip Stage Stories List". At the bottom, there is a copyright notice for 2019 Ziptales.



This screenshot shows the Ziptales Librarian Dashboard. At the top, there is an orange navigation bar with the Ziptales logo, a welcome message for Sunderland Librarians, and a LOGOUT button. Below the navigation bar is a dropdown menu with options for Dashboard, Content Libraries, Resources, Help / Support, and Contact. The main content area is titled "Librarian Dashboard" and features a section for "Content Libraries" with three cards: "Nursery (Preschool)", "Keystage 1 (P1 - P3)", and "Keystage 2 (P4 - P7)". Below these cards are two buttons: "Reading Level Test" and "Zip Stage Stories List". At the bottom, there is a section for "Resources" with three icons: a power button, a person running, and a play button.

The Content Libraries

There are three main content libraries:

- (1)Nursery (preschool)
- (2)Key Stage 1
- (3)Key Stage 2

These content repositories offer a variety of online stories and helpful teaching resources, suitable for the class levels and ages defined.



Nursery literacy

Pupils in Nursery can access a variety of useful and entertaining content such as **Learn the ABC**, **My First Words** and **Letter Fun**, as well as a charming suite of **Nursery Rhymes**.

There are also a range of other reading and listening options for younger children.

All come with voiceovers and animations.



Key Stage 1

Pupils in lower primary can access a variety of animated stories in **Storytime**, **Timeless Tales**, **Easy Readers** and **Junior Readers**.

All have voiceovers and come with follow up worksheets.



Example of content for Key Stage 1

The **Easy Readers** are phonics based – written specifically to develop phonemic awareness in the early primary years.

Children benefit greatly from learning the link between a letter and its sound (eg c-a-t = cat) and practising that connection.

The modules in Easy Readers offer amusing ‘lessons’, using a Dr Seuss fun style. They cover short vowels, long vowels and other major phonic families. The text ‘glows’ as the actor reads the words aloud.

Sound button

Easy Readers

Short Vowels

Consonant Blends

Simple Digraphs

Long Vowels

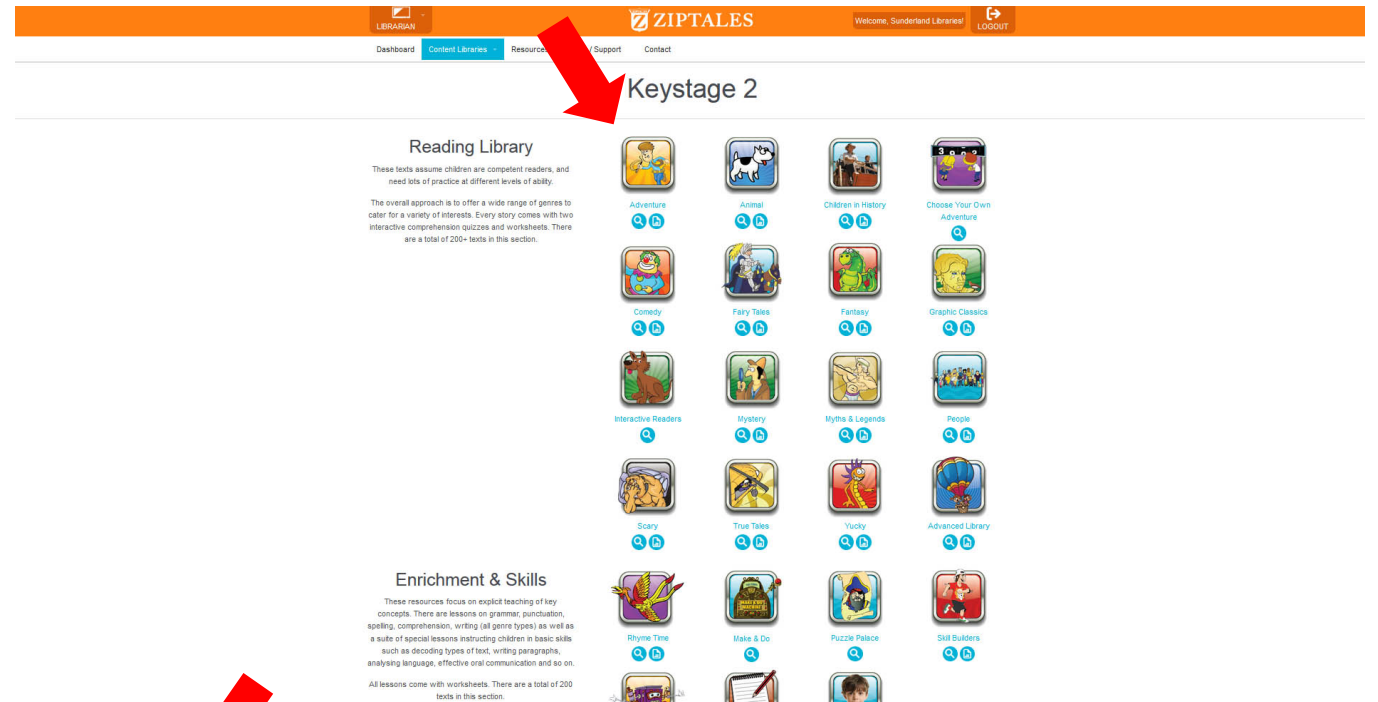
Bad Cat
- short vowel 'a'

Dad was mad.

Key Stage 2

For pupils in middle and upper primary years, there is a complete **Reading Library** of over 200 stories classified according to genre (Adventure, Animal, Comedy, etc).

Each story comes with full text, a professional voiceover, amusing animated art and comprehension quizzes (for instant feedback on how well a child has understood).



Worksheets (Key Stage 2)

The stories all come with a variety of worksheets including **Learning Support, Spelling and Vocabulary, Word Work** and **General Worksheets**.

These can be used for follow up work if the librarian or teacher thinks fit.



Worksheets – Adventure

You will need Acrobat Reader to open and print out the scripts. If you do not have Acrobat Reader, click [here](#) to visit the Acrobat site and download it.

General Worksheets	Learning Support Worksheets	Spelling and Vocab Worksheets
Live Dinosaur Tour Worksheet 1 – Have You Heard of Homographs? Worksheet 2 – Dinosaur Quiz – What Am I? Worksheet 3 – Dinosaur Research Worksheet 4 – My Life As a Dinosaur	Good Dog Dr Wow in Atlantis Galaxy Chase The Pirates' Cave Finders Keepers Dr Wow Old Minty The Pirate's Prize <i>Not available</i> The Eye of the Idol <i>Not available</i> The Forgotten Pharaoh <i>Not available</i> Lost in the Rainforest <i>Not available</i> Live Dinosaur Tour <i>Not available</i>	Live Dinosaur Tour Good Dog Lost in the Rainforest Dr Wow in Atlantis Galaxy Chase The Pirates' Cave The Eye of the Idol
Good Dog Worksheet 1 – Crazy Contractions Worksheet 2 – The Key to Mapping!	Word Work Worksheets (NEW) Live Dinosaur Tour Good Dog Lost in the Rainforest Dr Wow in Atlantis Galaxy Chase The Pirates' Cave The Eye of the Idol The Forgotten Pharaoh	
Lost in the Rainforest Worksheet 1 – Using Commas Worksheet 2 – Animal or Plant? Worksheet 3 – Writing a Recount		
Dr Wow in Atlantis Worksheet 1 – Swapping Synonyms Worksheet 2 – Facts about Mammals		
Galaxy Chase Worksheet 1 – Galaxy Spell Check Worksheet 2 – Story Sequencing Worksheet 3 – Character Profiles Worksheet 4 – Space Navigation		

Worksheet 2

Dr Wow

The Thrill of Time Travel

But his best invention was the TARDIS. Like Dr Who's TARDIS, it involved a box that travelled in time. "It stands for Time and Date in Sync," said Uncle Harry, wiping his glasses with excitement.

One of the most exciting ideas in Science Fiction has always been the concept of travelling in time.

The two best known examples of this are "The Time Machine", a short novel by HG Wells (published in 1895), which has since been made into two films – and "Dr Who", the world famous British television series which was first broadcast in November 1963 – and is still running 50 years later.

There are other stories too. Some say that the story of "Rip van Winkle" (by Washington Irving, 1819) is a "time slip" story, and that the celebrated novel "A Christmas Carol" (by Charles Dickens, 1843) is another, as is "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" (by Mark Twain, 1889) – though they are all strictly speaking fantasies as opposed to "science fiction" (there is no explanation scientifically in any one of them for how the characters get around in time).

(* "Rip van Winkle" appears in Ziptales, under Myths and Legends)

Your task:

1. Find out as much as you can about one of these stories with research (in books and online).
2. Write out a short summary of the story you have chosen (50-100 words), or in the case of Dr Who, of a typical episode.
3. Find some pictures to illustrate the story.
4. Present your summary and pictures to the class.

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Comprehension

The genre stories all have **Fill the Gaps** (cloze) and **Multiple Choice** comprehension activities for pupils to complete after reading the story. These provide instant feedback on how well the story was understood.

The Fill the Gaps is quite simple (largely factual).

The Multiple Choice is a much harder test (mainly inferential).

If a child scores less than 50%, he/she is prompted to “Try again”.

Story: Marion Thomas
Artwork: Kelvin Hucker

Dr Wow

Zip Stage: 5

Billy's uncle Dr Harry was an inventor. He lived on the top floor in what Billy's Dad called the Crankshop. Harry was an odd one.

You may have read in the papers about the madman who crossed the bay in a Volkswagen with floats attached. All went well until the Water Police motored up and asked if he had a licence for his "boat". It was just as well. By the time they got back, the car was half under water. Dad was forced to pay the fine. Harry had to promise to stay on land. Dad dubbed it the "Waterbomb".

And then there was his portable folding armchair. You pressed a button, and it inflated under you. Problem was the weight of a person caused the chair to topple over. Mum ended up sprawled on the floor with the chair still wrapped around her. Dad dubbed this breakthrough "Dr Floppy's Folly".

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Story: Marion Thomas
Artwork: Kelvin Hucker

Dr Wow

Zip Stage: 5

"It's all sorted," said Billy.

"What?"

"I did the composition. And got an A."

"How?"

"Went back to last week. Did it. Handed it in."

"But how?"

"Dr Harry's 'sync your homework to the set date' machine."

"Wow!" said Dad.

You have reached the end of the story. Now, let's see how well you understood 'Dr Wow', by completing the quizzes to the right of screen...

FILL THE GAPS

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Story: Marion Thomas
Artwork: Kelvin Hucker

Dr Wow

Zip Stage: 5

Billy's Uncle Harry was an actor . The TADIS was a time . machine. The first place Billy travelled to was Paris . Unfortunately the locals thought that he was a king . and tried to catch him. Billy only just escaped in time, when he pressed the red . button on the machine's remote control. When he got back home, he told Harry that the past was too sad . On his next trip in the TADIS, Billy went to Sydney . in 2050. Billy was amazed to see that everyone wore a little badge . on their hats. Unfortunately, he got into trouble again because he didn't have a passport . with him. The only good that Billy got out of the TADIS was when he used it to improve his appearance .

See My Score!

Ziptales reading levels scheme

All Ziptales stories in the three main content libraries are levelled according to the unique **Ziptales Reading Levels** scheme.

Essentially, there are **10 Zip Stages**, covering all primary levels Nursery to Year 6 - mapped to the big international schemes

- (1) **Reading Recovery**
- (2) **Flesch** and
- (3) **Lexiles**

For example, a child reading at Zip Stage 5 is typically in the Year 3 to 4 average band.

This is entirely up to the judgement of the librarian however. Ziptales is an 'open' library.

	RR levels	Lexile levels	Flesch levels
Zip Stage 1	5 - 10		Kindergarten
Zip Stage 2	11 - 15		Kindergarten
Zip Stage 3	16 - 22		0.1 - 2.5
Zip Stage 4	23 - 27	100 - 200	2.0 - 3.5
Zip Stage 5	28+	200 - 400	2.5 - 4.0
Zip Stage 6		400 - 500	3.5 - 4.5
Zip Stage 7		500 - 700	4.0 - 5.5
Zip Stage 8		700 - 950	5.0 - 6.5
Zip Stage 9		950 - 1100	6.0 - 7.0
Zip Stage 10		1100+	7+

The Ziptales Reading Level test

Children can access a specially designed **reading placement** or **diagnosis test** to pinpoint the Zip Stage suited to their reading ability.

This takes just a few minutes, and recommends an appropriate reading band – not too easy, not too hard.

All details of the test are provided on the Reading Levels page of the Librarian Dashboard.



Reading Levels



Test instrument



Suggested Stage

The Ziptales reading levels map

Once children have been assigned a **Zip Stage (1-10)**, they can directly access level-appropriate titles using this link.

For example, if a student is assigned **Zip Stage 5** – a list of stories suited to their reading ability appears for them to choose from.

They scroll through all the titles on offer and choose one they would like to read. Clicking on the story icon will take them straight to the story itself.

Happy reading to all!

