



www.scholastic.co.uk/connectors

Colour bands:

Orange

Turquoise

Purple

Gold

Silver

Emerald

Ruby

Sapphire

Ages:

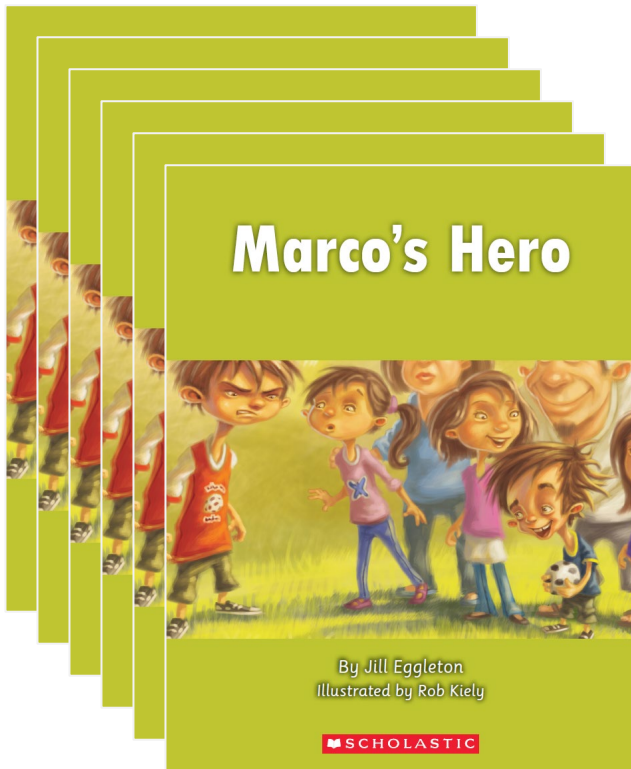
9+

10+

11+



Six student copies





Text Progression

Orange

Turquoise

Purple

A Happy Ending

Forester was put in the tree where his mother was. When he saw his mother, he kissed her.

This story had a happy ending for Suma and her baby. It had a happy ending for Edita, too. A few years later, she had a baby of her own.

Are there any words you don't know?

Let's check: ending

14

Ollie Simmons was good at maths but Ruby Riley wasn't. Well, she didn't think she was. She sat next to Ollie and so she just copied him. This was the best way she had found to do maths. She didn't have to think at all.

Are there any words you don't know?

Let's check: copied

4

Polar Bear Jail

Some bears are so hungry that they wander into towns looking for food. Polar bears have been found digging in rubbish dumps.

In a town called Churchill, in Canada, there is a polar bear jail.

When someone sees a polar bear too close to town, it is caught and taken to the jail. The bears are kept in the jail until they can be put safely back on the ice.

I am looking at this page and I think it is going to be about... because...

Are there any words you don't know?

Let's check: wander

Who has a question about what we have read?

Do you think a jail for polar bears is a good idea? Why? Or why not?

8

Rico and his sister Abby were quite happy living with their mum. They had their own rooms and space for everything. Then their mum went and married Jose.

Jose was OK, but he had three kids. Two girls and a skinny little boy called Marco. Now Rico and his sister had to share their rooms.

It was a disaster! Well, Rico thought so!

Are there any words you don't know?

Let's check: disaster

4

Becoming a hero

Superheroes are characters in fiction stories who use superpowers to save and protect people.

Heroes in the real world do not have superhuman powers, but they do have special gifts. Often they are people who can think quickly, show courage in a challenging situation or care for others. Probably every day someone becomes a hero, or someone will need one.

Heroes come from all cultures and races, and age is not a barrier to becoming a hero. Some are children. They are superkid heroes.

Are there any words you don't know the meaning of or how to say? Let's check: superhuman

4

Drones in an emergency

After the Nepal earthquake, the sky was filled with the buzzing of drones. These drones were fitted with cameras and their role was to fly over roads blocked by landslides to locate injured people or record any damage to bridges or buildings.

The photos provided important information to the emergency crews. In one case they showed photos of houses flattened to the ground in a mountain village. To reach the village by road would have taken over three hours, but the drones provided information in less than five minutes.

I am looking at the photograph and I think this page might be about ... because ...

Are there any words you don't know the meaning of or how to say? Let's check: landslides

Who has a question to ask about what we have read?

What does this information make you think about the speed that drones can reach?

16

Gold

Silver

Emerald



Text Progression

Ruby

Sapphire

Back from extinction?

The discoveries of woolly mammoths like Yuka and Lyuba in Siberia make scientists wonder whether it would be possible to use these remains to clone a woolly mammoth and bring the species back to life.

Some scientists argue that it will become possible to use woolly mammoth genes from the preserved remains. These could be combined with modern elephant genes to produce a woolly mammoth copy. But so far the perfect genes have not been found.

Some people question whether bringing back the woolly mammoth is the right thing to do. Should nature be interfered with like this or should the mammoth remain extinct?

Are there any words you don't know the meaning of or how to say? Let's check: **genes**

Do you brought

18

Amazing forest and lake

Tree tunnel and pink water

Deep in the forests of Ukraine, a railroad runs through a long, leafy green tunnel. The tunnel was made over many years by trains that ran up and down the tracks delivering wood. The trains moulded the trees into a green corridor and the trees adapted to grow to this shape and structure. This amazing green tunnel is like an enchanted wood in a fairytale.

Lake Hillier, in Australia, is an amazing pink lake that looks like a blob of bright pink bubble gum. The lake is about ten times saltier than the ocean. Some scientists think it stays pink because of this and the species of pink bacteria that live in it.

I am looking at the photograph and I think this page might be about ... because ...

Are there any words you don't know the meaning of or how to say? Let's check: **adapted**

Who has a question to ask about what we have read?

Why do you think the trees were able to adapt to change shape?

10

Animal Crime

I predict that this page is going to be about ...

Animal crime sleuths, or wildlife detectives, are like police detectives in several ways. Police detectives are police officers who investigate crimes against people. They sort through evidence to solve crimes. Wildlife detectives also sort through evidence – they just do so to solve crimes against animals.

There are many different ways people commit crimes against animals, such as buying or selling endangered animals or products made from them.

If a crime against an animal happens, wildlife detectives examine clues to link together the suspects, the victim and the crime scene.

4

Wall around a Forbidden City

In the centre of the city of Beijing, a massive wall surrounds the Forbidden City, where the emperors of China once lived. The palace is huge and the protective wall surrounding it is huge, too – about 10 metres high.

The Forbidden City took thousands of workers many years to build. It has four towers in each outside corner of the wall. These elaborate structures show the skill of the Chinese engineers and builders. One of the walls, called the Red City Wall, has a base that is about 8.5 metres wide, but it narrows to 6.7 metres at the top. This structure proved to be very difficult for intruders to climb. The wall is also incredibly strong. Its bricks were made of white lime and rice, and the cement was made from rice and egg whites!

In 1924, the last emperor of China, Pu Yi, was driven from the palace. Today it houses many rare treasures.

Still, people around the world remember this as the Forbidden City. Only members of the imperial household could come and go from the city – anyone else had to have the emperor's permission to enter.

If non-royal people did enter the city, even accidentally, they were executed immediately. The wall was really a boundary between life and death.

12

WOMEN AS SPIES

I predict that this page is going to be about ...

Although most spies in early times were men, there were some women who did this dangerous work, especially in times of war. Women had a big advantage: they didn't arouse suspicion in the same way a man might.

One well-known woman spy was Mary Elizabeth Bowser, who was born a slave. During the American Civil War, Mary Bowser worked as a servant in the home of the Confederate president, Jefferson Davis. Part of her role was to wait on the dinner table. She pretended that she could not read or write, yet all the time she was secretly gathering information. She had an excellent memory and could recall exactly what she had heard Jefferson Davis and his generals talk about.

Mata Hari was a famous dancer in Europe before World War I. She knew many powerful people. This gave her access to information and she became a spy to earn money. She was suspected of being a double agent, working for several countries at the same time. She was Dutch and her country was not at war, so she was able to cross borders without restriction. Her code name was H21. Eventually, the French Secret Service arrested Mata Hari under suspicion of giving secret information to the Germans. She was put on trial, found guilty and executed for her double agent activities.

Mary Bowser

While Mary Bowser spied for the Union army, Belle Boyd gathered secrets for the Confederates.

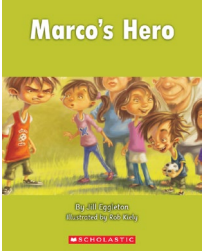
Is there anything we need to clarify?

6

9+

10+

11+



Book Banded Titles (Orange to Sapphire)

What to Do

Choose a face

Remember the colour you have chosen.



When you see your face on the page, you are the LEADER.

The LEADER reads the text in the speech bubbles.



There are extra words and questions to help you on the teacher's whiteboard. The LEADER reads these aloud.

When you see this stop sign, the LEADER reads it aloud.



You might need:

- to look at the WORD HELP on pages 22–23.

2

If you are the LEADER, follow these steps:

1 PREDICT

Think about what is on the page.

- Say to your group:
"I am looking at this page and I think it is going to be about..."
- Tell your group:
"Read the page to yourselves."

2 CLARIFY

Talk about words and their meaning.

- Say to your group:
"Are there any words you don't know?"
"Is there anything else on the page you didn't understand?"
- Talk about the words and their meanings with your group.
- Read the whiteboard.



Let's check:

- Ask your group to find the LET'S CHECK word in the WORD HELP on pages 22–23. Ask them to read the meaning of the word aloud.

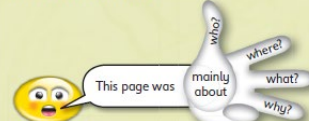
3 ASK QUESTIONS

Talk about how to find out more.

- Say to your group:
"Who has a question about what we have read?"
- Question starters are:
how..., why..., when..., where..., what..., who...
- Read the question on the whiteboard and talk about it with your group.

4 SUMMARISE

Think about who and what the story was mainly about.



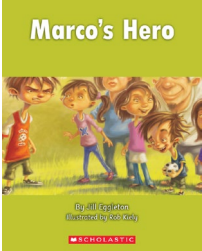
When you get to page 24, you can talk to a partner or write and draw on your own.



or



3



Book Banded Titles (Orange to Sapphire)

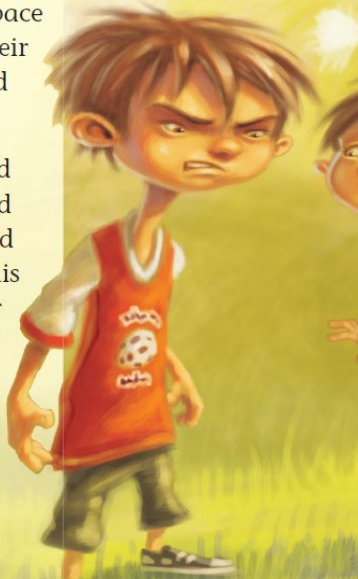
Rico and his sister Abby were quite happy living with their mum. They had their own rooms and space for everything. Then their mum went and married Jose.

Jose was OK, but he had three kids. Two girls and a skinny little boy called Marco. Now Rico and his sister had to share their rooms.

It was a disaster! Well, Rico thought so!



I am looking at this page and I think it is going to be about... because...



Are there any words you don't know?



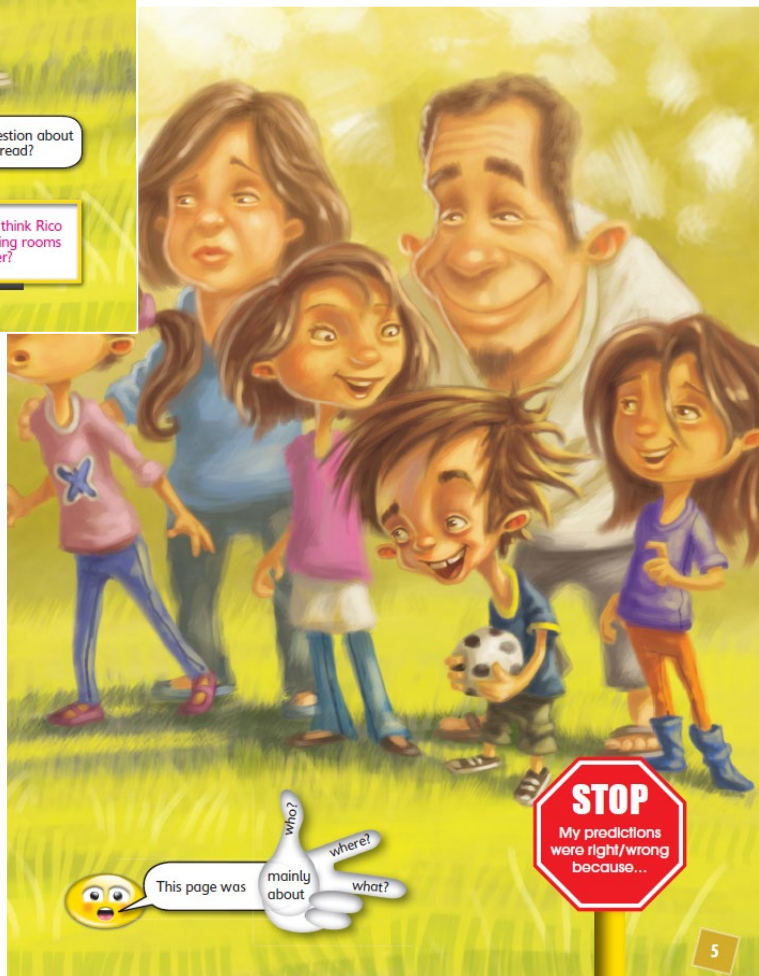
Let's check:
disaster



Who has a question about what we have read?



Why do you think Rico thought sharing rooms was a disaster?



This page was



mainly about

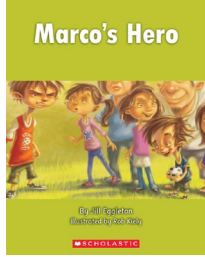


STOP
My predictions were right/wrong because...

Sample pages from a Gold Fiction title



Book Banded Titles (Orange to Sapphire)



Retell the Story



The main characters were...
This story happened at...



The first thing that happened was...



The next thing that happened was...



A problem was...



This problem was solved by...

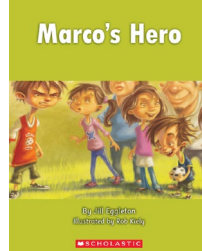


The story ended when...





Book Banded Titles (Orange to Sapphire)



Word Help

Dictionary

chatter to talk fast without stopping

disappointed

sad that something is not happening the way it was expected to

disaster something very bad that happens

fiddling interfering or meddling with something

hurtling moving or travelling at very high speed

internet a way to connect people and get information

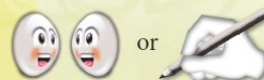
messed interfered or meddled with something or someone

nuisance someone who bothers others

related from the same family

22

Something to Think About



CHARACTER: Rico

At the beginning of the story, Rico was unkind.

Why?



At the beginning of the story, Rico was selfish.

Why?



At the beginning of the story, Rico was mean.

Why?



At the end of the story, Rico was caring.

Why?



24



Interest Ages Titles (Ages 9+, 10+, and 11+)

What to Do

You will need:

- two or three different dictionaries
- a thesaurus
- an atlas.



Now:

- choose a face
- when you see your face, you are the leader
- when you are the leader, it's your job to get everyone talking about the page.

1. Predict

Say to your group:

"I predict that this page is going to be about..."

You can use these things to help you predict:

- photographs
- captions
- headings
- what you already know.

Now all of the group should read the page silently.

2

2. Clarify

When you have all finished reading, find out if the group need to clarify the meaning of anything they have read or any particular words.

Say: *"Is there anything we need to clarify?"*

Encourage your group to:

- use a dictionary to look up unknown words
- compare definitions in two or three dictionaries and a thesaurus to find the best meaning for the word in the text
- look up places in an atlas.

3. Ask Questions

Lead your group in a discussion about what they have read.

Say: *"Does anyone have a question they would like to put to the group?"*

Encourage your group to talk about what they have found interesting or puzzling. Challenge them to create questions about the text.

You could ask: who..., what..., where..., when..., why..., how... or what if...

- If there is a stop sign on your page, ask the question and encourage everyone in the group to say something.

4. Summarise

After discussion, outline the main points of what you have read.

Remember to refer to comments from other members of the group and things that you have looked up.

Say: *"My summary of what we have read is..."*

3

Sample pages from a Ages 9+
Non-Fiction title



Interest Ages Titles (Ages 9+, 10+, and 11+)

Animal Crime Sleuths



Animal crime sleuths, or wildlife detectives, are like police detectives in several ways. Police detectives are police officers who investigate crimes against people. They sort through evidence to solve crimes. Wildlife detectives also sort through evidence – they just do so to solve crimes against animals.

There are many different ways people commit crimes against animals, such as buying or selling endangered animals or products made from them.

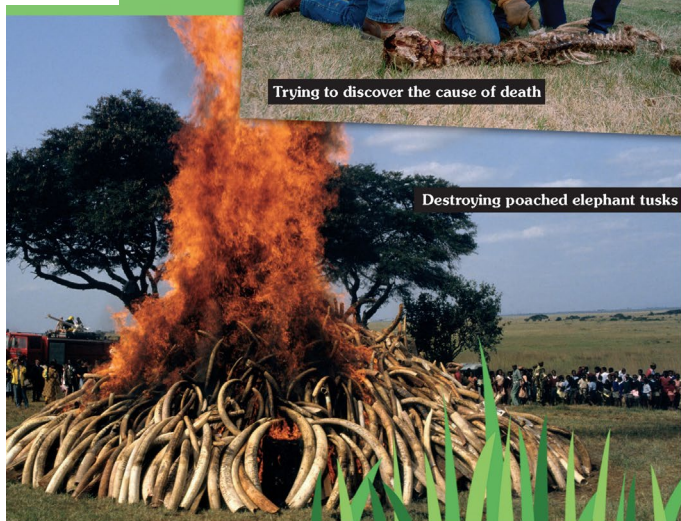
If a crime against an animal happens, wildlife detectives examine clues to link together the suspects, the victim and the crime scene.



4



Trying to discover the cause of death



Destroying poached elephant tusks



5

Sample pages from a Ages 9+ Non-Fiction title



Interest Ages Titles (Ages 9+, 10+, and 11+)



Examining a possible weapon

Measuring the beak of a dead bird

STOP
Make a connection. Have you ever had to solve a problem by piecing clues together?

Does anyone have a question they would like to put to the group?

My summary of what we have read is...

9

The Forensic Park

I predict that this page is going to be about...

Help scientists identify the many different animals and animal species, the crime lab has a warehouse called a Forensic Park. The Forensic Park is full of stuffed animals and animal parts, as well as blood and tissue samples.

There are stuffed animals everywhere – all over the floor and hanging on the walls. There are hundreds of different animal parts in drawers. These can be teeth, claws, feathers, fur, wings and bones.

When animals die, zoos often donate the carcasses to the Forensic Park. Once these remains are at the park, scientists can compare new evidence against the known samples to answer questions and identify species.

STOP
When you read, "there are hundreds of different animal parts in drawers," what picture do you get in your head?

Is there anything we need to clarify?

18

Sample pages from a Ages 9+ Non-Fiction title



Interest Ages Titles (Ages 9+, 10+, and 11+)



Something to Think About



Consequences of working as an undercover wildlife detective



28

Review

Once you have finished reading the book, draw together the thoughts and findings of your group. You may find the following sentence starters useful:

- We learned...
- We thought...
- We questioned...
- We wondered...
- We discussed...
- We argued about...
- We were amazed by...
- We were puzzled by...
- We weren't sure about...
- We want to know more about...
- Three things we remember are...



Sample pages from a Ages 9+ Non-Fiction title

31



The differences between book banded and Interest Age titles

	Book Banded Titles	Interest Ages titles
The faces		
A helping hand		<p>n/a</p>
The 'Stop' signs	<p>The signs are the same throughout each book.</p> 	<div data-bbox="815 955 1362 1023" style="background-color: #90EE90; padding: 5px;"> <p> If there is a stop sign on your page, ask the question and encourage everyone in the group to say something.</p> </div> <p>They do not appear on every page and the questions on them vary.</p>  <p>The "Stop" signs and "something to think about" tasks introduce the 4 other comprehension types.</p>



The differences between book banded and Interest Age titles

	Book Banded Titles	Interest Ages titles
Something to think about	A discussion point, writing task or for the fiction titles a sequencing task	A writing task. The tasks introduce the 4 other comprehension types.
Extra Help	<p>Extra help pages are dependent upon the book and not all of the items will be shown in every title.</p> <p>Types of Extra help pages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where to go to find an answer • Key words for finding out more • “WORD HELP” – a Dictionary and Thesaurus linked to highlighted words in the text (the “Let’s check” helping hands) • “LOCATION HELP” – a map 	n/a
Vocabulary	n/a	More challenging vocabulary for more fluent readers in Upper Primary and Lower Secondary.
Comprehension types	<p>4 Comprehension Types.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predicting • Clarifying • Questioning • Summarising 	<p>8 Comprehension Types.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predicting • Clarifying • Questioning • Summarising • Visualisation • making connections • forming opinions • Inference* <p><i>*Inference only appears in Ages 10+ and 11+ titles</i></p>



Colour Bands:
Blue
Green
Orange

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connectors-starters](https://www.scholastic.co.uk/connectors-starters)



Colour bands:	Sapphire
Orange	Ages:
Turquoise	9+
Purple	10+
Gold	11+
Silver	
Emerald	
Ruby	



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