

Our Stories

DECODABLES

Culturally Rich Decodables for Foundational Skills Success

Our Stories Decodables are written by American authors from diverse backgrounds. Their works offer fresh, authentic perspectives, inviting students and educators to explore narratives that mirror the rich experiences of students.

These decodables reflect research on what stories students want to see. From solving enchanting mysteries to expressing complex feelings, the stories in this collection were written to resonate deeply with and engage students.

A **Review Book** follows every three texts and focuses on consolidated review. Teachers can use observations of students' reading of Review Books as a means to monitor cumulative progress and application of skills.

Title	Author	Illustrator
<p>Big Box Party Dad hosts a backyard party for his daughter and her friends. When he brings out a box filled with hats, the kids get excited. Each child tries on a hat, sparking a joyful cultural celebration.</p>	Joseph DeGuzman	Emily Paik
<p>Dad's Cab Dad, Zack, and Liv are on a fun adventure to see the sunset at a dock in Brooklyn. Their excitement is put to the test when the cab gets a flat tire along the way. Will they be able to fix it in time to catch the sunset?</p>	Joseph DeGuzman	Dione Kong
<p>Jack's Big Trip As a family and their dog set out on a hike to their favorite pond, their day takes an unexpected turn when a duck snatches the dog's toy. Will the duck spoil their adventure? Join the family on their trip and find out if the dog's toy will be rescued!</p>	Nia McCullin	Nia McCullin
<p>Let's Read Review Book A group of kids and their pets read Books 1-3 of the <i>Our Stories</i> collection and discover it's fun to read and discuss books!</p>	Joseph DeGuzman	Martha Aviles
<p>Can Rex and Em Be Pals? Em isn't fond of cats like Rex, her sister Val's pet. But when a bug flies into the house and comes after Em, Rex steps up heroically, getting rid of the intruder. Will this heroic act help Rex and Em become pals?</p>	Nia McCullin	Makenzie MacCarthy
<p>The Big Move This book follows Ben's big move from Maine to California as his Navy mom relocates the family. Feeling sad, the boy leaves behind old friends. Will he find new ones out west? And how will he stay connected with his old pals?</p>	Gabriela Salaah (né Walker)	Nathalia Rivera

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<p>The Red Truck</p> <p>Pops gets a call for a fan repair on a hot day and brings along his granddaughter Trish. An aspiring painter, Trish reluctantly helps her pop. When Trish discovers an art room at the customer's house, she creates a painting of Pops' truck. Pops is amazed by Trish's talent, fostering a newfound appreciation for her artistic abilities.</p>	Layla Allen	Jessica Gibson
<p>Bring It On, Gran! Review Book</p> <p>On a rainy day in Louisiana, an eight-year-old girl feels hesitant about staying indoors with her grandmother, expecting an uneventful and boring day. But Grandma surprises her with a day filled with fun activities like listening to music, reading books, playing pretend, and making beignets. The girl discovers her grandmother's entertaining side and becomes excited about spending more time together.</p>	Rayven Bryant	Maïté Schmitt
<p>Tag Sale Tale</p> <p>With a modest ten-dollar budget, two sisters, Marley and Phoenix, hunt for unique treasures at a tag sale. But first, their dad lays down some rules: Marley and Phoenix must agree on the items to purchase, they must both like the items, and they must share. Marley struggles to meet these expectations as Phoenix finds a dog bone, a dog leash and collar, and a dog bowl. Just when Marley's optimism wavers, she sees some pups that need a home. The family adopts a dog and names her Jazz.</p>	Marty Refugio Pérez	Francisco Santoyo
<p>Kristin Gets Brave</p> <p>In this heartwarming story, Kristin, a shy girl longing for friendship, convinces her parents to bring home a dog that she names Pete. As Kristin teaches Pete tricks, their bond strengthens. During a visit to the park's dog run, Kristin and Pete's captivating interactions not only display their skill, but also empower Kristin to conquer her shyness, opening doors to new friendships.</p>	Chavi' Lassiter	Wendy Tan
<p>Jayden's Sax</p> <p>Inspired by a saxophone player on TV, Jayden's heart is set on playing the sax. He shares this dream with his mom, who takes him to a store to buy a youth saxophone. At the store, they meet a kind music teacher who offers lessons to help Jayden pursue his dream. With dedication and practice, Jayden steadily improves and eventually plays a showstopping solo at his school's talent show.</p>	Simon Moore	Lhaiza Morena
<p>The Rainy Night Review Book</p> <p>On a dark and stormy night, Lan and Matt are reading a spooky story when suddenly, the lights go dark! Then, a mysterious knock on the door sends shivers down their spines. To their surprise, it's Mr. Hitch, the neighbor, searching for his missing cat. Together, they embark on a nighttime search for the cat, uncovering clues in the darkness.</p>	Joseph DeGuzman & Nia McCullin	Mónica Paola Rodríguez

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<p>It'll All Add Up</p> <p>Dee is a math whiz. She's been selected to go to STEM camp, but she does not have the money needed to attend. In a family meeting with Mom and Grandmom, they come up with a creative solution. The family will host a STEM party, where they will sell STEM-themed baked goods and crafts to raise the funds Dee needs for the camp. Dee leads this effort, using her STEM skills to plan and run a successful party.</p>	Dougziana Thomas-Chan	Lhaiza Morena
<p>My Roots</p> <p>It's hair day, and Tyler does not want Mom to cut his hair again. Tyler decides it's time for a change and with his mom's okay, they head to a local barbershop for a fresh haircut. As Tyler steps into the barbershop, he embarks on an eye-opening experience. Not only does he conquer his fear of getting a haircut, but he also discovers a connection to his Jamaican heritage.</p>	Quentin Price	Rachel Moss
<p>Shell Soup</p> <p>Russ shares the funniest moment of his summer with his classmates: a prank on his brother Rudy during a visit to Granny's house. The siblings collect beach shells to prank Rudy, pretending they're for Granny's shell soup. Little does Rudy know, Granny's soup actually uses pasta shells, not seashells.</p>	Priscilla Torres	Francisco Santoyo
<p>Sneaker Ball Review Book</p> <p>DJ is excited to wear his new sneakers for the end-of-year party called "Sneaker Ball." But his friends make him realize that other kids may not have new kicks. The thought of students missing the ball makes DJ sad. DJ organizes a shoe drive with his friends where his classmates customize their own kicks before the big event. Using paint, glitter, and markers, they customize each donated shoe, turning them into one-of-a-kind masterpieces.</p>	Yvette Manns	Ana Latese
<p>My Name, My Crown</p> <p>Shante is excited to celebrate her birthday at school, where everyone gets a crown with their name on it. However, her unique name presents a challenge. There is no ready-made "Shante" crown for purchase anywhere. But Shante's quick-thinking and resourceful parents step in to save the day. Using household items and her creative flair, Shante helps Mom and Dad create a custom crown just for her. With this special crown, Shante is proud of her name, embracing its uniqueness.</p>	Chavi' Lassiter	Tanisha Cherislin
<p>My Coach and Me</p> <p>Win, the star of his middle-school basketball team, is tired of being pigeonholed as an athlete. With the encouragement of his friends and coach, Win begins to realize that he can shape his own destiny. With their support, he learns about different career paths and discovers his passion for science and sets his sights on becoming a science teacher.</p>	Winslow Jones, Jr.	Ana Latese

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<p>Grow Your Fro Garden</p> <p>Debby wishes her hair was long and straight like her classmates'. Her straight-haired peers don't have to spend hours prepping their hair with different products and protective styles. Debby even goes as far as hiding her hair under different hats for a while. Mom and Dad step in to offer support and encouragement. They positively associate hair care with taking care of a garden, teaching Debby to cherish her hair and treat it with care. Debby learns to embrace her unique hair and grows to appreciate its beauty.</p>	<p>Gabriela Salaah (néé Walker)</p>	<p>Katie Crumpton</p>
<p>My Glasses Give Me Superpowers Review Book</p> <p>Zee is a third-grader who struggles with being nearsighted. She is a huge fan of superheroes, but thinks that glasses will make her appear weak. At school, Zee's friends talk about the upcoming eye exam, and Zee is worried. Zee is upset when the school nurse discovers that Zee needs glasses. But when she starts wearing glasses, Zee realizes that glasses allow her to see the world clearly—and that gives her confidence and power.</p>	<p>Sean Miller</p>	<p>Brittney Bond</p>
<p>Shay Goes to College</p> <p>When big brother Josh gets a law school acceptance letter, he screams with excitement. Shay, curious about the achievement, is puzzled. Seeing an opportunity to inspire his little sister, Josh persuades Shay to join him on a visit to the college campus. They explore different departments during an open-house event, where faculty and students showcase their work. The experience proves to be transformative as Shay discovers her calling. One day, she too will earn a college degree.</p>	<p>Ausha Harris</p>	<p>Shellene Wright</p>
<p>The Land We Love</p> <p>At a beautiful local swimming hole, a Karuk sister, her brother, and their grandmother come across a lively group of tourists who arrive with floaties and coolers and leave the beach and swimming hole littered with trash. In an effort to protect their home, the Karuk family creates signs advocating for the preservation of the land. When the tourists return the following day, they become aware of the impact of their actions. The family and the tourists work together to clean up the beach.</p>	<p>Geena Talley</p>	<p>Jessica Warrick</p>
<p>Meera and the Mermaid</p> <p>In this fantasy, a lonely girl named Meera has trouble making friends. When she collects a beautiful shell on the beach and brings it home, she discovers that inside is Shelly, a small mermaid-like creature. It takes a while, but Shelly shows Meera what it means to be a friend. After Shelly goes back to her home in the sea, Meera uses what Shelly taught her, and she is able to make a new friend.</p>	<p>Mayah Johnson</p>	<p>Nadia Fisher</p>
<p>The House of Hip-Hop Review Book</p> <p>Aspiring rapper J. Dot reluctantly spends a summer with his grandparents in Upstate New York. Initially disappointed and assuming his grandparents couldn't possibly help him write his rap songs, he soon learns that his grandparents were at the birth of hip-hop in the Bronx in 1973 and played a role in hip-hop history. J. Dot's perception of his grandparents changes and the three of them begin to build a strong, new bond over their shared love of music.</p>	<p>Sean Miller</p>	<p>Emmanuel Boateng</p>