

COVID Guide

How to use Ziptales in the COVID emergency



www.ziptales.com

Using Ziptales at home

In the current COVID emergency, Ziptales is well placed to offer teachers support in a situation where few children are at school, and education needs to be managed offsite.

You will notice a new button on the home page – as shown.

Please read this page carefully.



The screenshot displays the Ziptales website interface. At the top, the Ziptales logo is visible alongside navigation links: Home, About, Pricing, Public Libraries, Blog, FAQ, and Contact. A 'SIGN UP / FREE TRIAL' button and a 'LOGIN' button are also present. The main banner features a photograph of two young girls smiling while looking at a tablet, with the text 'Everything you want when reading makes most' overlaid. Below the banner, a red button labeled 'COVID-19 Off Site Schooling Plan' is prominently displayed. To the left, the 'Off Site Schooling' section is visible, containing a sub-section titled 'The Problem' which discusses the challenges of remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Below this, there is a section titled 'Setting remote study or reading work' which provides guidance for teachers. At the bottom, a 'View our content' section lists three categories: 'PRESCHOOL Literacy', 'DEVELOPING Literacy (F-2)', and 'EXTENDING Literacy (3-6)'. Red arrows point from the text on the left towards the 'COVID-19 Off Site Schooling Plan' button and the 'View our content' section.

ZIPTALES

SIGN UP / FREE TRIAL LOGIN

Home About Pricing Public Libraries Blog FAQ Contact

Everything you want when reading makes most

COVID-19 Off Site Schooling Plan

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

View our content

PRESCHOOL Literacy

DEVELOPING Literacy (F-2)

EXTENDING Literacy (3-6)

Off Site Schooling

The Problem

With the current outbreak of the COVID-19 corona virus, many schools are getting in touch with us about how to continue meaningful learning for their students, especially if they are in voluntary or self imposed home isolation. Here at Ziptales we understand the immense burden and pressure this puts on our educators, and wish to offer our support in this difficult time.

Some major issues facing teachers in an off site schooling environment are:

1. Setting reading and lesson work for children, aligned with the class program.
2. Monitoring the children's activities and getting feedback on their progress.

Since Ziptales is a completely online reading platform, it offers a range of quality resources for teachers to use in an offsite education environment. The following are some suggested ways to make off site schooling workable through the use of Ziptales.

Setting remote study or reading work

Teachers already familiar with our content will have different ways of using the online stories and lessons they believe will encourage learning.

For those less familiar with the Ziptales package, the best place to start is to get an overview of all we have to offer with our **Full Guide**. This shows every single module of content on Ziptales, listed in ascending age order, from Pre/Kinder up to Year 6. All readability statistics are provided, as well as word lengths, themes and the like.

You may also be interested in our **Curriculum Alignment** module, which maps your chosen curriculum to our Ziptales content.

We also have a **Theme Units** module which assists teachers with integrating Ziptales stories and activities into classroom reading programs using a theme-based learning approach.

(1) Know what is available for teaching

Ziptales assumes that the first major issue for offsite use of the website is teachers knowing what to use or 'set' for work.

We strongly recommend they check out the online 'page turning PDF' catalogue of all content – as shown. It is on the home page *and* the Teacher Dashboard.

This manual or information booklet shows what Ziptales content is available for all levels of the primary school.



The key to Ziptales: The Teacher Dashboard

The **Teacher Dashboard** page is an essential place to start. There you will find vital information on

(1) **Ziptales Reading Levels** (the reading scheme and reading test 'engine')

(2) story **Worksheets** (multiple photocopiable handouts for every story)

(3) a **Full Guide to Ziptales** (a 'page turning' PDF manual for everything on the site)

(4) and **Useful Videos** (a series of very short visual presentations on key content areas).

1

	RR levels	Lexia levels	Finch 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	3.5 - 4.0
Zip Stage 6		400 - 500	3.5 - 4.5
Zip Stage 7		500 - 700	4.0 - 5.5
Zip Stage 8		700 - 900	5.0 - 6.5
Zip Stage 9		850 - 1100	6.0 - 7.0
Zip Stage 10		1100+	7+

2

3

4

(2) How to monitor what children are doing

Ziptales assumes that the second issue for offsite use of the website is teachers keeping track of what children are doing. This is the second vital part of the new Off Site Schooling page.

The Off Site Schooling page shows four different ways teachers can track the work teachers have set.

- (1) Class tracking sheet (for teachers only)
- (2) Student tracking sheet
- (3) My Record (simple tracking)
- (4) Story Map

All details are provided on the COVID special page.

The screenshot displays the Ziptales website's 'Off Site Schooling' section. It includes a header with navigation links and a main content area with a video of two children reading. Below the video, there are four numbered boxes highlighting different tracking tools:

- Class tracking sheet (for teachers only):** A table with columns for student name, genre, story, and various tracking metrics like 'Words', 'Stage', 'Read', 'Fill Gaps', and 'Multiple Choice'.
- Student tracking sheet:** A table with columns for student name, genre, story, and various tracking metrics like 'Words', 'Stage', 'Read', 'Fill Gaps', and 'Multiple Choice'.
- My Record (simple tracking):** A form with fields for student name, story link, date started, date finished, and a section for 'What I thought of the story'.
- Story Map:** A grid of story cards with titles like 'The Three Little Pigs', 'Wendy and the Fairy', 'Let's Get Wet', 'The Little Green Crab', etc., each with a 'Zip Stage' and 'Words' count.

For F/K/Prep to Year 2 teachers

There are 12 categories of work that you can set for children in the early years.

The main 'story' modules are **Storytime**, **Timeless Tales**, **Puppet Plays** and **Junior Readers**.

All details are provided in the 'Full Guide' teacher manual.

The **Easy Readers** are a full set of phonics based texts, each exploring a sound family (see next slide).



Easy Readers (phonics practice)

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

Ziptales takes a much broader view of developing literacy, and is very comfortable with a ‘whole language’ approach, but also deliberately provides an explicit phonics instruction module (*Easy Readers*) for beginning readers, if teachers choose to use it. All details are provided in the ‘Full Guide’ teacher manual.



Bad Cat
- short
vowel 'a'



Worksheets

Worksheets are available for each story and can be accessed under each of the content icons.

These are photocopiable masters for use at the teacher's discretion.

If children and their parents have access to a printer, you simply choose the appropriate sheets and ask them to complete those sheets as follow up work.

If appropriate, the completed sheets could be scanned by parents and returned to the teacher.

The screenshot displays the ZIPTALES website interface. The top navigation bar includes a 'TEACHER' tab, the ZIPTALES logo, and a 'Welcome, Ziptales Master Admin!' message with a 'LOGOUT' button. The main menu features 'Dashboard', 'Content Libraries', 'Staffroom', 'More', 'Help / Support', and 'Contact'. The 'Developing Literacy F-2' section is highlighted, showing a grid of content icons: ABC, Storytime, Timeless Tales, Puppet Plays, Easy Reads (indicated by a red arrow), Junior Readers, Joke in a Box, Puzzle Palace, Rhyme Time, Make and Do, Happy Schools, and Specialised English Lessons (SEL). Below this, the 'Worksheets – Junior Readers' page is shown, listing various worksheets under categories like 'Imaginary Worlds', 'People Like Me', 'Stories From Long Ago', and 'Fun Facts'. A preview of the 'The Lonely Giant' worksheet is displayed on the right, showing missing letter exercises and a drawing of a giant.

For Year 3 to Year 6 teachers

For students in middle and upper primary years, there is a complete **Reading Library** of over 200 stories classified according to genre: Adventure, Animal, Comedy, Fairy Tales, Fantasy, etc.

Each story comes with a voiceover, animations, comprehension quizzes and worksheets (which can be accessed under each content icon).

All details are provided in the 'Full Guide' teacher manual.

The screenshot shows the ZIPTALES website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a 'TEACHER' tab, a 'ZIPTALES' logo, and a 'Welcome, Ziptales Master Admin!' message with a 'LOGOUT' button. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for 'Dashboard', 'Content Libraries', 'Staffroom', 'More', 'Help / Support', and 'Contact'. The main heading is 'Extending Literacy 3-6'. Under this, there is a 'Reading Library' section with a description: 'These resources are designed especially for Extending Literacy 3-6 (Years 3 to 6). These texts assume children are competent readers, and need lots of practice at different levels of ability. The overall approach is to offer a wide range of genres to cater for a variety of interests. Every story comes with two interactive comprehension quizzes and worksheets. There are a total of 200+ texts in this section.' Below the description is a grid of 16 content icons, each with a magnifying glass and a book icon. The icons are labeled: Adventure, Animal, Children in History, Choose Your Own Adventure, Comedy, Fairy Tales, Fantasy, Graphic Classics, Interactive Readers, Mystery, Myths & Legends, People, Scary, True Tales, Yucky, and Advanced Library. At the bottom left, there is a small image of a book cover titled 'ADVENTURE LAND' showing a character in a jungle setting.

Worksheets (Years 3 to 6)

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

These are photocopiable masters for use at the teacher's discretion.

Here the teacher can make a conscious choice about what sort of exercise to set – a general one, a spelling one, one focussed on words, a Learning Support one.

It will vary with the Individual child.



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

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
[Worksheet 1](#) – Crazy Contractions
[Worksheet 2](#) – The Key to Mapping!

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

Learning Support Worksheets

[Good Dog](#)
[Dr Wow in Atlantis](#)
[Galaxy Chase](#)
[The Pirates' Cave](#)
[Finders Keepers](#)
[Dr Wow](#)
[Old Minty](#)
[The Pirate's Prize](#) *Not available*
[The Eye of the Idol](#) *Not available*
[The Forgotten Pharaoh](#) *Not available*
[Lost in the Rainforest](#) *Not available*
[Live Dinosaur Tour](#) *Not available*

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](#)

Spelling and Vocab Worksheets

[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](#)
[Old Minty](#)
[Finders Keepers](#)
[Dr Wow](#)
[The Pirates' Cave](#)

Answer Sheets

[Cloze and Comprehension](#)
[General Vocabulary](#)
[Learning Support](#)

Worksheet 2

Dr Wow

The Thrill of Time Travel

But his best invention was the TADIS. 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:

- Find out as much as you can about one of these stories with research (in books and online).
- 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.
- Find some pictures to illustrate the story.
- Present your summary and pictures to the class.

© 2000
Extending Literacy / Adventure

Example of a story

The stories all have **Fill the Gaps** (cloze) and **Multiple Choice** comprehension activities for students to complete after reading the story.

These provide instant feedback on how well the story was understood. A low score sees the child prompted to 'Try again'.

It is these scores that can be recorded using the various tracking sheets mentioned earlier.


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.



FILL THE GAPS

MULTIPLE CHOICE

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...

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 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

A reminder that all Ziptales stories are levelled according to the unique **Ziptales Reading Levels** scheme.

Essentially, there are **10 Zip Stages**, mapped to the **Reading Recovery**, **Flesch** and **Lexile** reading difficulty systems.

For example, if a child is reading at Zip Stage 5, he/she is effectively in the Year 3-4 class level average. There is a special way of testing this – see following slide.

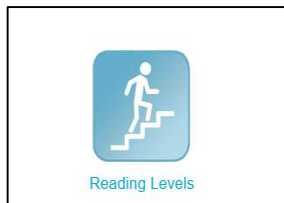
	RR levels	Lexile levels	Flesch levels
Zip Stage 1	5 - 10		Kindergarten
Zip Stage 2	11 - 15		Kindergarten
Zip Stage 3	16 - 22		0.1 - 2.5
Zip Stage 4	23 - 27	100 - 200	2.0 - 3.5
Zip Stage 5	28+	200 - 400	2.5 - 4.0
Zip Stage 6		400 - 500	3.5 - 4.5
Zip Stage 7		500 - 700	4.0 - 5.5
Zip Stage 8		700 - 950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

Ziptales' Reading Level test

Students can access a specially designed **reading placement 'engine'** to pinpoint the Zip Stage suited to their reading ability.

Teachers need to guide students to the right story, if they have not already done this in class. The test, if you choose to do it, takes just a few minutes, and recommends an appropriate reading level – not too easy, not too hard.

All instructions for this test are provided in the 'Reading Levels' page on the Teacher Dashboard.



Ziptales' reading levels matrix

Once students have been assigned a **Zip Stage**, by the test, or the teacher, they can directly access level-appropriate titles using this list.

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.

Once the student is reading texts, the monitoring or tracking methods mentioned earlier come into play.

Ziptales Genre Stories			
Colour each block once you have read the story			
Storytime	Storytime	Easy Readers	Easy Readers
The Three Little Pigs <small>(Zip Stage 1 (215 words))</small>	Wendy and the Fairy <small>(Zip Stage 2 (475 words))</small>	Let's Get Wet	The Little Green Crab
The Billy Goats Gruff <small>(Zip Stage 3 (475 words))</small>	Wendy and the Pirate	Bob the Frog	At The Playground
Goldilocks and the Three Bears <small>(Zip Stage 3 (264 words))</small>	Wendy and the Dragon <small>(Zip Stage 3 (395 words))</small>	I Wish	Play All Day
Little Red Riding Hood <small>(Zip Stage 3 (452 words))</small>	Wendy and the Genie <small>(Zip Stage 3 (350 words))</small>	Bad Cat	Have You Ever...

The screenshot shows the Ziptales interface. At the top is the 'Student Dashboard' with a 'Content Libraries' section containing three icons: 'Preschool Literacy', 'Developing Literacy F-2', and 'Extending Literacy 3-6'. Below these are buttons for 'Reading Level Test' and 'Zip Stage Stories List'. A red arrow labeled '1' points to the 'Zip Stage Stories List' button. Below this is the 'Zip Stage Story List' page. On the left is a vertical list of buttons for 'Zip Stage 1' through 'Zip Stage 10'. A red arrow labeled '2' points to this list. On the right is a grid of story cards. A red arrow labeled '3' points to the 'Loose Undies' story card, which is highlighted with a red box. The story cards include titles like 'Tortured by Fairies', 'Loose Undies', 'Hiccups', 'Starkers', 'Time to Own Up', 'The Fool Fails', 'Accused', 'Spaghetti Face', and 'What's That Smell?'. Each card has a small illustration and the title.

Specialised English Lessons (SEL)

A reminder too about Ziptales **Specialised English Lessons**.

These lessons cover all outcomes of the English curriculum from Foundation/Prep – Year 6. Each lesson is animated with a voiceover and offers follow up classroom activities.

Lessons appropriate for each year level can be located quickly and easily via the red **Filters** button.

Teachers can select lessons suitable for their students. The children can read the lesson, listen to the voiceover, and then do the exercises for each.

The screenshot displays the Ziptales Specialised English Lessons (SEL) website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home', 'About Us', 'Contact Us', and 'Help'. Below this, a section titled 'Extending Literacy 3-6' features a 'Reading Library' and 'Enrichment & Skills' with various icons. A large red arrow points to the 'Filters' button on the left side of the main content area. The main content area is titled 'ZIPTALES Specialised English Lessons (SEL)' and has a 'FILTERS' button. Below the filter button, there's a list of filters: 'YEAR LEVEL' (Foundation, Years 1/2, Years 3/4, Years 5/6) and 'THEME' (Asking Questions, Authors Use of Language, Comprehension Skills, Digital Texts, Editing Skills, Expressing Opinions, Grammar, Language Features, Multimodal Texts). The 'YEAR LEVEL' filter is set to 'Years 3/4'. The 'THEME' filter is set to 'Different Texts, Same Theme'. The main content area shows a grid of lesson cards. A red arrow points to the 'Different Texts, Same Theme' lesson card, which is highlighted with a red border. The lesson card is titled 'Different Texts, Same Theme' and is for 'Years 3/4 | Reading | Comprehension Skills'. Other lesson cards visible include 'Better Writing', 'Capturing Readers', 'Conversations (Part A)', 'Conversations (Part B)', 'Describing a Setting', 'Developing Reading Skills', 'Did You? Didn't You? (Questions)', 'Digital Texts', and 'Enjoying Texts'.

Ziptales' Curriculum Alignment matrix

The **Curriculum Alignment** link features a scope and sequence chart for each primary year level mapping every content description (Australia), or indicator (NZ), in the English curriculum to a related Ziptales activity.

The curriculum document (word for word) is displayed on the left. The appropriate Ziptales activity to help teacher it is displayed (with live links) on the right.

Teachers can assign suitable elements of the Ziptales content bank to achieve curriculum outcomes.

The screenshot displays the Ziptales Curriculum Alignment interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes links for Dashboard, Content Libraries, Staffroom, More, Help / Support, and Contact. The main heading is "Curriculum Alignment". Below this, a sub-heading states: "The Curriculum Alignment is a direct connection between the Australian and New Zealand English curricula and Ziptales stories, activities, and Specialised English". A prompt asks the user to "Please select your desired curriculum and year level below". Three curriculum options are presented: Australian Curriculum (Foundation | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6), New South Wales Syllabus (Early Stage 1 | Stage 1 | Stage 2 | Stage 3), and New Zealand Curriculum (Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3). A large red arrow points from the Australian Curriculum Year 5 selection to a detailed view of the curriculum alignment for Year 5. This view shows a table with two columns: "Language variation and change" and "Language for interaction". Each column contains a "Content Description" and a list of "Related Ziptales Activities". A second red arrow points from the "Related Ziptales Activities" list in the "Language for interaction" column to a specific activity link.

Curriculum Alignment

The Curriculum Alignment is a direct connection between the Australian and New Zealand English curricula and Ziptales stories, activities, and Specialised English

Please select your desired curriculum and year level below

Australian Curriculum:
Foundation | Year 1 | Year 2
Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6

New South Wales Syllabus:
Early Stage 1 | Stage 1
Stage 2 | Stage 3

New Zealand Curriculum:
Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3

Australian Curriculum - Year 5

Language: [Language](#) [Literacy](#) [Thinking](#)

Language variation and change

Content Description:
Understand that the pronunciation, spelling and meanings of words have histories and change over time

Related Ziptales Activities:

- Specialised English Lessons: [SpellingClimbing \(Yrs 5 & 6\)](#)
- Why is English Spelt So Strangely?
- Use Spelling module 4.1 in *Still Business* to study the history of the English Language

Language for interaction

Content Description:
Understand that patterns of language interaction vary across social contexts and types of texts and that they help to signal social roles and relationships

Related Ziptales Activities:

- Specialised English Lessons: [Oral Language Module: Speaking and Listening \(Yrs 5 & 6\)](#) [Why Are You Talking So?](#)
- Discuss how language use differs depending on the social context using a *Extending Literacy Library* story such as *The Captain's Curse (Cursey Capers)*

Content Description:
Understand how to move beyond making base assertions and take account of differing perspectives and points of view

Related Ziptales Activities:

- Specialised English Lessons: [Oral Language Module: Expressing Opinions \(Yrs 5 & 6\)](#) [Talking about Feelings](#)