Storms, Sheep, and Sunsets in the Western Mountains

... A book to be read to and by young people learning to read



By Ronald E. Johnson, C.Ph.D

Book 10 of 10

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INTRODUCTION

This is book 10 in the Learning to Read series. It is designed to follow the previous nine books in which readers have been introduced to basic phonetic decoding skills couched in engaging narratives.

This book expands readers' knowledge about pronouncing, spelling, and writing English words. As in previous books in the series, vocabulary words are either bolded or underlined, and divided into syllables to assist readers in pronouncing multi-syllable words. Definitions are included in sections labeled "Words to Learn." Book 10 also introduces readers to descriptive prose with the intent to inspire readers to become writers.

Activity pages (in a center pop-out) are included to engage readers to retain reading skills provided in this book.

Most youth at one time or another pretend to be cowboys on open ranges and pioneers in covered wagons following the sun **westward** (west-ward). The history of America was carved out by brave men and women who **challenged** (chal-lenged) trails that wound through dangerous deserts, forests, canyons, and mountains.

Words to learn:

Westward: to the west

Challenged: dared to enter



The west still lures travelers to deserts, canyons, and mountains that are both **majestic** (ma-jes-tic) and terrible. Deep, rocky gashes on forested slopes seem harsh and barren, until eyes **detect** (de-tect) shades of delicate yellow and white flowers **nestled** (nes-tled) among red rocks, purple brush, and brown sand.



Words to learn:

Majestic: grand, beautiful, splendid

Detect: to discover or find

Nestled: set, resting in a place



At sunset, western skies splash **vivid** (viv-id) colors of pink, red, and amber against baby-blue skies dotted with **wisps** of white clouds. Sometimes, the lazy-like clouds become angry, black, and purple **menaces** (men-ac-es) that thrust yellow thunder bolts crashing **violently** (vi-o-lent-ly) against desert cactus.



Words to learn:

Vivid: clear, in focus,

Wisps: thin, hazy

Menaces: dangerous, troubling

Violently: angrily, furiously

During summer evenings just before darkness wraps around tan, red, and chocolate cliffs, sunsets often fade from splendid, sun-splashed **panoramas** (pan-o-ram-as) to **foreboding** (fore-bod-ing) and mysterious thunder storms. The dark clouds growl and dump **torrents** (tor-rents) of rain that rush down gullies and streams.



Words to learn:

Panoramas: big view

Foreboding: coming evil, danger

Torrents: big sheets of rain

Spectacular (spec-tac-u-lar) yellow, white, and gold lightning bolts leap from grey and black clouds to spear red rocks and green forests. Afterward, a peaceful calm settles over the scene. A yellow moon smiles over a distant ridge in the east. A hush tiptoes over the deserts and mountains. Birds chirp "goodnight" to whomever will listen. The **delicate** (del-i-cate) tinkling of bells on sheep gradually grows silent.



Words to learn:

Spectacular: vivid, grand, pleasing view

Delicate: fragile, soft



ACTIVITIES

1. Copy these words in cursive:

Westward _____

Horses _____

Beautiful _____

Majestic _____

Dangerous _____

Spectacular _____

Forest _____

Occasional _____

Divine _____

Turbulent _____

Tranquility _____

Detectable _____

2. Complete the following sentences with words from the book.

a. The history of America was carved out by brave _____ and _____ who challenged trails, deserts, and forests.

b. At _____, western skies splash vivid colors of pink, red, and amber over mountains and valleys.

c. Dark storm clouds dump torrents of _____ on gullies and streams.

d. Gold lightening _____ leap from grey and black clouds to spear red rocks and green forests.

e. Delicate tinkling _____ on sheep make a pleasant sound.

(Continued from page 2) Complete the following sentences with words from the book.

f. An occasional hoot from an _____ raises goosebumps on humans as they sit quietly to muse on the meaning of life.

g. Nature comes alive as sleepy _____ raise their drooping petals toward the eastern sun.

h. Baby elk leap, _____, and jump for the great joy of life.

i. Streams bubble and splash across _____ as if worshipping the Creator of mountain majesty.

j. A rainbow smiles as if to apologize for a _____that disturbs the mountains with thunder and rumblings.

3. Draw and color a rainbow spread over a mountain valley.

4. Use the following words to write three sentences about sheep, sunsets, or storms: trails, forests, canyons, mountains, sky, red.

5. Draw an owl

6. Draw lines to connect the words with the correct definitions.

Deer	Hoots at night
Owl	Rumbles and thunders
Sheep	Made all things and people
Coyote	Ridden by people in moutains
Horse	Has white wool and black hooves
Storm	Has big ears and brown eyes
Creator	Howls in moonlight when hungry
Bird	Chirps and twitters in trees
Families	Hug and say, “I love you.”

7. Draw a sheep and label the ears, hooves, tail, eyes, and wool.

A lonely coyote howls his hunger after slipping from his den to search



for dinner. The night silence can almost be felt. The only **detectable** (de-tect-able) sound is a gentle breeze that softly flutters pine needles and willow leaves. An **occasional** (oc-ca-sion-al) hoot from an unseen owl drifts across the night sky to raise goosebumps on humans as they sit quietly to muse, ponder, and reflect on the meaning of life.



Words to learn:

Detectable: noticed

Occasional: every once in awhile

A **mysterious** (mys-te-ri-ous) peace and **tranquility** (tran-quil-i-ty) wraps around troubled minds and emotions. Discouraging thoughts are pushed aside and replaced with wonderful hope and noble dreams. A sense of **Divine** (Di-vine) presence snuggles around turbulent souls.

Words to learn:

Mysterious: curious, exciting

Tranquility: peaceful calm

Divine: God



During morning hours, the sun breaks the mountain darkness. Birds greet the dawn with cheerful twitters. A regal eagle screeches his sense of majesty over his kingdom. Nature comes alive as sleepy flowers raise their drooping petals toward the eastern sun.



A mother elk nudges her calf into a meadow, lush with long, dew-drenched blades of grass. Soon, another elk with her **frolicking** (frol-ick-ing) calf enters the meadow. The two youth leap, run, and jump for the great joy of life. Rays of yellow sun splash on morning dew to sparkle like a thousand diamonds on a sea of green carpet.





Words to learn:

Frolicking: playing, dancing, jumping

A nearby stream bubbles **musically** (mu-si-cally) across pebbles, as if worshiping the Creator of mountain majesty. Such splendor raises in the human soul a desire to be noble, good, and grateful – to resist evil and to be a source of love toward family, friends, and neighbors.



Words to learn:

Musically: a pleasant sound

Soul: One's innermost being

An early morning shower over a distant mountain range births a beautiful rainbow that shoves the angry clouds aside, and the storm creeps away **sheepishly** (sheep-ish-ly). The rainbow smiles as if to apologize for its cousin, storm, making a disturbing racket of thunder and rumblings. All nature **applauds** (ap-plauds). Boys and girls, moms, dads, and friends glance at one another. **Impulsively** (im-pul-sive-ly), they hug and say, "I love you."



Words to learn:

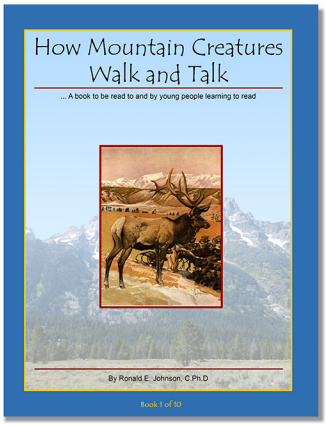
Sheepishly: timid, slowly

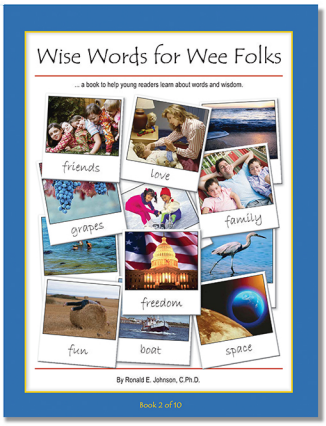
Applauds: claps with hands

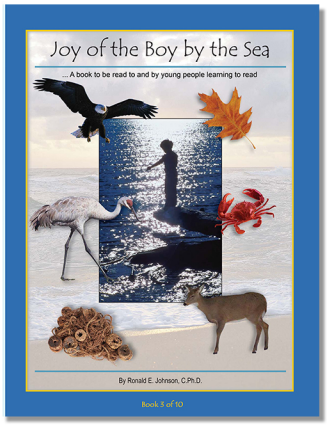
Impulsively: sudden action, desire

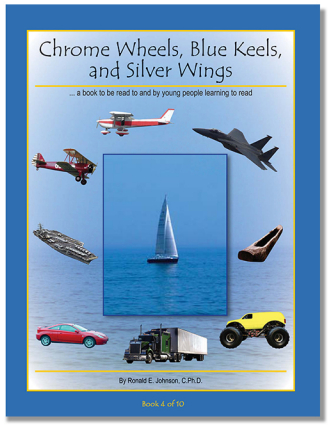


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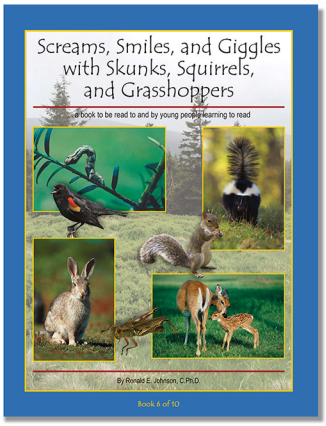


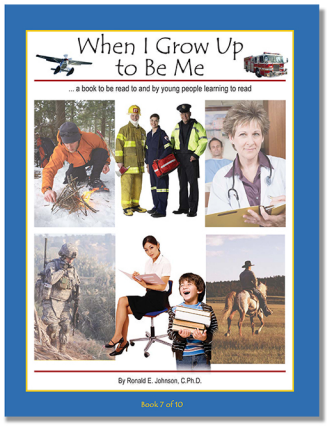


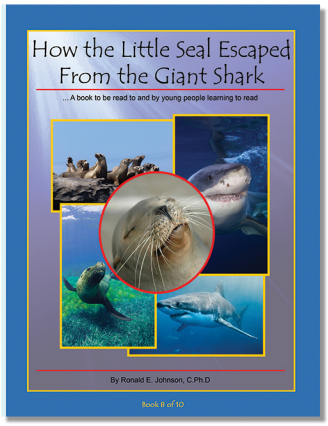


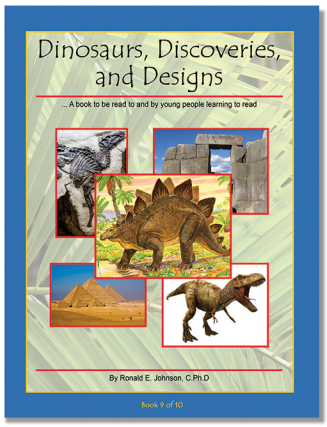


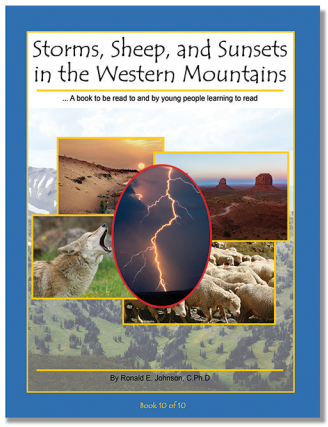












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