

Bloom Session 7

In this session, we will learn how to create a decodable reader in Bloom. The data files for this session are found in the subfolder Data\Reader.

Start Bloom.

Choose a Collection

1. The main window appears. Click **Other Collections**.

The **Open/Create Collection** dialog box appears.

2. Select the **English Books** collection.

The main window reappears.

Create a book

1. In the **Sources for New Books** pane, select **Decodable Reader** template.
2. Click **Make a book using this source**.
3. We will be using the Decodable Reader tool to create the reader. Decodable reader allows you to introduce letter and sight words in various stages In the **Decodable Reader Tool** pane, click **Set up Stages**.
4. First we want to add the graphemes that need to be taught. Click on the **Letters** tab. Copy the letters found in the file Letters.txt and paste them into the **Letters and Letter Combinations** textbox. Or you could just type them in.
5. Second we want to use a word list that can be used as suggested words for the book. Click on the **Samples Words** tab. We could type or paste in the suggested words in the **Type Words Here** textbox. Or we can have the suggested words in a UTF-8 text file. Click **Sample Texts Folder**. Copy the text file (EnglishWords.txt) into the Sample Texts subfolder. This is subfolder that Bloom uses for getting suggested words. Close the subfolder. Now the path of the file is displayed in the **Place Text Files** textbox.
6. Third we want to create the various stages for decodable readers. Click the **Decodable Stages** tab. Stage 1 already exists. We just need to define it. Click **Stage 1**. In the **Previous and New Letters** table, select the letters for stage 1 (DecodableStages.txt). In the **New Sight Words** textbox, add the sight words separated by spaces (SightWords.txt).

To add the next stage, click Add **Stage**. In the **Previous and New Letters** table, select the letters for stage 2 (Stages.txt).

To add the next stage, click Add **Stage**. In the **Previous and New Letters** table, select the letters for stage 3 (Stages.txt).

To add the next stage, click Add **Stage**. In the **Previous and New Letters** table, select the letters for stage 4 (Stages.txt).

To add the next stage, click Add **Stage**. In the **Previous and New Letters** table, select the letters for stage 5 (Stages.txt).

All the letters should be selected. Now you are ready to create our reader. Click **OK**.

7. Note we are now ready to create a reader for a stage 1 reader. If we want to create a reader for another stage, change the stage number by clicking the adjacent arrows.

In the **Front Cover** page, enter a title (e.g. Dick and Jane) for the book and insert a picture from the **Image Galleries**.

Add a page to the book. (Click on **Add Page** in the **Pages** pane. Then click **Add This Page for Basic Text & Picture**.) In the new page, insert a picture of a boy from **Image Galleries** and enter some text (e.g. **See Dick run. See Sam run.**)

Add a page to the book. In the new page, insert a picture of a girl from the **Image Galleries** and enter some text (e.g. **Mom sees Jane. Jane sees a mouse.**) What happens if you change **mouse** to **house**? Why? What happens if you change **Mom** to **Dad**? Why?

Exercises

1. Create a stage 2 decodable reader of four pages.
2. Create a stage 3 decodable reader of four pages.