

# **Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics Word Analysis**

Demonstrating the Comprehensiveness  
of Samuel L. Blumenfeld's  
Intensive Beginning Reading Primer

Listing the 3,033 Words in Alphabetical Order

Accompanied by Notes and Observations

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# Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics Word Analysis

by Donald L. Potter

November 23, 2010

a Abby Abe Abe's able absent ace ache act action ad admission aft after again against age  
aid ail aim air airplane aisle Al ale all am ample an and Ann annoy ant any apart ape  
apple arc arch are ark arm art Art as ash ask asp assure at ate atrocious aunt away awe ax

babble babe babies baby back back-pack bad badge bag baggy bail bait bake bald bale  
ball ban band bang banging bangle bank bar barb bard bare barge bark barn Barry base  
bash bashful basket bass bat bath bathmath battle batty bawl bay be beach bead beagle  
beam bean bear beast beat beck bed bee beef been beep beet beg beige bell belt Ben  
bench bend Benny bent berries berry Bert Bess best bet Beth better Betty Bev bib bid  
bidding bide big bigger Bill bill Bill's Billy bin binge bird birth birthday thirsty bit  
bite blab black blade blame blanch bland blank blare blast blaze bleach bled bleed blend  
bless blew blimp blink bliss bloat blob block blond blood bloom blot blotch blouse blow  
blown blue bluff blunt blush board boat Bob Bob's bobcat boil bold bomb bombed  
bombing climb bond bone bong bonnet Bonnie boo book boom boon boor boot booth  
bore botch bottle bough bought brought bounce pounce bound bout bow bōw bower bowl  
bowling box boxes boxtop boy boyish brace Brad brag braid brain brake bran branch  
brand brash brass brave brawl brawn bread break breath breathe bred breech breed breeze  
brew bribe brick bridge brief brig bright brim bring brink brisk brittle broad broil broke  
Bronx brook broom broth brow brown browse Bruce bruise brunch brunt brute bubble  
bud Bud Bud's budge bug bulb bulk bull bump bun bunch bumble bungle bunk bunnies  
bunny bunt burn burst bus bush bust bustle busy but butter buy buzz by

cab cabin cable cactus cad caddy cage Cain cake Cal Cal's calf call calling Calvin cam  
came camel camp can can't candid candies candle candy cane cap cape capture fracture  
car card cards care carp carry cart carve case cash cask cast castle cat catch catnip cats  
cattle catty caught cause cave cease cell cent cents chain chair chairman champ chance  
chap chapel character charge charm chart chase chat chatter cheap cheat check cheer  
cheese cherries cherry chess chest chew chick chief chill chilling chilly chime chimp chin  
chip chipping chips chirp chive chlorine chronic chronicle choice choir Christmas  
chemist chemistry choke chomp choose chop chopping choral chord chore chorus chose  
chow chuck Chuck chug chum chump city civil clad claim Clair clam clamp clan clank  
clap Clark clash clasp class clause claw clay clean clear cleft clench clerk Lew lick cliff  
climbed climbing clinch cling clip clock clod clog clop close clot cloth cloud clown cluck  
clue clump clung clutch coach coal coast coat coax cob code cog coil coin cold comb  
combat combed combing come comet complain conduct cone confusion Connie  
conscious conscience consent chopstick contest coo cook cookie coop coot cop cope core  
cost cot couch cough coughing could couldn't count course court cove cow cower cowl  
coy crab crack craft cram cramp crane crank crash crass crate crave crawl raze crazy  
cream crease creed creek creep crept cress crest crew crib crick crime crimp crisp crock  
crook crop cross crow crowd crown crucial crude cruel cruise crumb crunch crush crust  
crutch crux cry cryptic cub cube cue cull cup curb cure curse curve cusp cut cute cylinder  
cyst

dab dabbing dad dad's daddy daffy daily dale dam dame damp Dan dance Dane dangle  
Danny dare dark darn dart dash date daughter daunt Dave dawn day daze dazzle dead  
deaf deal dealt dear Deb Debbie Debby debt deck Dee deed deem deep deer dell den  
Denny dense dent dental dentist desk deuce dice Dick did didn't die dig digestion digging  
dill dim dime dimple dine ding ding-dong Deb dip dirt dish ditch dive dizzy dock dodge  
doe dog dogs doll dome Don done doom door dose dot doubt dough dōve dove down  
doze drab draft drag drain drake dram drama drank drape draw drawl drawn dream  
dredge drench dress drew drift drill drink drip drive drizzle drool droop drop drought  
drove drown drudge drug drum dry dub duct dud dude due duel dug duke dull dumb  
dump dunce dune dunk dupe dusk dust dustpan finish Dutch dwarf dwell dwelt

each eagle ear earn ease east easy eat eave Ed edge eel egg eggnog eggs eight eighth elf  
elm embrace empathic emphasis end engage enough enslave etch eve even exit expert  
explain eye

fable face facial fact fad faddle fade fail fair fake fall falling falls fame fan far fare farm  
fast fasten fat fate father fatty fault fawn fax Fay fear feast feat fed fee feed feel feet fell  
felt fen fence fend fern ferocious fetch feud few fib fiddle field fiend fierce fig fight file  
fill film fin finch fine fir fire fish fishing fission fissure fist fit fitting five fix fixing fizz  
fizzle flab flack flag flake flame flank flap flare flash flat flaunt flaw flax flea fleck fled  
flee fleece fleet flesh flew flex flick flight flinch fling flint flip flirt flock flog flood floor  
flop floss flour flow flower flown flub flue fluff fluke flung flunk flush flute fly foam fog  
foggy foil foist fold fond food fool foot for fought found fount four fourth fowl fox foxes  
fraction frail frame Fran France Frank fraud Fred free freed freeze freight French fret  
friend fright frill frisk frizz frock frog from frost froth frown froze fruit fry fudge fuel full  
fumble fume fun fund funny fur furry fuse fusion fuss fussy fuzz fuzzy

gab gabbing gad gag Gail gain gal gale gall gallon game gang gap gape garb Gary gas  
gash gasp gate gauze gave gaze gear gee geese gem gems gene gent germ gesture get  
getting ghastly ghetto ghost ghoull gift gig gill gird girl gist give glad glade glance gland  
glare glass glaze gleam glee glen glib glide glint glitch glob globe gloom glove glow glue  
glum glut go goal goat gob goblin gold golf gone gong good goof gosh got gown grab  
grace grad grade graft grain gram grand grant grape graph graphic grapple grasp grass  
grate grateful grave gray graze grease greasy great Greece greed Greek green greet Greg  
grew grey grid grief grill grim grime grin grip gripe grit groom groove grope grouch  
ground group grove grow growl grown growth grub grudge gruff grunt gulf gull gulp  
gum gun Gus gush gust Gwen gym gymnasium gymnast

ha-ha habit hack had hail hair Hal hale half hall halt ham hand handle hands handy hang  
hanging Hank happy hard hare hark harm harp Harry has hasn't hasten hat hatbox hatch  
hate hatrack haul haunch haunt have hawk hay haze hazy he head heal heap hear heard  
heart heave hedge heed heel height heir held helm helmet help hem hen hence hens hep  
her herd here hey hick hid hide high hill hilt him hint hip hire his hiss hit hitch hive hoax  
hock hodge-podge hog hoist hold hole home honest Hong-Kong honk honor hood hoof  
hook hoop hoot hop hope hose host hot hotdog hotdogs hound hour house how howl hub  
hue hug huge hugs hulk hull hum humble hump hunch hung hunk hunt hunter hunting  
hurl hurries hurry hurt husband hush hustle hut hutch hymn hypnosis hysteric

I ice idle ill illusion in inch indigestion ink insure intrusion is isle isn't issue it it's itch

jab Jack Jack's jacket Jackie jag jail Jake jam jamb Jan Jane Japan jar jaunt java jaw jay  
jazz Jean jeep jeer Jeff jell sell Jen Jenny jest jet jib Jiff jig jiggle Jill Jill's jilt Jim Jim's  
Jimmy jingle jive Joan job Joe jog joint joke josh jot jowl joy Joyce joyful Jude judge jug  
juggle juice juke jump June jungle junk just jute

Karen Kate Kay keel keen keep keg kelp Ken Kenneth Kenny Kent kept kettle Kevin key  
kick kicking kid kidding kidnap Kim kin king kink kip Kip kiss kisses kit kite knack knee  
kneel kneeling knelt knew knife knight knit knitting knitted knob knock knot know  
knowing knowledge knew known knuckle knickers

lab lace lack lad lag laid lain lake lamb lame lamp land lane lank Lanny lap lard large  
lark lash lass Lassie last latch late laughing laughter launch lava law lawn lax lay lazy  
lead leaf leak leap learn lease leash least leave led ledge Lee leek left leg leisure lemon  
Len lend lender Lenny lent lentil less lesson lest let let's letter Lew Libby lice lick licking  
lid lie life lift light lime limit limp line linen link lint lip liquid lisp list listen listener  
listening lit little live live Liz load loaf loan lobbies lobby lobe lock locket locking lodge  
loft log loin loll lone long look loop loose loot lose lost lot lotion loud louse love low lox  
lube lug Luke lunch lung lunge lurch lure lurk lute lux Lynn lyric

ma Mack mad made Madge Maggy magic maid mail mailman main make male mall malt  
mama mammy man mane many map mar march mare Marge mark Mark Mark's marries  
marry mart mascot mash mast mat match mate math Maud maul Max may maze me meal  
mean meant measure meat meek meet mein meld melt men mending mere merge merry  
mesh mess messy met metal mew mice Mick mid miff might mile milk mill mime mimic  
mince mine mink Minnie mint mints mire mirth miss mission mist mite mix mixing mob  
mock mod mode moist moisten mold mole Molly mom mommy money moo mood moon  
moor moose mop mope more most motion mound mourn mouse mouth move mow much  
mud muddy mug muggy mule mum mummy munch muse mush musician muss must  
mute mutt mystery mystic mystical myth

nab nag nail nails name nap napkin napping Nat nation nay near neat neck Ned need  
nerve nest nestle net new news next nice Nick niece night Nile nine nip nitwit nix Nixon  
no nod noise none nook noon noose nose not notch note notion noun now nudge numb  
nurse nut nutty

o'clock oak oar oat obey object obnoxious obtain ocean of off often oh oil oily old on  
once one only ooze or ouch ought ounce our out owe owl own ox

pa Pa's pace pack packet packing pact pad paddle paddy padlock page paid pail pain pair  
pal pale pall Pam Pam's pan pane panel pang pans pant papa pappy park part pass  
passing past pat Pat patch path patient patience Patrick Patrick's Paul pause pave paw  
pawn pay payday pea peace peach peak peal pear pearl pebble peck peek peel peep peer  
peeve peg Peg Peg's Peggy pegs pelt pen pencil pennies penny pent pep peppy perch  
perk Perry pert pest pet Pete pets petting pew phantom pharmacist pharmacy phase Phil  
Philadelphia Philip philosopher philosophy Phoenix phone phonics phony photo  
photography phrase Phyllis physic physical physician physics pick picking picnic picture

pie piece pier pig pigs pile pill pills pimple pin pinch pine ping ping-pong pink pins pip  
pipe pit pitch pity place plain plan plane plank plant plate play playmate plea plead please  
pleasure pledge plop plot plough plow pluck plug plum plumber plumbing plume plump  
plus plush poach pock pocket point poise poison poke pole polish Polly pom-pom pond  
pool poor pop poppy pose posh post pot pots pouch pound pour pout pow power pox  
prance prank preach prep press pretty price prick prim prince print prize probe prod prom  
prompt prong proof prop prose proud prove prowl prune pry psychic psyche pub  
public puffy pull pulp pun punch punish punt pup puppet puppies puppy purge purse  
push puss put putty

quack quail quake quart queen quest question queue quick quill quilt quip quit quite  
quitting quiz quo quote

rabbit race racial rack radish raffle raft rag rage raid rail railway rain raining rains rake  
Ralph ram ran ranch rang rank rant rap rare rascal rash rasp rat rate ration rave raw ray  
reach read real realm reap rear receive red reed reef reel reign rein relish rend rent rep  
rest retch Rex Rex's rhyme rhymed rhyming rhythm rib ribbon rice rich Rick rid riddle  
ride ridge rifle rift rig rigging right rill rim ring ringing rink rinse rip ripe rise risk rivet  
road roam roar roast rob robbing robe robin rock rocket rocking rod rode role Rome romp  
Ron Ronnie roof room roost root rope rose rot rote rough round rove row Roy Royce rub  
rubbing rubbish Rube rude ruffle rug rule run rung running run rushing rusk rust rustle

sack sad saddle safe sag sage saggy said sake Sal sale Sally salt Sam same Sammy  
sample sand sandwich sandy sane sang sank sap sash sat satin sauce Saul Saul's save saw  
say scab scale scalp scam scamp scan scant scar scare scarf scat scene scheme schedule  
scholar scholastic school scold scoop scope score Scott scout scam scrap scrape scratch  
screen screw scrimp script scrub scrunch scuff sea seal seam search seat see seed seek  
seem seen seize self selfish sell selling send sender sense sent serve session set Seth settle  
sew shack shade shag shake shall sham shame shape share shark sharp shave Shawn she  
sheaf shed sheep sheet shelf shell Sheryl shield shin shine ship shipping shirk shirt shock  
shook shoot shop shoplift shopping shore shot shout shove show shower shown shrank  
shred shrill shrimp shrine shrink shrub shrug shrunk shuck shun shut shy sick Sid siege  
sift sigh sight signal silk sill silly simple sin since sing singe sing-song singing single sink  
sip sir sis sissy sister sit site sitting six size skate sketchpad skid skill skim skimp skin  
skip skit skittle skunk sky slab slack slag slain slam slant slap slash slat slate slaughter  
slave slaw sled sledge sleek sleep sleeping sleeve sleigh slept slew slice slick slid slide  
slight slim slime sling slink slip slop slope slosh slot slouch slow sluff slug slum slump  
slung slush sly smack small smash smell smile smirk smog smoke smooth smudge smug  
snack snail snake snap snare snarl sneak sneer sneeze snick sniff snip snoop snooze snore  
snout snub snuck snug so soak soap soar sob sock socket socks sod soft soften softener  
softening soil sold sole some son song soon soot sore sorry sought soul sound soup sour  
source south sow soy space spaceship spade Spain Spam span spank spare spark spat  
speak special speck sped speech speed spell spend spent spice spin spine spire spit spite  
splash splint split splotch splurge spoil spoke spook spoon spot spouse spout sprang spray  
sprig spring sprint sprite spruce sprung spry spud spume spun spunk spy square squirt  
stab stable stack staff stage stain stair stake stale stamp Stan stand stank star starch stare  
stark start starve stash state station staunch stay steak steal steam steel steep steer stem

step Steve stew stick stiff stifle still stilt sting stint stock stole stomp stone stood stooge stool stoop stop store stout stove stow strain strand strangle strap straw stray streak stream street stride strife string strip stripe strive stroke struck struggle strum strut stub stuck stud studies study stuff stuffy stump stung stunk stunt sty sub such sudden Sue suggestion suit sulk sum summer sun Sundays sung sunning sunny sunset suntan sure surf surge swam swamp swan swarm sway swear sweat sweater Swede sweep sweet swell swept swift swim swine swing swipe swish Swiss switch syllable symbol sympathy symptom synonym syntax synthetic syrup system

tab Tabby table tablet tack tact Tad taffy tag tail tailgate take tale talk tall tame tan tank tap tape tapping tar tarn tart task tattle taunt taut tax taxes tea teach teacher teal team tear tease Ted Teddy teem teen teeth tell telegraph telephone temple ten tend tender tense tent term Terry terse test Tex text than that thaw the their them theme then there these they thick thief thigh thin third thirst this those though thought thrall thrash threat three thresh threw thrift thrill throb throne throng through throw thrown thrush thrust thumb tick tick-tock ticket tidbit tide tie tier tiff tight tile till tilt Tim Timmy time tin tinge tint tip tire tissue title to toad toast Todd toil told Tommy Tom's tomb tomcat ton tone tonic too took tool toot tooth toothpaste top tore toss tossing tot tote touch tough tour tow towel tower town toy trace track traction trade traffic trail train trait tram trance trap trash tray treasure treat tree trek trench trend tribe trick trifle trim trimming trip trite trod troop trot trout trowel truce truck trudge true trump trunk trust try tub tube tug tumble tummy tune tunnel turf Turk turkey turn turnip turtle twang tweet tweeze twelve twice twig twill twin twine twist twit twitch two typical tyranny

unfit until up upset urge urn us use

vail vain Val Val's vale van vane vanish vast vat vault veal veer veil vein velvet vent verb verge Vern verse verve very vest vet vex vice view vim vine Vinnie visit vivid voice void vomit vote vouch vow vowel

wade wag wage wagon wait waiting waitress wake walk wall wand want wants ward ware warm warmth warn warp wart was wash washing watch wave wax way we weak wear weave web wed wedge weed week weep weigh weight weld well welt wend went wept were west wet whack whale wharf what wheat wheel wheeze when where which whiff while whim whine whip whisk whistle whistler white whiz who whole whose why wick wide wield wife wig wiggle wigs will willing wilt win wind wing-ding wine wing wink winter wipe wire wise wish wishing witch with within woke won woo wood wool word wore work worm worry worst worth would wouldn't shouldn't wound wound wove wow wrack wrap wrath wreath wreck wrench wrestle wrestled wrestler wrestling wretch wretched wriggle wriggled wriggling wrangle wrinkle wring wrist write writer writing written wrong wrote wrung wry

yack yak yam yank yap yard yarn yawn Yaz year yearn yell yelling yelp yen yes yet yield yo-yo yoke you your youth Yule

Zack zag zap zeal zest zig zigzag zinc zing zip zone zoo zoom

## **Note from Internet Publisher: Donald L. Potter**

November 23, 2010

On January 26, 2004, I did a “Word Analysis” of the 1983 edition of *Alpha-Phonics* by Samuel L Blumenfeld. I had taught *Alpha-Phonics* since 1993 in public school elementary bilingual classes and in private tutoring. My success with the program showed clearly that it was a very good beginning reading program for both regular and bilingual students. I wanted to know more about the program so I did a detailed word analysis. I retyped the entire *Alpha-Phonics* book and sorted the words into alphabetical order. Visually I deleted all the duplicate words. According to that study there were a total of 6,832 words in *Alpha-Phonics*. After eliminating the duplicates there were 2,722 different words. I was very impressed with the fact that I had been able to teach children to read that many words in a single school year. At that time I was unaware that there was a later, expanded edition of *Alpha-Phonics* called *Blumenfeld’s Alpha-Phonics* to distinguish it from the 1983 program, which is still available from the original publisher.

Mr. Blumenfeld send me a copy of the 1997/2005 edition in 2005. I have been using the new edition in my classroom since then. I was curious about the differences between the two editions so I first did a lesson-by-lesson comparison, which is available on my website.

Recently I decided to do a simple statistical comparison of the two programs. First I retyped the new edition. Then I put all the word in a single column so I could do a computer sort. This put all the words in alphabetical order. Actually I did each skill-level one at a time and then figured the number of words taught in each level. I did not do this detailed analysis of the 1983 edition. For that edition I only have total scores. I counted a total of 3,033 different words in the new edition. This gives us 311 new words in the new edition. This is not the entire story of the improvements. The new edition has more sentences and a more refined organization of the spelling-families and irregular words.

I counted words with different meanings but spelled the same as separate words. I also counted plurals, possessives, etc., as separate words. The study is as accurate as I could make it. I am confident the figures are very close to the facts.

## Concerning the Dolch Sight Vocabulary List

Eighteen Dolch Basic Sight-Vocabulary services words are not taught in *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics Workbook*. The words are: away, find, yellow, under, every, giving, over, because, before, both, first, goes, its, upon, kind, myself, seven, together. Approximately 95% of the Dolch sight-vocabulary service words are taught with phonics.

Of these 18 service words missing from *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics Workbook*, the following 14 are found in *Blumenfeld's First Readers*: away, find, into, under, every, over, because, before, does, first, its, kind, seven, together – leaving only 4 missing. An impressive 98% of the services words are taught in the *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics Literacy System*.

It is passing strange that reading “experts” and others think that it takes three years to learn all 220 Dolch Sight Vocabulary List words; yet Paul Lukawaski and I have demonstrated over and over again that first-graders can master all 3,033 words in *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics* in a single school year!

The problem with sight-vocabulary is that they treat the English spelling as a form of hieroglyphics to be read as wholes from the meaning of the words without reference to the letters and the sounds they represent. This practice confuses the child as to the fundamental nature of the reading act and leads to the creation of a right-brain, holistic-reflex, whereby the students identify words as configurational wholes assisted by semantic and syntactic clues (a.k.a. guessing). Teaching phonics-first with a linguistic method like *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics* produces significantly higher levels of reading achievement than sight-vocabulary programs or programs that combine sight-word and phonics instruction. All the children that I tutor have received heavy sight-word instruction in the public school classrooms. They all received Guided-Reading instruction, and what I consider, relatively weak phonics instruction. Not unexpectedly, their handwriting and spelling leaves much to be desired. I mention handwriting because of the hundreds of students I have tutored none can write the alphabet fluently or with good legibility due obviously to a lack of direct instruction in that crucial area.



## Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics Word Count by Skill Levels

Skill Level	Reader	Skills Taught & Mastered	Level Count	Cumulative Count
Level 1	First Reader 1	Short ä, 1-letter consonants, ck, qu	102	102
Level 2	First Reader 2	All short vowels	345	447
Level 3	First Reader 3	Consonant Digraphs, Contractions, to be, to have	84	531
Level 4	First Reader 4	2-Syllable, short vowel words	95	626
Level 5	First Reader 5	al, all, final consonant blends, ng, ing, er.	223	849
Level 6	First Reader 6	More final consonants, 2-syllable words, Initial Blends.	517	1,366
Level 7	First Reader 7	Long ā spellings. au/aw, ar	399	1,765
Level 8	First Reader 8	Long vowels ē & ī. Sentences	459	2,224
Level 9	First Reader 9	ough, gh=f, long vowel ō, oo, ow, ou, oy/oi, Long vowel ū	515	2,739
Level 10	First Readers 10 & 11	Er/ir/or/ur/ear, -le, ph=f, silent letters, y=ī. etc.	294	3,033

Chart prepared by Donald. L. Potter on November 23, 2010.

It is an interesting and informative to compare the ambitious *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics' Scope-and-Sequence* with the less ambitious scope-and-sequence for the typical first-grade reading or phonics program.

Common sense would tell us that to expect students to read first-grade literature BEFORE they have completed a comprehensive phonics-first reading program is an open invitation to the development of the unwanted guessing habit. The *Blumenfeld First Readers* are a carefully planned and sequenced set of interesting Readers that are graded from kindergarten through the upper elementary grades, but easily managed by any student competing *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics Primer*. The *First Readers* are entirely decodable following the sequence of the skills development in the program.

I much prefer that student do **not** begin the *Accelerated Reading Program* until after they have completed *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics* and demonstrated oral reading mastery of First Readers 1 thru 10.

## Concluding Observations

Teaching beginning students to read with *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics* will go a long way toward **preventing** the development of low reading ability, which we choose to designate as “artificially induced whole-word dyslexia.”

For more information on artificially induced whole-word dyslexia, visit the “Education Page” of the [www.donpotter.net](http://www.donpotter.net) website where you can read Dr. Samuel L. Blumenfeld’s ground-breaking article, “Can Dyslexia be Artificially Induced in School? Yes, Says Veteran Researcher Edward Miller.”

The *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics* reading program can be purchased from the Chalcedon Foundation. Although quite inexpensive, *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics* is far more effective than many of its expensive rivals. I do not know of a program anywhere that is easier to learn to teach.

I feel that I am qualified to testify first-hand to the effectiveness of *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics* because I taught it successfully for over seven years to elementary public school classes. I also taught *Alpha-Phonics Workshops* for the teachers of the Ector County Independent School District. Several teachers I trained have praised the effectiveness of the program in their classrooms.

I have even published one year’s *Lesson Plans* for a second-grade bilingual class that I taught here in Odessa. The lesson plans show clearly how I taught the program to beginning readers in a single school year.

For a penetrating insight into the psychology of reading, be sure and read the articles by Miss Geraldine Rodgers on my web site: [www.donpotter.net](http://www.donpotter.net). Miss Rodgers, a highly experienced teacher and researcher, explains why that reading programs that teach children to read from the “sounds” produce far better readers than whole-word (Whole Language) programs that teach reading from the “meaning.” There are also essays by Raymond Laurita and Dr. Patrick Groff concerning the dangers of sight-word vocabulary instruction.

I am delighted to announce the publication of the *First Readers Anthology*, containing all of Mr. Blumenfeld’s *First Readers* in a convenient single book edition. It is available from Amazon or can be purchased from your preferred bookseller.

Latest update: 2/26/13.

## Addendum

### Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics Sentence Count

Skill Level	Lessons	Skills Taught & Mastered	Sentence Count	Cumulative Sentence Count
Level 1	1 - 14	Short ä, 1-letter consonants, ck, qu	26	26
Level 2	15 - 28	All short vowels	91	117
Level 3	29 - 37	Consonant Digraphs, Contr. to be, to have	47	164
Level 4	38 - 39	2-Syllable, short vowel words	15	179
Level 5	40 - 49	al, all, final consonant blends, ng, ing, er.	78	257
Level 6	50 - 71	More final consonants, 2-syllable words, Initial Blends.	29	286
Level 7	72 - 86	Long ä spellings. au/aw, ar	73	359
Level 8	87 - 100	Long vowels ē & ī. Sentences	135	494
Level 9	101 - 117	ough, gh=f, long vowel ō, oo, ow, ou, oy/oi, Long vowel ū	185	679
Level 10	117 - 128	Er/ir/or/ur/ear, -le, ph=f, silent letters, y=ī. etc.	44	723

The sentence count was completed on December 27, 2010.

This study is based on the 1999/2005 editions of *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics*. One of the beauties of *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics* is that the sentences give the students ample opportunity to practice their decoding skills with well-constructed sentences. The sentences in each level are 100% decodable according to the phonics skills taught to that level. This means that students are NEVER ask to read any words they have not been previously taught with decoding, cursive handwriting, and oral spelling. Guessing is totally avoided with this program.

Mr. Blumenfeld has produced a series of eleven readers for his program: one reader for each of the phonics levels and one little book of poems.