



Teacher Edition

AlphaWorld

Moving Home

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How to use this book

The AlphaWorld teacher editions support teachers as they guide children's reading and thinking during one or more guided reading sessions. Teachers can observe children as they read and choose from the given suggestions to suit individual needs.

Before reading

Setting the context, front cover and title page:

The suggestions help teachers to set the scene and prepare children for reading the book. Prompts help to determine children's prior knowledge. Where necessary, background information is provided. Teachers are encouraged to check that children understand the vocabulary listed and to discuss the meanings and/or the structures of these words. Previous experiences with similar text types may also be discussed.

During reading

Predict, Read, Reflect:

Questions encourage children to engage with the text by making predictions. The children then read a section of the text and reflect on what they have read. The focus is on the content, language and text features of the book.

Observe and support:

Prompts help teachers to focus on the strategies children use as they read. Teachers can then select from and adapt the suggestions according to the needs of the individual child. The suggestions aim to develop a child's reading abilities. Interruptions to the child's reading should be minimal.

After reading

A selection of reading and writing activities:

The last pages of the teacher edition provide follow-up activities and include the assessment focus.

Selected text features

- Text is written in the first person
- Email text is included

Vocabulary

different, email, exploring, fair, favourite, friends, important, karate, moving, telephone, training

Setting the context

Have you ever moved to a new house?

What happened when you moved?

Would you like to move to a new house now?

What would you like about moving? What wouldn't you like?

Background information

Moving house is a stressful time for everyone in a family. Declan's move is chronicled in his diary as he shares both the good and bad aspects of moving to a new home.



Front cover

Show the front cover.

This book is called Moving Home.

What can you see on the front cover?

What sort of book do you think this will be?



Title page

Turn to the title page.

Point out the names of the author and photographer.

Predict

This diary entry is for the 21st of March. Declan's mum has told him that she has a new job in another city. She told him that it will be too far for her to drive to work every day, so they will have to move to another house.

Turn to page 4.

The next day at school he tells his friends.

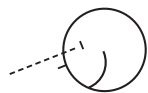
Do you think he wants to move? Why?

Read to the end of page 5.

Reflect

Does Declan want to move? How do you know?

What did Declan's friends say when he told them he was moving?



Observe and support

Can the children understand the literal meaning of the text?

Why did Declan's teacher say that he shouldn't worry about leaving?

21st March

Tonight Mum told me that she has been promoted to a new job, and that her new job is in another city, so we have to move house.

But I don't want to go. I'll have to go to a new school and I won't know anyone. All my friends and all the things I like doing are here. I really do not want to go.



22nd March

At school today I told my friends that I'm moving away. My friends were upset too. Even though my best friend Imran didn't say anything, I knew he was sad. Imran and I have been best friends since we were little, so I will really miss him.

My teacher told me not to worry about leaving because we can still talk on the telephone and send each other emails. He said that would help me feel better.



Predict

What is the date of this entry? Declan started to pack today. His mum said he should go through all of his things and choose what he wanted to take. The things he didn't need anymore could be packed into a box and given to the school fair.

What would you want to pack if you were moving?

Turn to page 8.

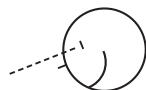
Declan has a pet dog called Shadow. He is worried about what will happen to Shadow when they move. Do you think Shadow will go with Declan?

Read to the end of page 8.

Reflect

Did Declan want to take everything with him? What will he leave behind?

Why doesn't Declan think Shadow will like moving?



Observe and support

Ask one child to read to you while the other children are reading silently.

Does the child read the text expressively?

Can you read it as if you were the boy in the book?

How would Declan say 'Oh no! What will happen to Shadow when we move house?'

30th March

Mum and I started packing today. We have a lot of things, but we can't take them all with us because our new house is smaller than this one. Mum said we should sort through all our things and choose what is most important to us. She said it would be easier if we saw it as a chance to have a big clean-up.

At first I wanted to keep everything. Then I realised there were lots of clothes that were too small for me, there were toys that I hadn't played with for ages and books that I didn't want to read anymore.

So I made two piles — one to go and one to stay. I decided to give the things that I didn't need anymore to the school fair. Mum thought that was a great idea, so I packed them all into a big box.



2nd April

Today I was playing with my dog Shadow when I suddenly thought, "Oh no! What will happen to Shadow when we move house?"

It was okay though, because Mum said Shadow would be coming with us. She said he was one of the family and he could travel with us in the car.

I'm not sure whether Shadow will be happy when we move. He loves going to the beach, but our new house is a long way from the beach. I think Shadow will miss running along the sand and playing in the water.



Predict

Declan had his last karate class tonight. He has just been awarded his orange belt and is training for his green belt. Do you think Declan will have to stop karate training? What activities do you do after school? Would you be able to do them if you moved?

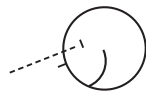
Turn to page 12.

This entry is for the 10th of April. Declan and his mother have finally arrived at their new house. They are exhausted because it was a really long drive – even Shadow fell asleep in the back seat. What do you think they will do first now that they have arrived?

Read to the end of page 12.

Reflect

Will Declan have to stop karate training? Why or why not? What was the first thing Declan and his mum did when they arrived at their new house? Why?



Observe and support

Can the children identify that the text is written in the first person?

Who is telling this story? How do you know?

5th April

I had my last karate class tonight. I've been going once a week for about two years. There are lots of kids in my karate class and we always have a great time. We all wear a white uniform with our belts tied around the middle. I have just been awarded my orange belt, but I'm getting better all the time, so now I'm training for my green belt.

I thought I would have to stop karate training, but my teacher, Sensei Brad, told me he has a friend who teaches karate near my new house. Mum had already said Sensei Brad would call his friend and tell him to expect me. That makes me feel a lot better — I won't even have to miss a week.



10th April

We've finally arrived at our new house. We were exhausted by the time we got here because we had to wake up early and the drive was really long. Even Shadow fell asleep in the back seat, and he's usually full of energy.

I felt better as soon as I got out of the car. We found our sheets and pillows and made the beds, and we brought Shadow's blankets inside too for the first night. Then Mum said I could explore the house while she organised a few things. She said we could unpack everything else tomorrow.

We were starving by then, but there was no food in the house, so Mum called and ordered a pizza.

Even though our new house is not as big as the old one, it has lots of interesting places to explore and a shed where Shadow will be able to sleep. There is a big park right across the street that he will love.



Predict

The next day Declan and his mother spent the whole day unpacking and deciding where to put things. There were boxes everywhere. Declan is starting at a new school tomorrow. How do you think he is feeling?

Turn to page 16.

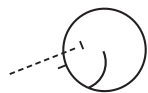
The 12th of April was Declan's first day at his new school. What do you think would be the hardest thing about starting at a new school?

Read to the end of page 16.

Reflect

Do you think Declan's mum understands how he is feeling? Why do you think so?

Why does Declan say '...my new school doesn't seem so scary after all.'



Observe and support

Do the children search for a range of information on the page to support their reading?

When you looked at the pictures before you read the page, what were you looking for? How did that help you? What else did you check?

11th April

This morning we looked at all the boxes we had brought with us. There were boxes everywhere. It's amazing how much stuff we still have, even though we gave so many things away.

We spent the whole day unpacking and deciding where to put all our things. I worked really hard and Mum said I was a great help.

When we finished unpacking, I put some of the empty boxes outside so Shadow and I could play with them. Shadow liked the boxes so much that we're going to put one in the shed for him to sleep in.

I'm feeling a bit nervous about starting at my new school tomorrow. Mum said she understands how I feel because she's feeling a bit nervous about going to her new job.



12th April

Today was my first day at my new school. Everything was different from my old school. I felt scared when I arrived because I didn't know anyone and I didn't know where anything was. Then a boy called Matthew came over and said he would show me around.

At lunchtime Matthew asked if I would like to play basketball. I like basketball almost as much as karate. We played with some other children. It was fun. I think I have some new friends now, and my new school doesn't seem so scary after all.



Predict

Declan's mum took him to his new karate school. He trained with a girl called Sophie who is also an orange belt. Do you think Declan will like his new karate school even though it is different from his old one?

Turn to page 20.

Declan saw Matthew in the park across the street when he took Shadow for a walk. Matthew would love to have a dog but his house doesn't have a back yard.

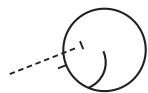
How do you think Shadow is settling into his new home?

Read to the end of page 20.

Reflect

Do you think Declan likes Sophie and his new karate teacher? Why do you think so?

Declan seems to be good at making friends. What did he do that would help him to make friends?



Observe and support

Can the child correctly recall the sequence of events in a diary entry?

What was the first thing Declan did at karate? What happened next?

15th April

After school Mum took me to karate. She wanted to meet my new teacher. My new karate school is different from my old one, but I think I will get to like it just as much.

My teacher is really nice. He introduced me to all the other children in the class. I trained with a girl called Sophie who told me lots of jokes. Sophie has an orange belt like me, so we're going to train for our green belts together.



18th April

Today I saw Matthew when I was taking Shadow for a walk in the park across the street. Matthew was really excited about meeting Shadow. He said he would love to have a dog of his own, but he can't because his house doesn't have a back yard.

I showed Matthew how Shadow can sit, heel and stop when I tell him to. Then we threw a ball for Shadow to chase. Shadow got so excited that he didn't want to come home.

I told Matthew that he could play with Shadow whenever he wanted. Matthew thought that was a great idea.



Predict

Imran has sent Declan an email. What is an email?

Who would you send an email to?

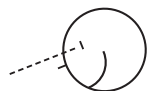
Declan misses Imran but he is feeling much happier. Why would he be feeling happier?

Read to the end of page 22.

Reflect

Why did Imran send Declan an email?

Why is Declan feeling pretty happy?



Observe and support

Can the child identify the features of a diary entry?

Are we reading Declan's diary? How do you know?

30th April

Today Imran sent me an email. He told me all about what was happening at my old school and he wanted to know all about my new school. He said it would be great if we could see each other again soon.

I miss Imran, but I'm feeling much happier now because I still have my old friends and I've made some new friends as well.

Mum said I could ask Imran to visit, so I emailed him to invite him to stay at our house. I hope he can come.



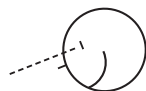
Predict

This is the email that Declan sent Imran. What do you think he will tell Imran?

Read to the end of page 24.

Reflect

What are some of the things Declan tells Imran about? Does he sound happy or sad? Why do you think so?



Observe and support

Can the child tell the difference between a diary entry and an email?

How do we know this is an email and not another diary entry? How are they different?

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Dear Imran,
How are you?
Can you ask your Mum and Dad if you can
come to visit?
My new house is great. There is a park across
the street where Shadow loves playing.
School is good and I've made a new friend.
His name is Matthew and he likes playing
basketball.
I have a new karate teacher called Mr Kato.
I hope you can come to stay.
Write soon.
From Declan.



After reading

Being a meaning maker

Encourage the children to support their answers to these questions with evidence from the book:

Did Declan want to move?

What worried him the most about moving?

Was the move as bad as he thought it would be? Why or why not?

How did Declan stay in touch with his old friends?

Being a code breaker

Explore the following language feature:

- Contractions: didn't, don't, hadn't, I'll, we've, won't, wouldn't

Being a text user

What kind of book is this? How do you know?

What did you learn about people by reading this book?

Who usually reads a person's diary? Why?


Being a text critic


Have you ever moved house?


What do you think moving house would be like?

What would you miss the most? Why?

Responding to text

 Children could draw and write about an imaginary house they would love to move to.

 Events from the book could be written on cards and children could work with a partner to put them in the right order. Children could re-read the book to check the order of events.

 The children could list the contractions found in this book in both their contracted and expanded forms. Demonstrate with magnetic letters how contractions are formed by using the example 'did not'. Contract the two words and push out the 'o'. Show how the apostrophe is used to replace the missing 'o'. Repeat this procedure with the other contractions.

Writing links

Model writing a diary entry about a recent personal event. Discuss the features of a diary entry. These could be listed on a chart for future reference. The children could then write their own diary entry about a recent event.


During computer time, the children could write a letter to someone and email it to them.

Do you know how to email someone? What do you do? How could you find out?


Possible assessment focus

Can the children:

- identify the features of a diary entry?
- recall the sequence of events in the book?
- identify words that indicate that the text is written in the first person?
- use contractions correctly?

 whole text activity

 sentence activity

 word activity

Moving Home

Topic: Communication/Relationships/
Family

Curriculum link: Study of Society

Text type: Recount/Diary

Reading level: 21

Word count: 1183

Vocabulary: different, email, exploring,
fair, favourite, friends, important, karate,
moving, telephone, training

Possible literacy focus:

- Identifying the features of a diary entry.
- Understanding the sequence of events.
- Identifying words that are used to indicate that the text is written in the first person.
- Identifying contractions in the text.

ESL possibilities:

- Locating and discussing language related to emotion: really happy, loves, too tired, pretty happy, a bit sad.
- Identifying irregular past tense verbs: gave, spent, thought, told, took.



Summary

This book tells us about how Declan is feeling about moving to a new home. The text is written in the form of a diary that starts when he hears news of the move, and finishes once he has settled in to his new home and school.

AlphaWorld



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