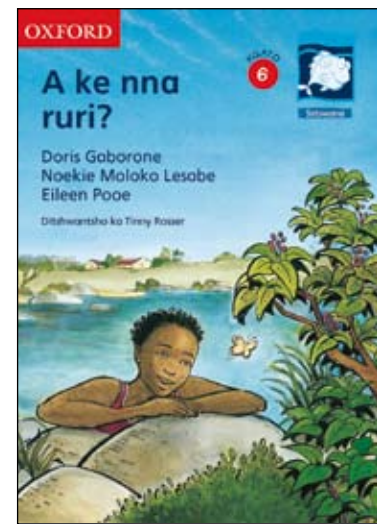


Hot off the Oxford Press!

We are growing



African storytelling, these stories will help your learners grow and learn about rural and urban living.

Learners will be able to identify with the characters in the stories. Watch their reading skills develop, their reading speed increase, their vocabulary grow and their writing improve.

Foundation phase: stages 1, 2 and 3

Children are mesmerised by these magical stories! A gentle way to begin independent reading with colourful artwork to assist them in understanding the story. The stories are carefully graded for elementary, intermediate and advanced readers within each stage, ensuring that no one is left behind. Teaching reading for enjoyment has never been this easy.

Foundation phase: stages 1, 2 and 3 is available in IsiXhosa, IsiZulu, Sesotho, Setswana, Sepedi, IsiNdebele, Xitsonga, SiSwati and Tshivenda. These stages are also available in English and Afrikaans for readers to discover the joy of reading in an additional language.

The comprehensive Teacher's Guides help educators develop and nurture a love of reading.

Intermediate phase: stages 4, 5 and 6

The magical We are growing series is now available for stages 4, 5 and 6. Each story is also available in IsiXhosa, IsiZulu, Sesotho, Setswana and Sepedi, showing Oxford's commitment to our indigenous languages. Indulge your learners with the best in African storytelling by outstanding authors, from all corners of the country, writing in their own languages. The wide variety of stories includes animal fables, traditional stories, fantasy tales as well as stories about children's adventures and experiences.

Colourful illustrations keep readers enthralled and reading to the very end. Learners will come back for more, eager to read every story in the series.

Teacher's Guides assist teachers in developing and consolidating excellent reading skills. Cultivate a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

Give your learners a real treat! Let them improve their reading through the magical words of African storytellers who, judging from the stories they have written, have not forgotten the wonders of their own childhood.

These enthralling stories are told for South Africa's children. They are about their own everyday experiences and other magical fantasies in the dream-filled world of childhood. If adults appear at all, they do so along with children who are the main focus of this exciting series.

Your learners will catch the reading bug! Steeped in traditional

Maths with Oxford is fun

Blitz Maths is a fun way to develop the mental calculation ability of young learners. Each book in the series focuses on developing maths-solving strategies, and then reinforces those skills through practice. Blitz Maths is filled with a variety of activities that keeps learning fresh and interesting and is designed to make learning easy.

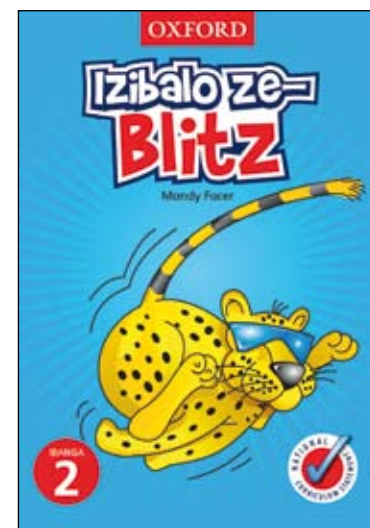
Blitz Maths:

- Improves learner's logic, visualisation and estimation;
- includes listen and score activities to develop listening skills and mental calculations;
- *Brain Blitzers* to encourage lateral thinking;
- features reviews for assessing progress;
- offers *Blitz Breaks* to encourage problem-solving in a fun but

challenging way and,

- shows all Learning Outcomes and Assessment Standards that are covered, providing an aid to planning.

Learners will enjoy Blitz Maths as a way to increase their ability to perform mental calculations. This improves numeracy and develops an aptitude for mathematics in general.



WIN! WIN! WIN!

If you would like to win one of five sets of Oxford Blitz Maths, simply answer the following question:

In how many languages will the Blitz Maths series be published?

Send your answers to:

The Oxford Blitz Maths Competition, OUPSA, PO Box 12119, N1 City, Cape Town, 7463.

Entries close on 31 August 2007.

Teacher's Talk

Voice your opinion and share your experiences with *The Oxford Press*. Share your successes, request advice on a particular issue and give your views on current issues in the field of education.

Writers may use a pen name, if they wish, but will be required to give their name and postal address for *The Oxford Press* records. Oxford University Press SA also reserves the right to edit letters, due to space constraints.

Please write to us at *The Oxford Press*, OUPSA, PO Box 12119, N1 City, Cape Town, 7463.

If your letter is published, you will receive a copy of the South African Oxford School Dictionary (2nd edition).

Contact Us

Head Office
Oxford University Press
Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd.
Vasco Boulevard
N1 City, Goodwood, Cape Town, 7460

PO Box 12119
N1 City, Cape Town, 7463
Tel: +27 21 596 2300
Fax: +27 21 596 1234

General enquiries: oxford.za@oup.com
Orders: orders.za@oup.com
Textbook enquiries and inspection copy requests: deskcopy.za@oup.com
Permissions: permissions.za@oup.com
Register to be a trial school: trialschool.za@oup.com
Feedback on the website: feedback.za@oup.com

Regional Sales Managers Schools
Botho Mothibi (Gauteng, Limpopo)
Cell: 082 603 4056
Edward Mkhathshwa (KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga)
Cell: 082 603 4034
Michelle Arendse (Western Cape)
Cell: 084 409 1782
Mottlatsi Mojahi (North West, Free State, Northern Cape)
Cell: 082 603 4046

Branch Offices
Gauteng
Suite 7, Lower ground floor
Stellenryk Bldg, Constantia Square
526-16th Road, Midrand
Tel: +27 11 805 0525
Fax: +27 11 805 0529

Limpopo
Room 317, Pioneer Bldg
Landros Mare Street
Polekwan, 0699
Tel: +27 15 291 5774
Fax: +27 15 291 4303

KwaZulu-Natal
Room 303, 3rd floor
Charter House
75 Crompton Road
Pinetown, 3610
Tel: +27 31 702 8125 (education)
Tel: +27 31 709 1577 (academic)
Fax: +27 31 702 8522



Welcome to The Oxford Press!

Being the proud publishers of the world's most trusted dictionaries, it is fitting that we start our first newsletter by defining its purpose to you, the primary school teachers of South Africa.

press *noun* (plural **presses**) 1 the action of pressing something. 2 a device for pressing things. 3 a device for printing things. 4 a firm that prints or publishes books e.g. *Oxford University Press* 5 newspapers; journalists - *South African Oxford Secondary School Dictionary 2nd edition.*

The meaning of the word *press*, points to the purpose of this newsletter, which will

be published on a quarterly basis. It points to Oxford University Press's long tradition of excellence as a publishing company that has been bringing knowledge, information and scholarship to people around the world since the 1600s.

It also points to the people who are the essence of a publishing company and we at Oxford Southern Africa, are passionate about education and our main purpose is to conceptualise, commission and develop the very best classroom resources for teachers around the country. We ensure that the curriculum is covered, and that teachers have planning support and resources so that learners attain the best

possible results at each year of their schooling.

Our dedicated sales team is well trained and aims to ensure that you receive sample books to use and peruse. They provide you with professional presentations to help you make the best decision for yourself and your learners when choosing your textbooks and resources. Our trainers are standing by to bring you workshops of quality that allow you to give of your best in the classroom.

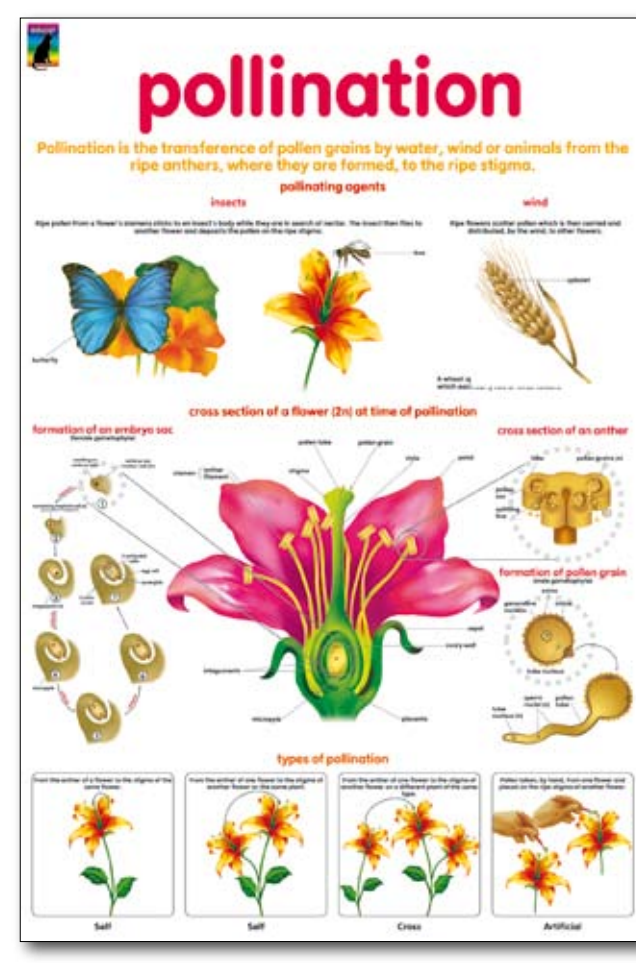
Although the demands of managing your classroom is sometimes exhausting, Oxford aims to assist you with easy to use, quality materials as well as exciting

giveaways and competitions to support and inspire you.

So write to us, let us know what you would like to see in this, *YOUR Oxford Press* so that we can better serve you.



More educational resources from Oxford!



Oxford University Press SA is proud to announce that we are the exclusive distributor of the Educat educational support materials to schools, booksellers, bookshops and educational authorities.

Educat products are learning support materials for learners in Grades R to 12. They include sing-a-long books with CD, flip charts, board books, puzzles, colouring books and posters. Educat offers a comprehensive range of write-on-wipe products, which are durable and glossy, and can be used time and again.

Another superb feature of Educat is the variety of formats in which the products are packaged, providing for different needs, from a home-school parent to a school teacher.

Professional, full-colour photographs add fun and excitement to the learning experience and activities are focused and presented in a way that will inspire children's imaginations.

OUPSA's Sales and Marketing Director for Schools, Anthony Rangata, has expressed his support for the product. "We are delighted to welcome Educat to the Oxford University Press SA family. Their commitment to quality educational tools makes them an ideal partner and we are looking forward to a long and fruitful association."

As evidence of Oxford's support and commitment, we are translating some of the material into African Languages, as well as Afrikaans, to be accessible to all learners countrywide.

We pride ourselves in our excellent customer relations. Whatever your needs or queries please contact our Customer Service Department on (021) 596 2300, or email us at oxford.za@oup.com. If you would like a representative to visit you please contact our free Teacher's Hotline on 0800 202 463.

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Literacy

A wonderful thing about a book, in contrast to a computer screen, is that you can take it to bed with you.
- DANIEL J. BOORSTIN

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Hot off the press!

Catch up with Blitz Maths - the fun way to learn maths and be the cat who got the cream - win with Oxford and Educat!



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Need to contact us?

All the important telephone numbers can be found on ...

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Proud Supporter of The Mandela Rhodes Foundation



THE MANDELA RHODES FOUNDATION

Free Teacher's Hotline:
0 800 202 463
www.oxford.co.za

Get a head start with Foundation Phase workshops

We will be running teacher training workshops for the Foundation Phase with a view to addressing the curriculum changes for 2008, focusing specifically on reading and literacy.

The workshops, which will be run during August and September, will provide insight into the Department of Education's expectations for the Foundation Phase and guide teachers in understanding the new curriculum in the context of developing reading, writing and literacy in the classroom. Teachers can look forward to tips and tools to lighten the load whilst ensuring that their learners benefit and achieve optimal results.

The programme which has the 6 Learning Outcomes for language at its core includes a free workbook for each participant which may be used to make notes and can then be taken home.

Says Naledi Pandor, Minister of Education, "...reading, writing and numeracy must be daily activities in every classroom...not addressing these dooms our children to inadequacy and mediocrity." The workshop trainers are experts in their fields and will highlight how teachers will benefit from Oxford's reading scheme materials in addressing the areas of concern as indicated by the Minister.

Oxford's range of Teacher's Books and Learner's Books include all Learning Outcomes and Assessment Standards, which assures teachers that the entire curriculum is covered. Teachers are able to teach more effectively with time-saving tools such as the lesson plans, easy-to-use work schedules and comprehensive answers to all questions and activities contained in the Learner's Book.

Oxford's teaching and learning materials encourage critical thinking and investigative skills. They ensure that learners are equipped with a solid foundation to ensure success at school. At Oxford's Foundation Phase workshops, getting to know your ABC is as easy as 123! Workshops are free of charge and refreshments will be served.

For further information about workshops in your province, please contact the toll-free Teacher's Hotline on 0800 202 463.



Some teachers having fun at an Oxford workshop on Literacy Skills.

Oxford supports the Mandela Rhodes Foundation

At OUPSA we pride ourselves on the quality of the educational materials we bring to teachers in South Africa. We are again proven in our assumption about the quality of our books as we have received a 100% approval rate for our Grade 12 books which have been developed according to the NCS and designed to produce the best possible final results!

We do not only develop quality books but also participate and contribute to the future of South Africa by supporting young South Africans in a variety of ways to excel and be the best they can be!

The Mandela Rhodes Foundation received a sizable injection with a donation from Oxford University Press SA. The donation will be used as seed capital to fund an additional scholarship in the name of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, into perpetuity.

The money was handed over at a private event that took place at Mandela House Houghton, with Mr Mandela, the patron of the Foundation receiving the significant cheque.

Oxford University Vice Chancellor, Dr. John Hood attended the event and stated that the donation represents Oxford's commitment to the upliftment of learners and students through education.

Lieze Kotze, Managing Director of Oxford University Press SA, said: "We are delighted to demonstrate our commitment to education in South Africa. Our close ties with Oxford University – as well as the existing links between the Rhodes Trust and Oxford University – make The

Mandela Rhodes Foundation the ideal organisation to receive this support"

The scholarships aim to develop individual human skills across African society, by helping the continent achieve success and prosperity, and full and equal participation in the global world.

Indeed something we at OUP SA are proud to be part of and we look forward to meeting each new intake of Mandela Rhodes Scholars!



Back from left to right: Hani Van Schalkwyk, Director of Sales and Marketing HE and Trade, OUPSA, Thiathu Nematanzhela, Business Development Manager, OUPSA, Lieze Kotze, Managing Director, OUPSA, Marian Griffin, Publishing Director, OUPSA, Shaun Johnson, CEO, Rhodes Mandela Foundation.

From left to right: Anthony Rangata, Director of Sales and Marketing Schools, OUPSA, Mr Nelson Mandela, Chairman, The Mandela Rhodes Foundation, Dr John Hood, Vice Chancellor of Oxford University. (Photo taken in July 2006, representing the senior management team at the time)



Message from Anthony Rangata Director of Sales and Marketing Schools, OUPSA

Dear Teachers

This inaugural edition of our newsletter could not have come at a better time!

The gradual implementation of our new curriculum is almost complete. It is now time to reinforce it and make it work. You as teachers have been on the receiving end of all these changes because it is only through you that all these noble changes can be implemented in the classroom. Oxford will always be with you in this important task.

Our trained and dedicated team of sales people and teacher trainers is currently doing the rounds in all schools around the country to assist you in implementing the new curriculum in the classroom. You will also be afforded an opportunity to interact with our well-researched, quality educational materials that will assist you in both teaching and assessment.

The choice of these educational materials is not always easy! A wrong choice may mean that you will not be able to undertake all the tasks required by the new curriculum, learners may not have had adequate practise and may lack the skills required at each level and it may also be a costly exercise, since more resources will be required to supplement the wrong choice. Apart from the normal questions, like coverage of the curriculum, availability of teacher's guides, here are some deeper questions to consider:

- How are the different ability levels of learners in the classroom addressed?
- How much assistance in planning and preparation do I get?
- How much content is there?
- How well researched are the activities, resources, and content?
- What other resources like dictionaries, atlases and key topic product are on offer along with the product?
- Will I have ongoing contact and support from the learning materials' supplier?

The answers to these questions may reveal more than you bargained for! It all points to the quality of research, abundance of support materials, ongoing support and reliability. We at Oxford are very proud to be part of a long tradition of bringing excellence in education, scholarship and research to people around the world.

Please contact the relevant Regional Sales Managers, to establish where and when a presentation or Oxford workshop is happening in your area.

Good luck and remember that you can always rely on Oxford!

With Oxford reading can be fun!

There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island. – WALT DISNEY

As you, the educator, well know, reading skills enable learners to turn writing into meaning and they help learners to read independently and fluently as well as develop comprehension skills.

Word recognition helps learners build up their own stock of words that they can recognise. This aids their fluency and comprehension and therefore their ability to read independently. Besides word recognition skills, the most important component of improving general reading skills is practice. Children who read regularly improve their reading skills and children who do not read make little progress.

A wonderful thing about a book, in contrast to a computer screen, is that you can take it to bed with you. – DANIEL J. BOORSTIN

How to make reading an enjoyable experience

For many people, reading implies books. However, one finds words everywhere, scattered like gems. Allow the child to get into the habit of reading text in advertisements, and comics and on cereal boxes and signs, and talk to them about what they have learnt.

Magazines all too frequently lead to books and should be regarded by the prudent as the heavy petting of literature. – FRAN LEBOWITZ

Research on reading generally agrees that the most critical aspect of reading is how a child feels about reading. Positive reinforcement by parents and teachers can help. Children need to know that the adults in their lives care about reading, especially what they are reading, so help learners to choose a book that will interest them.

There should be a little voice in your head like the storyteller is saying it. And if there's not, then you're just lookin' at the words. – LAKEISHA (9TH GRADER IN SAN FRANCISCO)

Use the following points to help learners select a book:

- Do not be influenced by the number of pages;
- look at the cover of the book and read the blurb for clues to decide if the book is about something that interests you;
- is the author famous and is there information about the author on the back cover? and,
- is the font size large enough? (Reading must be an enjoyable experience, so if the font size is too small you should rather consider another book.)
- Read a paragraph or two to find out if you will be able to follow the story easily.
- Ask friends to recommend books that they have read and enjoyed.

How to encourage improved reading

Encourage your learners to:

- Use an Oxford dictionary to look up difficult words;
- read slowly to ensure you do not skip some text;
- sit in a quiet place so that you can concentrate and focus on what you are reading;
- be sure of the purpose of your reading, for example: is it for enjoyment or information?;
- find the main theme in each paragraph;
- have a discussion with a friend about what they have read;



Left: Sindiwe Magona, one of the authors of our Siyakhula readers, entertaining the learners with storytelling and reading.



Left: Teachers having fun with Gcina Mhlophe at a Siyakhula reading training session.

- predict what it going to happen next;
- ignore difficult words and try to understand the meaning from the context and,
- write new words and expressions in a note book for reference.

Remind your learners that they can find books anywhere. It does not have to cost them money or be an inconvenience. They can get books from a book shop, school library, municipal library, friend or neighbour.

To help learners understand what they are reading, explain that it is important that they know the following:

- The background: The place where the story is happening. This will create the atmosphere for the story.
- The characters: These will become familiar through the things they do and say.
- The plot: The sequence of how things happen and the outcome.
- The theme of the book: Themes may vary.

When they have completed the book, they should think about the following:

1. Why did I enjoy/or not enjoy the story?
2. Was I inspired by some of the interesting characters?
3. Did I enjoy the descriptions of the characters and the places?
4. Would I recommend the book to a friend? Why?

– Daniel Pennac

