



MOONLIT MOUNTAIN
READERS

Moonlit Mountain Readers

fantasy and science fiction-themed decodables



Phonics Meets Fantasy— Let the Adventure Begin!

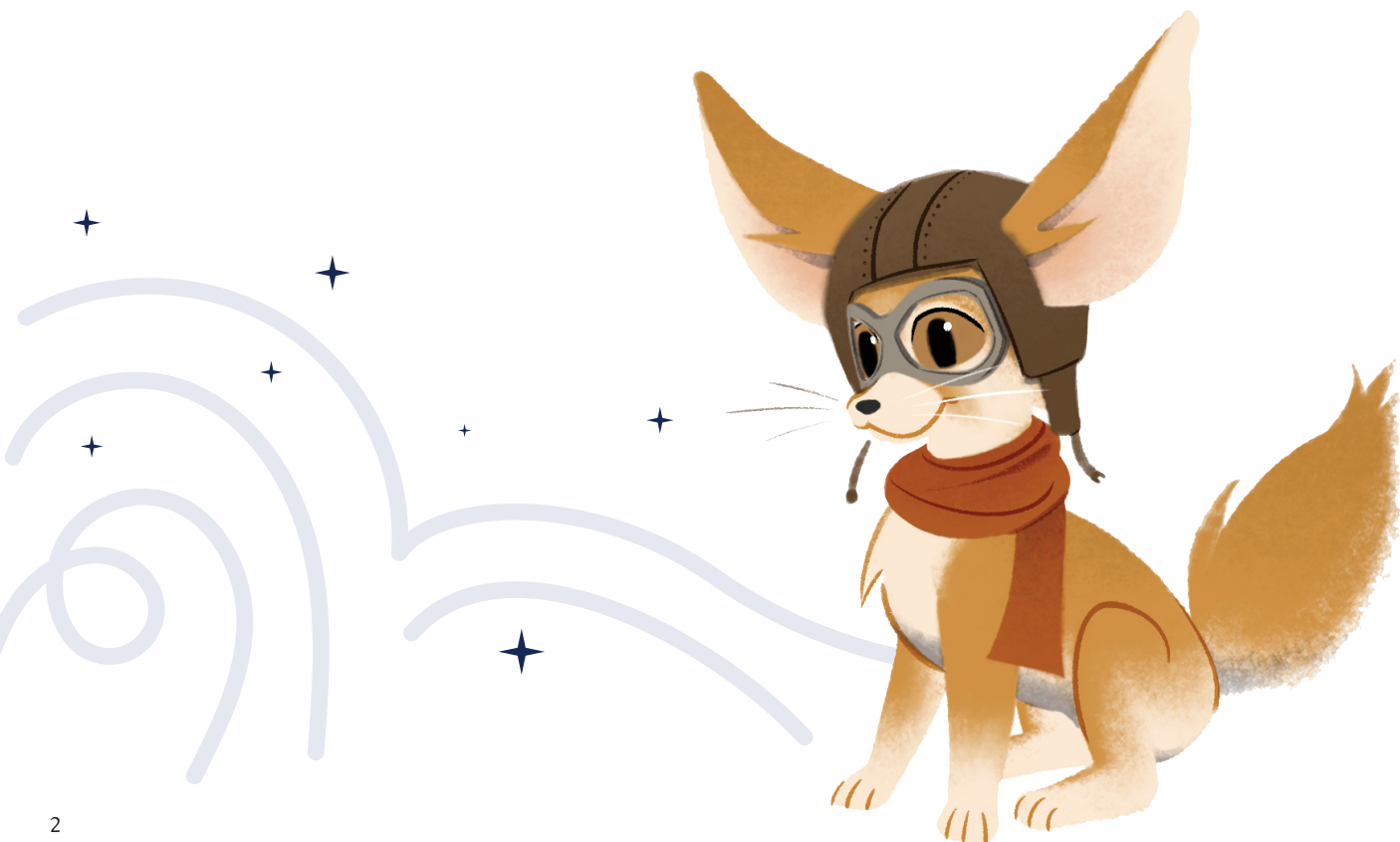
Take your beginning readers on a new kind of reading adventure.

Fantasy stories open the door to imagination, and for beginning readers, they can also open the door to literacy. Imagined lands, mythical creatures, and epic adventures give children a reason to turn the page, making reading exciting instead of intimidating. When the world of reading is filled with unicorns, dragons, robots, and treasure hunters, kids don't just learn to read, they want to learn.

The *Moonlit Mountain Readers* are a collection of fantasy and science fiction-themed decodable books that blend captivating storytelling with structured phonics practice.

Each of the 13 character-driven series follow fun, lovable characters as they explore the world, the meaning of friendship, and who they are.

From the Scottish Highlands of the past with Finn and his friend Nox, a lovable Loch Ness Monster, to a futuristic city with Ro-Bo 7 and her robot family, each story is carefully crafted to align with research-based phonics progressions, ensuring that while students explore magical worlds, they're also building real-world foundational skills.



Built on a research-based phonics progression, the *Moonlit Mountain Readers* support students from the earliest stages of decoding development to advanced. The systematic phonics sequence ensures a structured and cumulative approach, including plenty of review opportunities to help reinforce previously learned skills without introducing new ones.

What makes *Moonlit Mountain Readers* different?

- Whimsical characters and magical worlds that make phonics feel like an adventure.
- Series-based storytelling that keeps kids asking, “Can we read the next one?”
- Structured for success, with a phonics sequence grounded in the Science of Reading.

Looking for decodables that align with your phonics instruction and offer a refreshing break from the ordinary? The *Moonlit Mountain Readers* blend research-backed practice with captivating stories—making reading both effective and irresistible.



Features That Support Teachers and Students

The *Moonlit Mountain Readers* are more than just decodable texts—they're a gateway to adventure and literacy. Thoughtfully designed to offer guidance to both beginning readers and their teachers, each book is packed with features that support both the upper and lower strands of the Reading Rope.

Features at a Glance

- **Phonics “Warm-Up” Activities:** Opportunities for decoding practice in isolation
- **Comprehensive Book Introduction:** Provides a preview of the story and any non-decodable or story words
- **Talk About the Book:** Offers text-based comprehension questions to support understanding
- **Sound Effects and Storytelling Language:** Engages readers and offers additional opportunities for decoding
- **Phonics Boxes:** Highlights the letter-sound correspondences and high-frequency words

See how these features support your instruction on the [Heinemann Blog](#)



Using Moonlit Mountain Readers in Your Classroom

Decodable books are a versatile tool for every part of your literacy block.

The *Moonlit Mountain Readers* are designed to support a variety of instructional settings—from whole-class instruction to small-group work, partner reading, conferring, and independent reading. This collection offers meaningful opportunities for students to apply phonics skills in connected texts, making them a flexible tool for daily literacy instruction.

Whole-Class Instruction

- Launch lessons with engaging warm-ups that spotlight target phonics skills
- Model fluent, expressive reading through storytelling techniques and sound effects

Small-Group Work

- Deliver explicit, focused instruction to strengthen decoding strategies
- Guide rich conversations that deepen comprehension and text understanding

Partner Reading

- Build fluency as students alternate reading aloud and coaching one another
- Encourage collaboration through peer feedback and shared practice

Conferring

- Offer personalized, just-in-time support with targeted prompts
- Spark reflection on story details and character emotions to grow comprehension

Independent Reading

- Empower students with decodable texts that include supportive scaffolds
- Foster confidence and fluency through repeated practice and self-monitoring

Scope & Sequence

The *Moonlit Mountain Readers* follow a systematic research-based phonics progression. Each book provides concentrated decoding practice with essential phonics concepts, building skills step by step.

This scope and sequence complements the progression of most state standards and is aligned to a phonics progression that informs most phonics curricula.

- Set A introduces foundational skills.
- Set B expands into advanced phonics and multisyllabic words.
- Each series also adds a new batch of high-frequency words for readers to practice.
- Cumulative review books within each series provide landing points to consolidate learning, reinforcing earlier concepts without adding new ones.

This design supports a steady, staircase-like progression through phonics and decoding challenges.



Aligned to Core Reading Programs

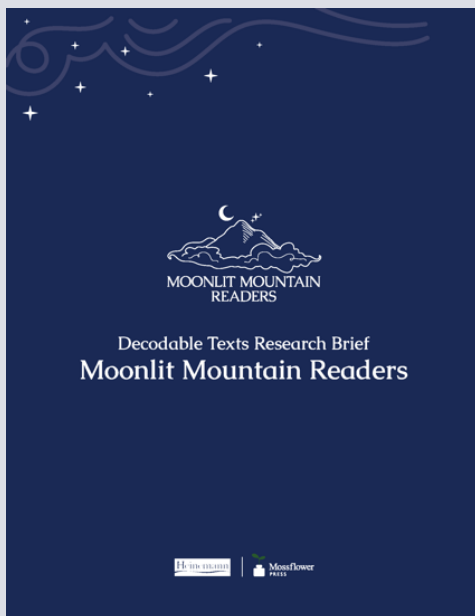
The *Moonlit Mountain Readers* are designed to reinforce explicit phonics instruction and provide structured practice that aligns with core ELA programs like Amplify, Into Reading, Saxon Reading Foundations, and Wonders.

View instructional alignments to core reading programs at hein.pub/MoonlitMountainReaders

Research

Learning to read is one of the most significant milestones in a child's education, and decodable texts play a crucial role in this journey. These specially designed books align with sequenced phonics instruction, allowing children to apply what they've learned about letters and sounds to real words and stories. This connection builds confidence, fluency, and comprehension skills that form the foundation for literacy success.

Decodable texts are supported by decades of research. Studies show that systematic, explicit phonics instruction—paired with practice in decodable texts—is the most effective way to teach early reading skills. By giving children texts that match their phonics knowledge, we set them up for success and prevent the frustration that can come from encountering words beyond their skill level.



Read the
Research Brief



Set A: Early Phonics Concepts



Available in
Classroom and
Single-Copy
Sets

- 48 titles across 6 unique series
- Gradual progression in text complexity and length, from 8-page books to 16-page books
- Expanding collection of high-frequency words
- Gradual progression of phonics concepts in single-syllable words:
 - Alphabet Knowledge
 - Short Vowels
 - Blends
 - Digraphs
 - Open Syllable
 - Cumulative Review



Set B: Advanced Phonics Concepts

Available in
Classroom and
Single-Copy
Sets



- 42 titles across 7 unique series
- Gradual progression in text complexity and length, from 16-page narratives to 32-page chapter books
- Expanding collection of high-frequency words
- Gradual progression of phonics concepts in single-syllable and multisyllabic words:
 - Review of Set A Concepts
 - Silent E
 - Inflectional Endings
 - Cumulative Review
 - Vowel Teams
 - Consonant -LE
 - R-Controlled Vowels
 - Special Vowels





MOONLIT MOUNTAIN READERS



[Click here](#) to learn more about the
Moonlit Mountain Readers, and:

- Get a sample
- View the Scope and Sequence
- Read the Research Brief
- Access alignments to core reading programs
- Download a free Phonic Decoding Assessment
- View the book trailer video
- Explore purchasing options

