

## How to develop extensive reading with The Thinking Train readers



1. At the beginning of the school year, collect the readers. Keep them at school so the learners don't lose them.
2. Start using the reader in Week 19. We suggest you then spend eight lessons working on the reader with the children.
3. Do the **before reading activities**. These activities are an engaging way to introduce the children to some of the new vocabulary they'll encounter in the story and to practise the vocabulary they've already learnt in the *Bubbles* course. There are a variety of fun activities such as: memory games, drawing and colouring activities, and labelling and matching activities.
4. Now, you're ready to begin the **story**. Ask them to read 4-6 pages (at home or in class). Ask them to read silently because there are many proven benefits. Silent reading:
  - helps to build children's confidence as readers;
  - allows them to practise reading at their own pace;
  - enables them to remember words and text better than when they read out loud or are read to;
  - encourages them to focus on understanding rather than just on pronunciation;
  - increases their concentration skills and their ability to focus on tasks in general;
  - helps them to develop a love of reading and create a long-term reading habit, which has lifetime benefits.

5. When the children have finished reading, do a short comprehension activity with them, such as **Odd one out!** This activity requires children to identify which item in a group doesn't belong.

For example, in **At the zoo** (*Bubbles 2*):

- Write the names of four animals on the board:  
*elephant – monkey – dolphin – hippo*
- Elicit answers from the children.  
(The 'dolphin' is the odd one out because it lives in the sea.)

In **The inventors** (*Bubbles 6*):

- After reading page 14, write four body parts on the board:  
*long tail – long tongue – big mouth – long grey body*
- Ask, 'What did Silvy choose?' Elicit answers from the children.  
(Silvy didn't choose a long tail so 'long tail' is the odd one out.)

6. Or, go through the **on-page activities** with the children. For example:

**The new class** (*Bubbles 1*)

**THINK**

Find another ruler.  
Where is the girl from?

**At the zoo** (*Bubbles 2*)

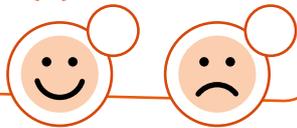
**SPEAK**

What's your  
favourite animal?

**What are you doing, Daniel?**  
(*Bubbles 3*)

**THINK**

Is Daniel's dad happy?  
Tick (✓).



**Monkey Island** (*Bubbles 4*)

**COUNT**

How many people  
are there?

**Roberto's backpack** (*Bubbles 5*)

**THINK**

What does Roberto do?

**The inventors** (*Bubbles 6*)

**THINK**

What is  
Goldy's idea?

7. You can also use the **pictures** for additional speaking tasks. For example, in **The new class** (*Bubbles 1*) you could look at the pictures and discuss where the children are from:

Is Chloe from the UK?

No, she isn't.

Where's she from?

She's from France.

In **Monkey island** (*Bubbles 4*) you could look at the pictures and discuss what Tim likes and doesn't like:

Does Tim like packing?

No, he doesn't.  
He hates packing.

Does he like the monkeys?

Yes, he does.  
They're cool!

In **The inventors** (*Bubbles 6*) you could look at the pictures and discuss what Goldy and Silvy do with their pets:

Does Silvy look after her pet?

No, she doesn't.

What does Goldy do with her pet?

She plays with her pet, and she takes her pet for a walk.

8. Ask the children to continue reading the **story** in Weeks 20-24.
9. Do the **after reading activities** with the children in Weeks 27-31 and finally the **project** in Week 32. The after reading activities further develop the children's thinking skills as well as practising their language skills. The children are encouraged to use their thinking skills to solve puzzles, find similarities and differences, sort and categorize words, make connections and match pictures and words, understand feelings and needs, draw conclusions and do various other tasks.
10. During the holidays, the children can explore the online features on **HELBLING e-zone kids**. Here, they can listen to the full story and play the interactive games. The access code is on the inside back cover of their reader.

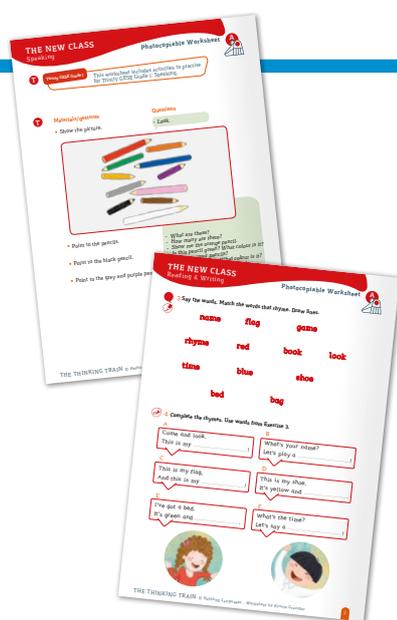


### For teachers

- Answer Keys
- Flashcards
- Worksheets
- Teacher's Guide
- Flashcards Guide
- Big Books Guide

### For students

- Online games
- Audio (story and activities)
- Extra downloads (project templates)



For a full overview of all the titles available in *The Thinking Train* series, go to [helbling.com/english](http://helbling.com/english)