

Chapter 1 : Time to Read with Usborne Farmyard Tales | EducatorsDen

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Every book I pick up is quality and flawless. They always have wonderful illustrations and are written in a way to really engage their readers, children and adults alike! Today, I am going to review a series of books called the Usborne Farmyard Tales. There are 20 titles in this series that are equally engaging. They are all a set of short stories for young beginner readers. These books have been written to help children use phonics to read each word and beautiful pictures to illustrate the stories. To help your child engage in the book, there is a hidden duck on each page which your child can seek out to find, adding a little more fun to their stories. These books have been cleverly written on two reading levels. The stories are written with simple short sentences at the top of each page. This is ideal for the beginner reader who is not yet ready to read more complex sentences and it also makes the story easy to follow. This allows the reader to focus on the pictures and discuss what it is they see. If they read just the text across the top of the page, the story still makes sense and your child will still have a good insight into the story. As your child becomes more confident with their reading, they can move onto reading the sentences at the bottom of each page. These sentences provide more detail about the story and they are more complex than the sentences at the top of the page, thus allowing your child to slowly gain confidence in the reading and see their own progress. So you are able to understand this further, take a look at the image below: This helps your child feel comfortable and more familiar with these books. The above image shows the very first two pages. These sentences make sense on their own without having to read the sentences below. When these are read together, they provide more information about the story. These books provide an excellent opportunity to allow you and your child to read together and turn- take. If your child is a beginner reader, why not let them read the text at the top and you read the lengthier sentences below? If your child is more confident but you still would like to read together, you could reverse the roles. I absolutely love the way these books have been written. A great deal of thought has gone into the language used and the progress your child could make. Use these books to discuss the stories and ask your child questions which would help them to develop their higher order thinking skills. Boot and her children is about their day out to the market where they choose some geese and a duck, but one of the geese manages to get away. Chasing the goose seemed like a lot of fun for the children! This book allows discussion about days out and family trips. The little girl in the story also uses her own money to buy a duck. Perhaps you and your child could talk about what they might buy with their own money and why? Why did the little girl buy the duck? This is a great story which emphasises empathy and family time. The children help to find a solution as to how to get the tractor out of the pond. Ted is wet and muddy but they do get the tractor out. This is a wonderful little story about problem solving and team work. You could ask your child to talk about examples where they have had to work in a team and if they think team work is better than working alone. Again, the illustrations are lovely and really help with discussion and conversation. Boot, their dad, build a scarecrow. They name him Mr. Straw is hiding a secret and the children go to find out what that might be! This book got me thinking about all the odd jobs I have to do around the house, I could really adopt Mr. You could ask your child why Mr. What do they think the secret might be? How do you think you build a scarecrow? And what could the kids in the story have done differently? She is bored of eating grass and ventures out into Mrs. She loves the pretty flowers and decides to eat some. Boot is not happy as she was going to take some of the flowers to a show. She leaves to go to the show and Woolly follows. Woolly ends up winning a prize and Mrs. Boot is very happy! Not such a naughty sheep after all! This is a warming story about how a bad situation can actually turn into a good one! The story encourages hope and optimism. The family search everywhere and end up finding him in a muddy ditch. In the efforts to get him out, they all end up covered in mud too! You could really discuss with your child how they think the children would have felt when they realised that Curly had gone missing and what they felt each time they thought they had found him, but it was actually something else! The family really care about their animals and this really shows in all the stories. What does your child think about looking after animals and

