Free books for 5 year olds to read online

Peabody · checked 2026-11-10

Peabody has 158 free books for 5 year olds to read online. 44 are sound-it-out books a new reader can try alone, and 114 are short gentle stories to read aloud together. They are Peabody's own stories, not books from other publishers. Each opens at once with no sign-up. Free through the end of 2026.

Two kinds of book for a 5 year old

Most 5 year olds are in kindergarten and are just starting to sound out words. They can listen to far more than they can read. So this page has books to try alone, and longer stories for you to read to them.

Books a 5 year old can try alone

Short vowels first, then blends. One short line on a page.

- Bev Has a Pet: Level 1 · 37 words · 10 pages
- Get Up, Gus!: Level 1 · 34 words · 10 pages
- Bed Is Full: Level 1 · 51 words · 12 pages
- Stop, Dad!: Level 2 · 45 words · 12 pages
- The Plum: Level 2 · 57 words · 12 pages
- A Bun for Fran: Level 2 · 47 words · 12 pages

To read aloud to a 5 year old

Little stories where one small thing happens.

- Nell's Loose Tooth: Level 4 · 54 words · 12 pages
- Jem Is Mad: Level 4 · 71 words · 17 pages
- Kate and the Puddle: Level 4 · 56 words · 15 pages
- Dot and the Log: Level 5 · 82 words · 16 pages
- Pim and the Mitten: Level 5 · 208 words · 22 pages

- Book: Get Up, Gus! · Level: Level 1 · Words: 34 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
- Book: Jen and the Jam · Level: Level 1 · Words: 24 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
- Book: Pup in the Tub · Level: Level 1 · Words: 31 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
- Book: Can Ted Hop? · Level: Level 1 · Words: 29 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
- Book: Bev Has a Pet · Level: Level 1 · Words: 37 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
- Book: The Red Bus · Level: Level 1 · Words: 30 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
- Book: A Web on the Bed · Level: Level 1 · Words: 46 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print

• Book: Six Cats, Six Hats · Level: Level 1 · Words: 31 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: A Fox in a Box · Level: Level 1 · Words: 40 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Bat in the Hat · Level: Level 1 · Words: 44 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Bob Mops · Level: Level 1 · Words: 48 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Dots in the Hut · Level: Level 1 · Words: 40 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Rat's Hut · Level: Level 1 · Words: 44 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Fox and the Hen · Level: Level 1 · Words: 37 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Hot Pot · Level: Level 1 · Words: 45 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Zed and the Rug · Level: Level 1 · Words: 41 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Ten Hens · Level: Level 1 · Words: 46 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Bed Is Full · Level: Level 1 · Words: 51 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Ten Pigs · Level: Level 1 · Words: 30 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Tab Can Not Nap · Level: Level 1 · Words: 52 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Peg Gets Wet · Level: Level 1 · Words: 53 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Ned and the Red Jet · Level: Level 1 · Words: 50 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Clap and Stomp · Level: Level 2 · Words: 51 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Jump, Jump, Jump! · Level: Level 2 · Words: 63 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Stop, Dad! · Level: Level 2 · Words: 45 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Which Dish, Chad? · Level: Level 2 · Words: 64 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Fred and the Sled · Level: Level 2 · Words: 61 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: A Bun for Fran · Level: Level 2 · Words: 47 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Stop, Bus! · Level: Level 2 · Words: 40 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: The Black Cat · Level: Level 2 · Words: 67 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Thud in the Shed · Level: Level 2 · Words: 67 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: A Hum in the Hall · Level: Level 2 · Words: 61 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: The Plum · Level: Level 2 · Words: 57 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Ring the Bell · Level: Level 2 · Words: 38 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print

• Book: Josh and the Bug · Level: Level 2 · Words: 70 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Shep and the Pup · Level: Level 2 · Words: 70 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: The Hen Who Hisses · Level: Level 2 · Words: 53 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Seth and the Ship · Level: Level 2 · Words: 62 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Frog on a Log · Level: Level 2 · Words: 45 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: The Black Thing · Level: Level 2 · Words: 52 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Chip and the Shell · Level: Level 2 · Words: 43 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Fish in a Dish · Level: Level 2 · Words: 44 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: The Big Truck · Level: Level 2 · Words: 44 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: A Nest on the Hill · Level: Level 2 · Words: 60 · Good for: Trying alone · Print: Print
• Book: Jem and Pug Sit · Level: Level 4 · Words: 67 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Jem Is Mad · Level: Level 4 · Words: 71 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Two Mice · Level: Level 4 · Words: 55 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Lou and the Snow Dad · Level: Level 4 · Words: 81 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Boy Yells Wolf · Level: Level 4 · Words: 61 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Ant and Dove · Level: Level 4 · Words: 55 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Can I Pet It? · Level: Level 4 · Words: 64 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Goat and Goat · Level: Level 4 · Words: 57 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Little Red Hen · Level: Level 4 · Words: 96 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Mort and the Storm · Level: Level 4 · Words: 78 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Kate and the Puddle · Level: Level 4 · Words: 56 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print

• Book: Liv and the Ants · Level: Level 4 · Words: 87 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Mice and a Bell · Level: Level 4 · Words: 53 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Fay and the Kite · Level: Level 4 · Words: 93 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Big Egg · Level: Level 4 · Words: 96 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Go, Go, Go · Level: Level 4 · Words: 68 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Fox Wants Grapes · Level: Level 4 · Words: 61 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Snail Wins the Race · Level: Level 4 · Words: 69 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Yum! · Level: Level 4 · Words: 39 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Glow, Pumpkin, Glow · Level: Level 4 · Words: 76 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Bo and the Bath Duck · Level: Level 4 · Words: 60 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Goat and the Boat · Level: Level 4 · Words: 75 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Dog and the Bone · Level: Level 4 · Words: 63 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Under the Sea · Level: Level 4 · Words: 68 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: A Boo for Bea · Level: Level 4 · Words: 83 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: A Seed for Lee · Level: Level 4 · Words: 80 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Red, Red, Red · Level: Level 4 · Words: 50 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Look at the Big Pig · Level: Level 4 · Words: 53 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Gus and the Big Rock · Level: Level 4 · Words: 90 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Lion and Mouse · Level: Level 4 · Words: 56 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print

• Book: The Ghost in the Yard · Level: Level 4 · Words: 69 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Nell's Loose Tooth · Level: Level 4 · Words: 54 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Penguin Who Wanted to Fly · Level: Level 4 · Words: 88 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Ant and Hopper · Level: Level 4 · Words: 70 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Tall Thin Man · Level: Level 4 · Words: 68 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Donkey Plays Lion · Level: Level 4 · Words: 49 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: At the Zoo · Level: Level 4 · Words: 46 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Who Eats the Lettuce? · Level: Level 4 · Words: 62 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Where Is Ned's Hat? · Level: Level 5 · Words: 63 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Enormous Turnip · Level: Level 5 · Words: 93 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Dot and the Log · Level: Level 5 · Words: 82 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: A Bath for the Birds · Level: Level 5 · Words: 95 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Leaf for Ant · Level: Level 5 · Words: 129 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Crow and the Pitcher · Level: Level 5 · Words: 128 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: A Bell for the Cat · Level: Level 5 · Words: 107 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Stuck Kite · Level: Level 5 · Words: 203 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Goats on a Plank · Level: Level 5 · Words: 122 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Pim and the Mitten · Level: Level 5 · Words: 208 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Boy Who Fibbed · Level: Level 5 · Words: 156 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print

• Book: The Grapes Up High · Level: Level 5 · Words: 147 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Just Bamboo · Level: Level 5 · Words: 95 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Three Little Pigs · Level: Level 5 · Words: 200 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Johnny Appleseed · Level: Level 5 · Words: 80 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Mouse Goes to Town · Level: Level 5 · Words: 165 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Lion Skin · Level: Level 5 · Words: 129 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Rainbow Race · Level: Level 5 · Words: 116 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Butterfly Summer · Level: Level 5 · Words: 96 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Tortoise and the Hare · Level: Level 5 · Words: 132 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Gingerbread Man · Level: Level 5 · Words: 179 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Bean in the Cup · Level: Level 5 · Words: 128 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Fiddle and the Corn · Level: Level 5 · Words: 158 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Wiggly Tooth · Level: Level 5 · Words: 91 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Buster and the Pail · Level: Level 5 · Words: 117 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: A Rail Full of Corn · Level: Level 5 · Words: 111 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Danny Digs Doors · Level: Level 5 · Words: 125 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Henny Penny · Level: Level 5 · Words: 180 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Roar in the Cupboard · Level: Level 5 · Words: 110 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Goldilocks and the Three Bears · Level: Level 5 · Words: 175 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print

• Book: The Monster Who Could Not Sleep · Level: Level 5 · Words: 98 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Scratch at the Tent · Level: Level 5 · Words: 95 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: Piccola · Level: Level 5 · Words: 170 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Print
• Book: The Blinking Lamp · Level: Level 6 · Words: 218 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Midas and the Gold · Level: Level 6 · Words: 170 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Thor and the Giants · Level: Level 6 · Words: 208 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Mia and the Kite · Level: Level 6 · Words: 236 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: The Moon Follows Me · Level: Level 6 · Words: 171 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Tom and the Big Fish · Level: Level 6 · Words: 220 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: The Mice Hold a Meeting · Level: Level 6 · Words: 172 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: The Bear Who Could Not Sleep · Level: Level 6 · Words: 242 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: The Snail Race · Level: Level 6 · Words: 242 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Pandora Opens the Jar · Level: Level 6 · Words: 155 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Thor and the Big Fish · Level: Level 6 · Words: 209 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: The Sailor and the Snake · Level: Level 6 · Words: 167 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Ruby and the Rainy Picnic · Level: Level 6 · Words: 153 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Sour Grapes, Says Fox · Level: Level 6 · Words: 188 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Nobody Gives Way · Level: Level 6 · Words: 182 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: The Girl at the Shore · Level: Level 6 · Words: 206 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online

• Book: Thor's New Hammer · Level: Level 6 · Words: 190 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Ben and the Puddle Boat · Level: Level 6 · Words: 162 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: The Hamster Who Went Out · Level: Level 6 · Words: 212 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Ant Saves Dove · Level: Level 6 · Words: 181 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: The Shark Who Smiled · Level: Level 6 · Words: 168 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Bolt the Helper Robot · Level: Level 6 · Words: 166 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Danny's Short Tail · Level: Level 6 · Words: 189 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Atalanta Runs · Level: Level 6 · Words: 164 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Hercules and His Jobs · Level: Level 6 · Words: 243 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: The Jug That Filled · Level: Level 6 · Words: 197 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: The Mouse Who Went Home · Level: Level 6 · Words: 205 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: A Wolf at Last · Level: Level 6 · Words: 206 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: The Little Lantern · Level: Level 6 · Words: 167 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: The Scarecrow Moves · Level: Level 6 · Words: 187 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: The Big Wooden Horse · Level: Level 6 · Words: 218 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Arachne Weaves · Level: Level 6 · Words: 168 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Ra Sails the Sky · Level: Level 6 · Words: 192 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Paddy's Strange House · Level: Level 6 · Words: 185 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
• Book: Arion Sings · Level: Level 6 · Words: 199 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online

- Book: Baby Hermes · Level: Level 6 · Words: 195 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
- Book: Wings of Wax · Level: Level 6 · Words: 172 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
- Book: Max and the Magnet · Level: Level 6 · Words: 151 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
- Book: Grasshopper Plays All Summer · Level: Level 6 · Words: 207 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
- Book: Paddy Builds a Dam · Level: Level 6 · Words: 184 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
- Book: Donkey Is Found Out · Level: Level 6 · Words: 166 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
- Book: Persephone and the Seeds · Level: Level 6 · Words: 156 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online
- Book: Idun's Golden Apples · Level: Level 6 · Words: 213 · Good for: Reading aloud together · Print: Read online

Books to try alone

Peabody starts a kindergartener at level 1: every short vowel, one short line on a page and a picture on every page. Level 2 adds blends like st and sh. The kindergarten books page has all of these with level 0 too.

Stories to read aloud

The level 4 to 6 stories are 39 to 243 words long, in plain words, with one small thing happening in each. Read them aloud now. A child who is reading them alone by the end of the year is ready for first grade books.

Reading together

You read a page and your child reads it back, or you take turns by page. Where a device can speak, the story page has a Read to me button that reads each page aloud in the device's own voice.

More free stories

- The whole library: free stories by reading level, no account needed.
- Classic stories retold short: fables, fairy tales, myths and legends.
- Free kindergarten books to read online or print
- Free books for 4 year olds and preschoolers to read online
- Free read aloud books for kindergarten
- Free first grade books to read online

- Free beginning reader books for kids just learning to read
- Free sight word stories for kids, to read and print
- By level: Level 1 · Level 2 · Level 4 · Level 5 · Level 6

Questions parents ask

What should a 5 year old be reading?

Books with short words they can sound out, like cat, pig and hop, and a few common words to know by sight. Peabody starts a kindergartener at level 1. Go down to level 0 if that is hard and up to level 2 if it is easy.

Should I still read aloud to a 5 year old?

Yes. A 5 year old understands much longer stories than they can read, so reading aloud is how they meet new words. The second group on this page is for that.

Are these books from other publishers?

No. Every book on this page is a Peabody story, written for this site and free to read here through the end of 2026. For picture books to borrow, ask at your public library.

Do the books cost anything?

No. Every story on this page is free to read through the end of 2026, with no account and no card.

Free at peabody.kids/books-for-5-year-olds