LANGUAGE. LITERACY. CULTURE.

SPELLBOUND

CHRISTCHURCH, NZ | PHONE: +64 21912715 | REAL STORIES, REAL LEARNING FOR NZ YOUTH & FAMILIES

TEACHER'S RESOURCE FOUNDATION


LANGUAGE. LITERACY. CULTURE.

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ISSUE NO 1 | OCT 2026 | BY SUBSCRIPTION | | REAL STORIES, REAL LEARNING FOR NZ YOUTH & FAMILIES

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LANGUAGE
English kaleidoscope
Are you green with envy at those who are in the pink of health? Be dazzled by the world of colour idioms in our everyday language
– Pages 4 & 5

TALKING HEADS
Packing a punch
From the martial arts ring to national leadership: How competitive grit built the passionate TRSOLANZ president
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Shielding an Icon

Behind the roar of stadium crowds lies a fierce story of sisterly love, broken windows, and keeping Richie Mo'unga grounded

PAGES 12-14

INSIDE THIS RESOURCE:
ISSUE 1, OCTOBER 2026

INCLUDES (32 PAGES):

- Dual-Tier Differentiated Content – Foundation
- 5 Scaffolded Student Worksheets
- Complete Formative Answer Keys
- Built on Research-Based Structured Instruction
- ELLP, Draft EAL Curriculum & Structured Literacy Progress Tiers (Mixed Levels)

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT:

- Upper Primary to Secondary
- ELLP Stages 1–2; Draft EAL Stages 1–2
- Structured Literacy Approaches

Inherited Secrets Help students discover the jaw-dropping science proving brilliant butterflies are born remembering their ancestors' lives	1
Language History Students will explore the bizarre historical origins of everyday colour phrases to dynamically boost their vocabulary	2
Civic Showdown Unpack New Zealand's MMP electoral system by comparing ballot-box choices to prime-time reality television voting	3
Permanent Mandate Track the historic greyhound racing ban to debate modern welfare policy and animal companion care	4
Sisterly Love Evaluate how deep-rooted family structures, faith, and traditional values insulate a NZ rugby icon from public pressure	5

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Learning Objectives Summary

Words Explode in Full Colour! · Colourful Idioms — Foundation Tier

COHORT	PROFICIENCY	ALIGNMENT	FOCUS TEXT
Upper Primary to Secondary; EAL Learners - Foundation level	ELLP Stages 1-2 & Structured Literacy	ELLP Stages 1-2; EAL Draft Curriculum Stages 1-2 & Structured Literacy	Issue 1, p.4 — "Words Explode in Full Colour"

📖 Making Meaning — Reading & Listening

Strand: Making Meaning (Reading, Listening)

- **Vocabulary:** Locate six key words in the text and match each to its correct meaning.
- **Reading for Meaning:** Judge whether statements about the story are true or false (Yes/No).
- **Listening:** Listen to a dictated sentence and write it down exactly, with correct capitalisation and punctuation.

✍️ Creating Meaning — Writing & Speaking

Strand: Creating Meaning (Writing, Speaking, Interacting)

- **Writing:** Use target colour idioms accurately to complete sentence builders.
- **Speaking & Interacting:** Take turns in a short role-play, pronouncing target vocabulary clearly.

🎯 How Each Activity Meets the Objectives

Activity	Skill Focus	Objective Addressed
1. Vocabulary	Reading / Word Meaning	Match colour idioms and key words to their meanings.
2. Reading (T/F)	Comprehension	Confirm literal meaning of idioms from the story.
3. Writing	Applied Writing	Use idioms correctly in context.
4. Speaking	Oral Interaction	Practise turn-taking and pronunciation.
5. Listening	Listening / Transcription	Write a dictated sentence accurately.

(For supplemental use only to support literacy, EAL development, and classroom differentiation).

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Words Explode in Full Colour!

Colourful Idioms · Foundation Tier (Stages 1 & 2)

Name: Class: Date:

1 Vocabulary — Words from the Story

🧩 READING

Teachers: Read these six words aloud first. Have students repeat them, locate them in the text, and draw a line to match each word to its meaning.

1. Biscuit 🍪	A person who is mean to others.
2. Bully 😡	A lie told to protect feelings.
3. Greenhorn 🐂	A brave protector on a horse.
4. Calendar 📅	A sweet, crunchy snack food.
5. Knight ⚔️	A young farm ox / a beginner at a job.
6. White Lie 🤫	A chart showing the days and months.

2 Reading — True or False?

📖 COMPREHENSION

Circle YES or NO based on the story:

- A white lie is told to be mean to your friends. YES / NO
- “Caught red-handed” means your hands are covered in real blood. YES / NO
- Hundreds of years ago, people marked holidays with red ink. YES / NO
- A greenhorn is someone who is very good at their job. YES / NO

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Create & Speak in Colour!

Writing · Speaking · Listening

3 Writing — Sentence Builders

✍️ WRITING

Use the words in the box to fill in the blank spaces.

red-handed	white horse	green with envy	white lie

I told a small _____ so I wouldn't hurt my sister's feelings.

When Sam got a new bike, I felt _____.

The teacher caught the student _____ drawing on the desk.

When I lost my lunchbox, the teacher helped me like a knight on a _____.

4 Speaking & Interaction — Roleplay

🗣️ SPEAKING

Find a partner. Take turns reading these sentences out loud:

Student A: "Have you ever been caught red-handed?"

Student B: "Yes! I was caught red-handed stealing a biscuit!"

Student A: "Did you tell a white lie?"

Student B: "No, I said sorry to my mum!"

5 Listening — Teacher Dictation

👂 LISTENING

Teachers: Read the following sentence slowly three times. Students must listen and write it down exactly as heard.

Student Writing Space:

✒️ _____

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🔑 Teacher Answer Key

Foundation (Stages 1 & 2) · For Teacher Use

🧩 Activity 1: Vocabulary

The correct line-matching combinations are listed below:

1. Biscuit 🍪	→	A sweet, crunchy snack food.
2. Bully 😡	→	A person who is mean to others.
3. Greenhorn 🐂	→	A young farm ox / a beginner at a job.
4. Calendar 📅	→	A chart showing the days and months.
5. Knight ⚔️	→	A brave protector on a horse.
6. White Lie 🤫	→	A lie told to protect feelings.

📖 Activity 2: Reading

A white lie is told to be mean to your friends.
Answer: **NO** (It is told to protect someone's feelings).

"Caught red-handed" means your hands are covered in real blood.
Answer: **NO** (It means you were spotted doing something wrong at the exact second you did it).

Hundreds of years ago, people marked holidays with red ink.
Answer: **YES** (This is why we have "red-letter days").

A greenhorn is someone who is very good at their job.
Answer: **NO** (It means they are a beginner and still clumsy).

✍️ Activity 3: Writing

I told a small **white lie** so I wouldn't hurt my sister's feelings.
When Sam got a new bike, I felt **green with envy**.
The teacher caught the student **red-handed** drawing on the desk.
When I lost my lunchbox, the teacher helped me like a knight on a **white horse**.

🗣️ Activity 4: Speaking

Teachers should check for:
• Clear pronunciation of target vocabulary words (caught red-handed, biscuit, white lie).
• Active engagement and fluid turn-taking between Student A and Student B.

👂 Activity 5: Listening

Students must write the dictated sentence exactly as follows:
"The school prefect saved the day."
Teachers should check for a capital letter "T" at the start and a full stop at the end.

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