

Gemma Open Door: A Unique Hi-Lo Reading Program for Adults

Help new readers find the pleasure in reading with these original, unabridged works by best-selling authors and gifted writers. Each book tells an intriguing story and helps learners build their reading comprehension, fluency, and critical thinking skills.

Free online tools are available to enhance the learning experience and help stimulate lively classroom discussion:

- **SnapReads!** are short excerpts adapted from three of Gemma's most popular titles: *American Lion*, *Yankee Doodle*, and *The Bear Suit*. Written at roughly first grade levels, these quick reads introduce new readers to the underlying story in five simple installments.
- **Audio Files** are available for select titles. Students can listen to the book while they read along. This improves decoding skills as well as comprehension and fluency.
- **Reading Guides** include pre-reading questions, activities, post-reading discussion questions, and writing suggestions to activate reader understanding and encourage a love of reading.
- **Lesson Plans** offer tips for reading out loud, key vocabulary, class activities, and more to engage students and spark classroom or small group discussion.

Book Title	NRP Online Tools	NRS Reading Level	Description
<i>Airport</i>	Audio	3.7	Intrepid traveler Luis is trapped in flight delay and has many hours to see and hear and sense his fellow passengers. Where can all these people be going? Where in the world do we belong?
<i>American Lion</i>	Audio SnapReads Reading Guide	4.5	Set in the rugged western United States, American Lion presents true stories of the majestic North American cougar told by people who encountered the mountain lion up close.
<i>Bake Sale</i>	Lesson Plan	3.2	A divorced professor and windowed dentist meet by chance at a holiday bake sale at their children's school. Excitement builds as a dinner date is planned for Christmas Eve. Will the night be a success, or will misunderstandings make this budding relationship crumble?

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<i>Barn Cat</i>	Audio Reading Guide	4.7	What happens when people lose their way home? Like a little barn cat, they grab onto a second family ... and start again.
<i>The Bear Suit</i>	Audio SnapReads Lesson Plan Reading Guide	3.7	Rollo is tired of humans. He knows mankind is wrecking the planet. Rollo dreams of escaping to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where he can be free of other people. There's just one problem with his scheme: Rollo's hungry human stomach.
<i>The Cell Phone Lot</i>	Audio Reading Guide	2.9	After putting herself through cosmetology school, Jessica Vasquez lands her dream job. It all falls apart when she's fired for a crime she did not commit. Now, she takes on a new job as an Uber driver and learns who she can truly trust.
<i>Forever and Ever</i>	Audio Reading Guide	3.6	Jaimie, a high school senior, holes himself up in an isolated cabin on a New Hampshire lake to mourn the death of his girlfriend. As night falls and the mist settles in, he hears a plaintive wail. Could it be Jannie?
<i>A Full Circle</i>		4.2	In 1878, two years after Custer's Last Stand, 270 Arapaho people were rounded up and forced to walk to the Shoshone Indian Reservation. This is a fictional account of how several generations of Arapaho were stripped of their tribal identities and assimilated into white culture.
<i>The Giant Baby</i>	Audio	4.9	Linda and Earl are a happy, childless couple that care for a magical garden that never seems to grow what they plant. One day, Earl finds a set of infant toes in the loam and plants them. What will the couple do when something very unexpected grows in their garden?
<i>A Girls' Guide to the Islands</i>	Audio Lesson Plan Quiz Answers Study Guide	4.9	Writer Suzanne and her daughter Lilia explore the unique treasures of the small islands of the Inland Sea near Japan. Mother and daughter must confront several barriers on their adventure, as Lilia is deaf and in a wheelchair.
<i>Jackie Robinson</i>	Audio Lesson Plan	6.8	Overcoming prejudice, exclusion, and even hatred, Jackie Robinson broke the color line and became one of baseball's best players and inspired many young people to fight segregation and ignorance.
<i>Key City on the River</i>	Audio Lesson Plan	3.2	In November of 1833, a group of formerly enslaved travelers from Kentucky cross into the Iowa Territory to settle in Key City. What will their new life be like? Will they be free?

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<i>Newcomers</i>	Audio Lesson Plan	3.3	In <i>Newcomers</i> , five new people arrive at the Dallas/Fort Worth airport. But they are not starting a vacation or traveling. They come to work. Travelers pass by them without a second look. Yet their lives are challenging and complex. These employees become friends as they struggle to learn a new culture and the world of work.
<i>The Night Telephone</i>	Audio Lesson Plan	2.9	Dr. Tarak Kapoor has just left his home in Mumbai to take a job in Texas. He has trouble sleeping and wanders the empty streets late at night. In the middle of a deserted area, he sees people drive up one-by-one to make calls from a brightly lit pay telephone. Why are they here? Who are they calling?
<i>No Stopping Her</i>		4.7	Growing up without a mother is hard. Then her father's new wife gets in the way of Brittany's plans. Just when she thinks things can't get any worse, Brittany's father dies and she finds out that he has changed his will.
<i>One Season in the Sun</i>	Audio Reading Guide	7.0	The history of baseball is filled with forgotten names—players who are good enough to reach the top of the sport but who, for any number of reasons, land at the edges of the game. Here are the gripping stories of their brief moments in the sun.
<i>The Orchard</i>	Audio Lesson Plan	3.5	Lisa's grandfather is turning 100, and her family is gathering from across the country to celebrate at Grandpa Joe's home—a sprawling apricot orchard in southern California. Lisa wants to preserve the orchard, but everyone else in the family wants to sell. Will the family come together or be torn apart?
<i>The Other</i>		3.1	Ava has a secret. She was born with wings that she hides under a special device her father made for her. When she turns sixteen, Ava can choose to have her wings removed. Will she go through with it, or will she accept the unique part of herself?
<i>Pirates on Dinosaur Island</i>	Audio	7.1	Dr. Christopher Lemuel becomes a ship's doctor to escape England, after shamefully killing a man in a duel. He is wounded in a sea battle, captured by pirates, and reluctantly becomes a buccaneer. What happens when he is marooned on an island populated by enormous beasts unknown in natural history?

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<i>The Possibility of Lions</i>	Audio Reading Guide	4.7	Suddenly driven from their African home, the McCall family turns up in San Joaquin Valley. But life in America is lonely, desolate, and dull, and the children and their mother long to return. But their father knows the truth—there's nothing to go back to. Can they recreate a bit of their native land in California?
<i>Post Office on the Tokaido</i>	Audio	3.5	Siya lands a temporary job at the Shindori Post Office. There she learns that a motorbike bandit is stealing money from elderly customers who use the post office to do their banking. What she does next to stop the bandits surprises everyone . . . even herself!
<i>Queen Serene</i>	Audio Comprehension Quiz Answer Key	2.7	Queen Serene moves into a little house right across the street from her grandmother, Betty Cope. She and Betty form a bond, but Betty's sudden trip to the hospital pits Queen against her mother and her aunt. It's up to Queen to put things right.
<i>Spin Cycles</i>	Audio Reading Guide	4.8	Brilliant, homeless, and nearly invisible, a young man wanders through Boston, looking for meaning and hope. He finds comfort in laundromats by watching clothes tumble round and round. <i>Spin Cycles</i> is a story of loss, discovery, and, just possibly, redemption.
<i>The Spy</i>	Audio Lesson Plan	3.2	Based on the real-life experiences of Gertrude Sanford Legendre, <i>The Spy</i> tells the story of Pearl Dubois, the first woman to be captured as a spy during WWII. When she is sent on a secret mission, Pearl and her companions are ambushed by Nazi soldiers. Can she survive long enough to plot her escape?
<i>The Tiger's Back</i>	Audio	3.3	Robert wakes up one morning in his Vermont home to find a Bengal tiger sitting in his rose garden. Is the tiger real? Or has the illness that has invaded every other part of his body finally gone to his head?
<i>Time with Leo</i>	Lesson Plan Reading Guide	2.9	A 15-year old boy travels back in time to the late 15th Century where he meets Leonardo da Vinci. Da Vinci was an early futurist who drew designs for the first airplane, helicopter, and submarine. Who better to design a time machine to get the boy home?
<i>Toast</i>	Audio	3.1	Eleven-year-old Mia and her ten-year-old autistic brother Will are in many ways like other kids. They like to play in the yard and eat pizza. This story explores the complex relationship between a girl and her autistic brother.

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<i>Training Days</i>	Audio	3.7	Rights of passage are difficult for any young girl, and Jun-li Lin is no exception. The grown-ups in her life are out of control. Can she find a way to bring the family together before everyone drifts apart?
<i>The Transcriber</i>	Reading Guide	4.5	Louis's sister, Emily, is blind. She's also in the marching band, gets great grades, and has the biggest bedroom in the house to accommodate her Braille machine. Everyone thinks Emily's accomplishments are extraordinary except Louis. This is a funny and touching story about the power of sibling rivalry . . . and reconciliation.
<i>Yankee Doodle</i>	Audio SnapReads	5.2	When an unlikely combination of immigrants share an afternoon train ride, they are surprised to discover what's common in their American experience.
<i>Gemma Open Door for Literacy Starter Kit</i>		2.9–6.8	<p>This starter kit includes (10) original, unabridged works that vary in reading levels and will help learners build their reading and comprehension skills.</p> <p>The kit includes (1) copy of each title: <i>The Night Telephone</i>, <i>Key City on the River</i>, <i>The Orchard</i>, <i>Forever and Ever</i>, <i>The Bear Suit</i>, <i>American Lion</i>, <i>Spin Cycles</i>, <i>A Girls' Guide to the Islands</i>, <i>Yankee Doodle</i>, and <i>Jackie Robinson</i>.</p>