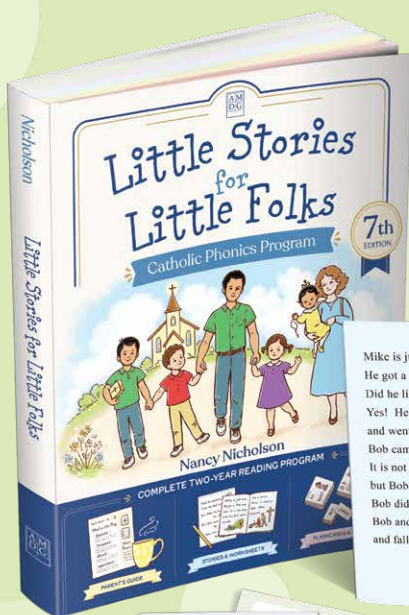


How Is Little Stories for Little Folks Different from Other Phonics Programs?

Little Stories for Little Folks was developed by Nancy Nicholson, who drew on courses in linguistics from her major in Secondary Education—English and comparative studies of phonics programs by Monica Foltzer, M.Ed., Edward Fry, Ph.D., Marion Hull, Ph.D., and others. While appreciating the work done by these prominent educators, Nancy Nicholson knew that **the average child does not need a course in linguistics in order to learn how to read**, and that the average parent does not need (nor have time for) a course in linguistics in order to teach her child how to read. Motivated by this realization, the author set out to develop a phonics program that would:

- maximize ease-of-use for busy parents;
- be interesting and enjoyable for young readers;
- instill a love for our Lord, develop character, and promote Catholic family life.



Fold each 8½" x 11" sheet into a booklet. Bite-size stories for children's little hands!

Mike is just nine.
He got a fine new bike.
Did he like the bike?
Yes! He put it next to a tall pine
and went inside.
Bob came and sat on the bike.
It is not Bob's bike,
but Bob wants to ride.
Bob did not ask Mike.
Bob and the bike hit a bump
and fall on the hill.

The bike is bent.
Bob will hide the bike.
Mike can not find his bike.
Bob says, "I did not take the bike."
It is a lie. It is a sin. Then he cries.
He is sorry.
Mike did not hit Bob.
He is kind to Bob.
Mike forgives.

Nancy Nicholson's approach to phonics is similar to Rosetta Stone's approach to teaching foreign languages. That is, as infants we didn't learn speech by conjugating endless columns of verbs. Rather, we learned verbs within the context of speech. Similarly, instead of requiring the child (and parent) to memorize abstract lists of phonograms and phonics rules, *Little Stories for Little Folks* teaches phonics patterns within the context of word families. Instead of relying on technical terminology ("phoneme," "grapheme," "phonogram"), *Little Stories for Little Folks* utilizes more familiar vocabulary, instructing the child, for example, to be aware of "silent" letters, and letters or sounds that he can "hear."

Teaching phonics-based word families, the author believes, is the most gratifying way for children to discover quickly that there are patterns to words and that they can read a LOT of words even when they are just beginning. Phonics drill can seem so pointless and dry to youngsters that it is almost self-defeating. They want to READ! In *Little Stories for Little Folks*, students are quickly launched into reading interesting, phonics-based short stories, and **children discover with the very first story that they can actually read a "whole book"**! This early success quickly breeds more success, producing eager readers with excellent word-attack skills.

The testimony of countless homeschooling families confirms the efficacy of Nancy Nicholson's approach. One mother writes:

"I LOVE the *Little Stories for Little Folks* phonics program. I had looked at several phonics programs and was reduced to tears due to the complexity/cost of them. Nancy Nicholson's curriculum is easy to read and understand and is affordable!" 📖

