

READ TOGETHER



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Australia



Sharing a story with someone you care about is a very special experience. It's a chance to spend time together and build memories that will last a lifetime!

This **Storytime Australia Read Together** pack is full of activities and ideas to help you make the most of the very special experience of reading with children. Reading together is a brilliant way to bond, improve communication and improve literacy and vocabulary.

Read through this pack with the little readers in your life and discuss it with them. Which stories would you both like to read? Are there any activities you would like to do together? By making reading and completing story-based activities a shared experience, you are helping the child and spending quality time with them as well.

Get ready to start your shared reading journey!

INSIDE THIS PACK:

- ➡ Advice for Families and Friends!
- ➡ A World of Stories!
- ➡ Which Story Should We Read?
- ➡ Talking About a Story!
- ➡ Let's Go on a Story Hunt!
- ➡ Word Quest!
- ➡ Tell Your Own Tale!
- ➡ Make-Believe Time!
- ➡ Make a Story Jar!
- ➡ Once Upon My Time...
- ➡ Reading-Together Cards!
- ➡ Shared-Reading Chart
- ➡ Top Tips for reading Together
- ➡ About **Storytime Australia**

ADVICE FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS!

Follow these tips to begin reading regularly with kids.
It's easier than you think!

★ **Plan it together!** Read through this pack with the child. Talk about the different activities and which ones they would enjoy doing.

★ **Make time!** Try to set aside some time to read a story with the child. The tales in **Storytime Australia** are short, so enjoying them doesn't have to involve a big time commitment. Keep a few issues around so you can pick up a story anytime!

★ **Reading a story is a great time-out!** If children are bored or have had too much 'screen time', sitting down with them for a shared reading session is an ideal change of pace.

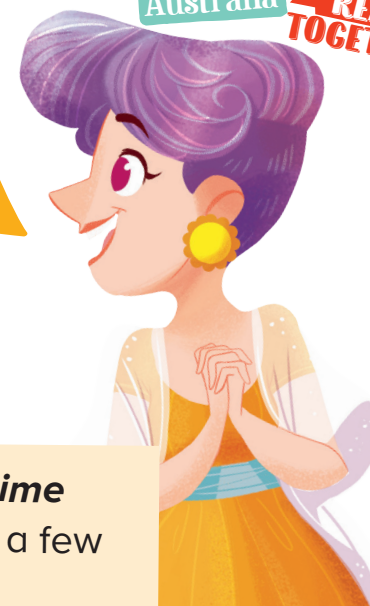
★ **No pressure!** We here at **Storytime Australia** believe that reading should be fun, not work! It's fine to miss a shared-reading session now and then.

★ **Talk about it!** After you have finished reading together or completing an activity in this pack, ask the child questions about it! Be sure to say positive things about their answers. This will encourage them to express themselves more in future!

★ **Celebrate it!** Put up the reading chart on the refrigerator or another prominent place where everyone can see how well your shared reading is going.

Do your best
to make shared
reading a special
part of your week!

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★ **Pass it on!**

Share the joy of reading with friends and family by sending them this pack – and perhaps an issue of **Storytime Australia**, too! Copies and subscriptions are available from:
storytimemagazine.com.au

A WORLD OF STORIES!

Not all stories are the same – there are many types to discover, in story books and in the pages of **Storytime Australia**, too!

MYTHS AND LEGENDS!

These are stories from ancient times. They often feature brave heroes and heroines going on adventures in which they encounter monsters and magical menaces. Many of these stories are famous and have been retold hundreds of times.

Where to find them in Storytime: **Myths and Legends** or **Around the World Tales**

NON-FICTION!

These stories are about things that really happened. They are great for children who are interested in real people and events. They can cover many subjects, including music, sports, history and science.

Where to find them in Storytime: **Awesome Adventures**

FAIRY TALES!

Most fairy tales take place in the past and are about boys and girls who face magical dangers. These stories often include witches, wizards and talking animals who can help or hinder our heroes!

Where to find them in Storytime: **Favourite Fairy Tales**, **Around the World Tales** or **Short Stories**, **Big Dreams**

SCIENCE FICTION!

These tales are set in the future or are about incredible inventions. (Time-travel stories can take place in the past, too!) If you like aliens and robots, or if you daydream at school – these are the stories for you.

Where to find them in Storytime: **Tales from Today** or **Worlds of Wonder!**

FABLES!

These are funny, short and easy-to-read stories that have a lesson to teach us! They star awesome talking animals (and sometimes humans too!)

Where to find them in Storytime: **Famous Fables** or **Short Stories**, **Big Dreams**

FOLK TALES!

These are old stories that have been retold for hundreds of years! Some have never been printed before, but we like to rediscover them – especially ones come from different cultures. You will enjoy them if you like finding out about different places and peoples!

Where to find them in Storytime: **Storyteller's Corner** or **Around the World Tales**

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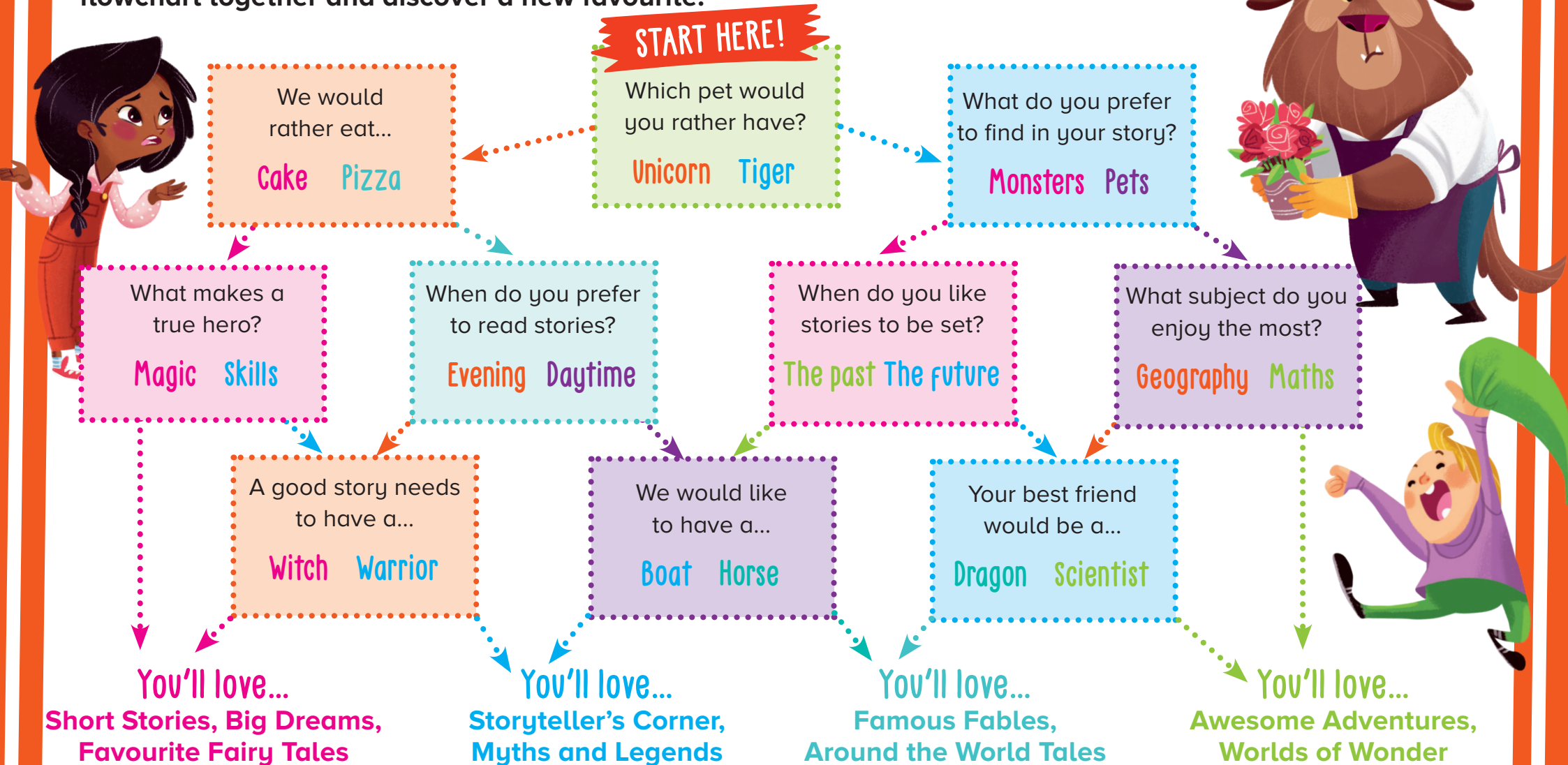


Pick a type of story that you will both enjoy!



WHICH STORY SHOULD WE READ?

If you and your little reader can't decide what kind of story to read, there are plenty of different types of stories in each issue of **Storytime Australia**. Go through this handy flowchart together and discover a new favourite.



TALKING ABOUT A STORY!

Once you have shared a story with someone, why not ask each other questions about it? This can lead to a really fun discussion about what you have read...



WHO IS THE HERO?

A good story needs an interesting main character! The story will be about what happens to them, and the actions that they take. **Who is the main character in the story you read?**

WHO ARE THE OTHER IMPORTANT CHARACTERS?

They could be friends or family of the hero, people they meet, or even monsters or villains! **Name two of them!**

1. _____

2. _____

WHERE IS IT SET?

Stories can be set anywhere on Earth – or even on other worlds! Sometimes, it is not exactly clear *where* a story is set – the events might occur in an unnamed kingdom, town or forest.

Where does the story you read take place?

HOW DOES THE STORY END?

Every story has to come to an end! In many tales, the heroes manage to deal with the problems they face and enjoy a happy ending – but this isn't *always* the case! **Can you write one sentence about how the story you read ended?**

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

What is the main problem or challenge faced by the story's characters? How do they deal with it?

What is the main challenge faced by the story's hero?

Choose a story from Storytime Australia to complete this activity with!



Why not... share some hot chocolate while chatting about stories?

LET'S GO ON A STORY HUNT!

Once you have read several tales with your child, you can go through this worksheet with them. How many of these stories and characters have you come across in your shared-reading sessions?

☐ A story with a girl
as the main character

Who was it? _____

☐ A story with a boy
as the main character

Who was it? _____

☐ A story set in another country
Where was it set? _____

☐ A story that is set in the past
When was it set? _____

☐ A clever animal character
in a story

Who was it? _____

☐ A magical creature or
monster in a story

What was it? _____

☐ A funny story
What's the title? _____

☐ A friend who saves the day
Who was it? _____

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Draw your
favourite
character from
a story below!



Why not... each fill out
a copy of this sheet and
then compare notes?

WORD QUEST!

If the child you are reading with comes across a word they don't know in a story, get them to write it in a speech bubble. Then, talk about what it might mean and try to come up with a new sentence using it!

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What does it mean? _____

Here is a sentence using the word:

What does it mean? _____

Here is a sentence using the word:

What does it mean? _____

Here is a sentence using the word:

Why not... make a game of it? The child can get a point for each time they guess a definition correctly!

What does it mean? _____

Here is a sentence using the word:

What does it mean? _____

Here is a sentence using the word:

TELL YOUR OWN TALE!

It's fun to write stories as well as read them! Work together to fill in the gaps and you will soon have a fresh story to read and enjoy!



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- ☐ It was _____, so I got to spend an entire _____ with my lovely
- ☐ _____! We were in for an awesome day together!
- ☐ I was so _____. First we went to _____, and when we were there
- ☐ we saw _____. We were hungry, so we decided to stop for _____.
- ☐ I ordered _____ and it was _____!
- ☐ After that, we went to _____. This place is one of my favourites because _____.
- ☐ _____
- ☐ My lovely _____ was happy too – but a little bit tired because I kept _____
- ☐ until it got dark!
- ☐ I was a bit _____ when it was time to go back. But I knew we would
- ☐ have many more days like this, because my _____
- ☐ is one of my favourite people in the entire world!

TOP TIP! Write a story about a day with your grandparents and share it with them!

MAKE-BELIEVE TIME!

Stories are brilliant at stimulating young imaginations, and these fun activities encourage kids to use their creativity to come up with their own amazing stories. Why not try them out?

PLAY A ROLE!

Set Up: Ask the child to imagine that they are someone (or something!) else! They could pretend to be a robot, a hamster, or a kid from Roman times. Ask them about how they would experience the world!

For more fun: A costume can help them get into a role!

ONCE UPON A TIME...

Set Up: Tell the child about a certain place. It could be from fiction, from the past... or even from your childhood. Tell them about the sights, the sounds and the smells. Ask them to imagine that they are there, and encourage them to ask questions!

For more fun: Use a picture to show them what the place is like!

PROPS FOR ALL!

Set Up: Find an interesting object – it could be an old device, a strange tool, a little ornament or anything else that could spark the imagination. Hand it to the child and get them to tell you what they observe about it. What do they imagine it could be used for?

For more fun: Team up to create a cool story about the object and why it was made!

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LET'S GO OUT!

Going out is a great way to stimulate a young mind! Go to the beach, the woods or the park. Ask the child what creatures might live there, or what might lie around the next corner...

WHY MAKE-BELIEVE IS GOOD!

It encourages emotional development! Taking on the role of someone else or imagining how a character could feel helps children develop emotional intelligence!

It boosts creativity! A child's imagination is like a muscle – the more they exercise it, the stronger it gets!

It enhances communication skills!

Ask the child to describe what they are imagining. This will encourage them to use their verbal skills in a creative way!

It provides opportunities for critical thinking! Make-believe play encourages kids to think outside of the box. They evaluate options and experiment with new ideas.

MAKE A STORY JAR!

Fill up a story jar with cool and curious things that can inspire creativity and storytelling!

YOU WILL NEED...

1. First, get a large jar or vase. Make sure it is clean and dry before you start using it!
2. Make a **'STORY JAR'** label and stick it to your jar with tape!
3. Now, fill it up with interesting knick-knacks and curios from around the house!

HOW TO USE THE STORY JAR...

- ✓ Ask the child to close their eyes and take an object out of the jar. Tell them to describe what it feels like and what they think it could be!
- ✓ Once they have answered, tell them about the object, where it came from and what it is for. This could start a discussion about your life experiences!
- ✓ Keep picking objects and talking about them! Try to create an interesting and imaginative story in which all of the objects appear!



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Don't put anything that is too valuable or sharp in the jar!

GRANNY & GRANDPA'S FAVOURITES!

Grandparent's homes are full of treasures! Here are some things you can fill a memory jar with – these objects can inspire exciting stories about the past!

- ☐ Old photos
- ☐ Handmade items
- ☐ Buttons or clothing
- ☐ Postcards or drawings
- ☐ Souvenirs
- ☐ Coins or medals

ONCE UPON MY TIME...

Tell your story ... by letting kids pick questions to ask you! Remember, stories tell us who we are – and we all have tales worth telling!



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- ★ Where did you grow up?
- ★ What was your favourite holiday?
- ★ Did you have a pet?
- ★ What was your favourite subject?
- ★ Who is someone famous you have met?
- ★ Can you sing your favourite tune?
- ★ Is there a magic trick you can do?
- ★ What was the best job you have ever had?
- ★ What do you find scary?
- ★ How did you meet _____? someone special!
- ★ What was your favourite toy?
- ★ Where is the most exotic place you have been?
- ★ What is your favourite food?

READING-TOGETHER CARDS

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Print and cut out these cards and then put them in a jar.
Draw one to discover a cool reading experience you can share!

BEDTIME READING

Read a story together!

1

2

OUTDOOR TALE

Find a story set in the wilderness – and read it in a park!

3

A GOOD START

Read the first chapter of a famous classic book!

4

GO FAR AWAY!

Read a story set in a far-off country you would like to visit!

5

RHyme TIME!

Find a fun poem and read it out loud to each other!

6

ONCE UPON
A TIME...
Share your
favourite fairy tale!

7

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE?

Ask a kid to read you their favourite story of all time!

VIRTUAL STORYTELLER!

Share a tale with someone on a video call!

8

9

ADD ADJECTIVES!

Ask the child to pick words to describe things in a story!

11

GUESS WHO?

Read **Awesome Adventures** and then share fun facts about the famous person!

12

REINVENT IT!

Read a story – and then challenge each other to come up with a new ending!

10

TELL ME AGAIN

Retell your favourite story to someone in your own words!

SHARED-READING CHART

Keep a record of your shared reading! Tick the boxes when you have finished a story, read together for 10 minutes or completed an activity in this pack!

DATE _____ / _____
(month) (year)

Make shared-reading time a regular part of your routine!



WEEKDAY	WEEKEND	SCHOOL HOLIDAY	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
<input type="checkbox"/> A story	<input type="checkbox"/> A story	<input type="checkbox"/> A story	<input type="checkbox"/> A story
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 minutes	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 minutes	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 minutes	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> An activity	<input type="checkbox"/> An activity	<input type="checkbox"/> An activity	<input type="checkbox"/> An activity
SUMMER HOLIDAY	SICK DAY	EVENING	OUR FAVOURITE TIME TO READ WAS...
<input type="checkbox"/> A story	<input type="checkbox"/> A story	<input type="checkbox"/> A story	
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 minutes	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 minutes	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 minutes	
<input type="checkbox"/> An activity	<input type="checkbox"/> An activity	<input type="checkbox"/> An activity	

TOP TIPS FOR READING TOGETHER



Plan a time to get together – and bring something you would like to read.

Run your finger under the words as you read to help kids to follow the story. It helps to hear the rhythm of language, too.

Show and tell! Choose a picture from a story and describe what is happening in it!

Choose books together! Go to a book shop or a library together and pick something you would both love to read!

Try using voices for each character and act out scenes. Read in a sing-song voice and have fun!

Make it cosy! Find comfy reading spots for two (or more!) Prepare some treats or a nice cup of cocoa so you can both relax!

Ask questions! The best way to engage readers is to chat about the stories. 'Why do you think that happened?' 'What would have you done differently?'

One great thing about reading together is introducing each other to new things. Share a story you love!

Read different things! Magazines are great fun for finding out about new subjects like nature, sport, movies, science and technology. What are *you* curious about?

ABOUT STORYTIME MAGAZINE AUSTRALIA



Storytime Australia is Australia's leading story magazine and is read by thousands of children all over the world.

It was created to give parents and teachers a quality magazine that helps to **improve children's literacy** – with no adverts and no plastic toys, just great stories.

It's a fact that many children **prefer to read magazines rather than books** – particularly reluctant readers. With **Storytime Australia**, children can enjoy stories in a format that is accessible for them. Of course, the high-quality illustrations and storytelling make it appealing to avid book-readers too.

The short-story format and variety in each issue mean it's **perfect for reading together at home**. Reading with children – even for just 10 minutes a day – can make a huge difference to their literacy.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ➡ There are 8 short stories in every issue, including famous fairy tales, myths and legends, tales from other cultures, fables, folk tales and new stories from up-and-coming authors.
- ➡ We include stories for children at different levels of reading ability, plus puzzles, games, activities and colourful illustrations that bring the tales to life.
- ➡ **Storytime Australia** complements the National Curriculum and helps develop reading, writing and comprehension skills.
- ➡ Younger children will typically read **Storytime Australia** with an adult, but children aged 7 and upwards may wish to read it independently.
- ➡ It's a wonderful resource for children who have English as a second language.
- ➡ It's printed on high quality paper, so each issue lasts a long time.
- ➡ Each issue arrives in a special envelope, so children have the excitement of receiving their own post!

For more information and to get your subscription visit: **WWW.STORYTIMEMAGAZINE.COM.AU!**

