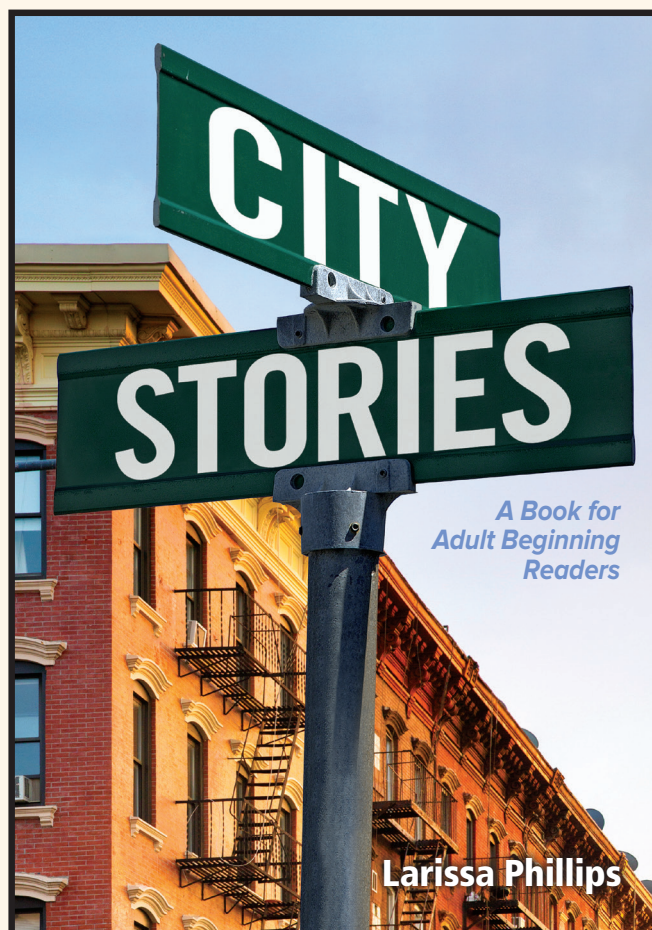


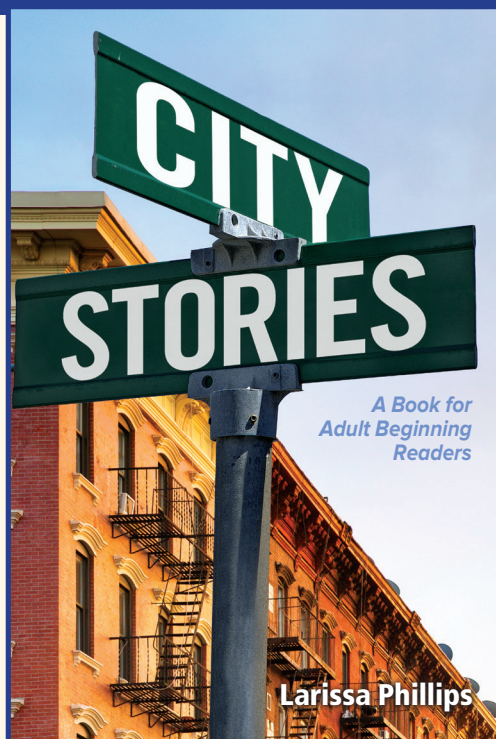
# A New Book for Beginning Adult Readers



***Illustrated stories on four levels  
of increasing difficulty  
for adult beginning readers***



TOWNSEND PRESS  
[www.townsendpress.com](http://www.townsendpress.com)



Larissa Phillips  
 Supervisor, Manhattan Adult Literacy Center  
 ISBN 978-1-59194-494-2  
 Net price: \$9.95  
**READING LEVEL: 1–3**

In *City Stories*, emerging readers will find 24 individual narratives on four levels of increasing difficulty. The stories present familiar situations, including parenting, jobs, education, immigration, ambitions, and dreams.

In addition to hopeful stories that may reflect parts of their own lives, readers will find repeated opportunity for decoding practice. They will also be exposed to new vocabulary words and idiomatic expressions.

This collection is appropriate for use in a methodical and explicit Orton-Gillingham type of reading program. Accompanying worksheets for further study are available as free downloads at the Townsend Press website.

## **CONTENTS**

Introduction  
 To the Instructor  
 To the Student

### **Level 1: Ash Street**

Beth  
 Jan  
 Mel  
 Pam  
 Bill  
 Rick

### **Level 2: Elm Street**

Clem  
 Brad  
 Ying  
 Greg  
 Grant  
 Jinx

### **Level 3: Aspen Street**

Isad  
 Jamal  
 Kendrick  
 Patrick  
 Isabel

Bethann

### **Level 4: Pine Street**

Rose  
 James  
 June  
 Mike  
 Miles  
 Jane



Townsend Press • [www.townsendpress.com](http://www.townsendpress.com) • 800-772-6410

# Sample Pages from the Book

Here are the first pages of Level 1 of the book:

## Level 1

### Ash Street

#### The Men and Women of Ash Street



**Beth** — a gal in a shop

**Jan** — a mom with kids, and a good job

**Mel** — a man who is mad at his dad

**Pam** — a mom with a big shot kid

**Bill** — a son with no job

**Rick**—a man with a bad job and a big wish



7

8

ASH STREET

## Beth

### Chapter One

This is Beth.  
Beth is a gal.  
Beth is a gal that has a lot of fun.

Beth has a job.  
The job is in a shop.  
It is a hat shop.

Beth is not a mom.  
When Beth was a kid, Beth was the big kid.  
Beth was the big kid, of six kids.

As the big kid, Beth had to get the kids fed.  
She had to pick up the mess.  
She had to yell at the kids.

Beth got sick of the mess.  
Beth got sick of the fuss.  
Beth got sick of kids!



## The Other Characters in *City Stories*

### Level 2 Elm Street

#### The Men and Women of Elm Street



- Clem** — a mom who brags too much  
**Brad** — a man who left the drug wars and must get a job  
**Ying** — a woman from Hong Kong who must learn English  
**Greg** — a man who got to the US in the hold of a ship  
**Grant** — a man whose wife will have twins  
**Jinx** — a woman from the Bronx who wants a ring



### Level 3 Aspen Street

#### The Men and Women of Aspen Street



- Isad** — a woman who wants to finish school  
**Jamal** — a kid who is acting out in class  
**Kendrick** — a kid with a lot of talent at basketball  
**Patrick** — a man who goes back to the Dominican Republic  
**Isabel** — a woman whose mom wants her to find a husband  
**Bethann** — a woman who misses gardening with her granddad



111

### Level 4 Pine Street

#### The Men and Women of Pine Street



- Rose** — a woman who bakes cakes  
**James** — a man who came to the US from Rome  
**June** — a woman who wants to get back with her children  
**Mike** — a man who has to take care of his sick mom  
**Miles** — a kid who hides a lost dog  
**Jane** — a woman who figures out how to save a garden



177



## Here is the book's introduction—which you can read to your students:

### To the Student

Hello, and welcome to *City Stories*! This book was created for adult students who are learning to read and who want stories so they can practice reading.

It is not unusual for adults to have trouble reading. In the United States alone, there are 42 million adults who cannot read. If you ever feel lonely in your struggles with reading, please know that you are most definitely *not* alone.

The best way to learn to read is to be part of a reading program that has been proven to work. If you have both a good teacher and a good program, and you are committed to working hard, you will make progress.

Every step you take in your journey to become a better reader will have an impact. I have seen students improve their reading abilities to the point that they are able to

- manage their own bills
- take on-line tests in order to apply for a new job
- get around on public transportation more easily
- feel confident at work with checklists and written messages from their employers
- fill out reports at work
- read to their children or grandchildren
- do well on tests so they can get into new classes
- enter job training programs
- take computer classes
- and so much more!

### How This Book Works

*City Stories* is divided into four levels. The stories in the first level are mostly told with very simple words. These words have short vowels and three sounds in them. These are words like *job* and *hat*

and *shop*. I hope that you practice sounding out these words, rather than memorizing them. It is this ability to blend sounds into words that makes a fluent reader.

The second level still uses words with short vowels, but adds consonant blends: words like *test*, *ring*, and *gift*. The third level uses multi-syllable words, like *admit*, *finish*, and *basketball*. And the fourth level adds words with long vowels, like *mile* and *cake* and *admire*.

### Sight Words, Vocabulary, and Expressions

In addition to the words that can be sounded out, there are many sight words. These are commonly used words such as *the*, *who*, and *should* that have unusual or advanced spelling rules. Teachers generally ask students to memorize these words. Your instructor can also go over any expressions or vocabulary words used in the story.

Ideally, before beginning to read each story, you should make sure you are familiar with the sight words used in that story, and that you understand and are comfortable with any expressions or special vocabulary words. You will then be ready to begin reading the story. You may want to read the story several times to get the experience of reading fluently.

After you've read the story, your instructor will probably give you worksheets. These worksheets have exercises to help you further improve your reading ability.

With a strong mind and a determined will—and a great teacher using a proven program—you can work on these stories and improve your reading. Remember that it is in your power. I so respect your determination and desire. And I wish you the success you deserve.

— Larissa Phillips



Townsend Press  
439 Kelley Drive  
West Berlin, NJ 08091

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**P A I D**  
TOWNSEND  
PRESS

### CONTACT US!

- ➡ **CALL TOLL-FREE** 1-888-752-6410
- ➡ **FAX** 1-800-225-8894
- ➡ **E-MAIL** Customer Service at [cs@townsendpress.com](mailto:cs@townsendpress.com)
- ➡ **WRITE** to Townsend Press, 439 Kelley Drive, West Berlin, NJ 08091
- ➡ **VISIT** our website at [www.townsendpress.com](http://www.townsendpress.com)

### Two supplements accompany the book:

The *Instructor's Manual*, available on the Townsend Press website, <http://www.townsendpress.com>, provides an overview of the stories as well as an instructional sequence that can be used with each story, including pre-reading preparation, reading and rereading guidelines, and suggestions for discussion. Then, for each story, the IM provides lists of its punctuation marks and usage, vocabulary words and phrases, and sight words.

A **companion workbook** is also available on the Townsend Press website. It offers practice with sight words, prompts for reading comprehension and writing, and "What do you think?" questions that encourage students to engage more fully with the story and its possible outcome.