



Newsletter August 2014

Dear Owlfinch Friends,

A new school year always starts with new tasks and challenges, but also with much joy and energy. By managing our new tasks and challenges successfully, we become motivated.

Worldwide, schools are increasingly focusing on improving reading skills and motivating students to read more books.

With Owlfinch you are already on the way to achieving these goals.

The feedback we receive from Owlfinch users is overwhelming – teachers are very happy with both the ease of use and the results, and participating students are enthusiastic.

Over the past months we have been further developing Owlfinch. Many new reading games for all ages as well as other technical and motivational improvements are now available.

Examples of some of the new reading games:

- Plötzlich Zombie – So ein Mist! (German)
- Superman (Bd. 11) - Duell im Wilden Westen (German)
- Geronimo Stilton Quatre souris dans la jungle-noire (French)
- Bratov Grimmovcov - Kocúr v čižmách (Slovak)

In particular, we would like you to pay attention to the "Knowledge" section. You may be able to see our efforts in developing this part ("Knowledge"). To play reading games in "Knowledge", reading books is NO LONGER essential. We all have an impressive fund of subconscious knowledge. Through active memory and logical thinking much of this subconscious knowledge can be activated.

Examples:

- World War I (German)
- First World War in Pictures (German)
- Cowboys (English)
- Andersen Fairy Tales, Part I and II (German)
- Grimm Fairy Tales -Advanced (German)
- Chiemsee Summer Festival 2014 (German)

The option to use books or other resources to research answers to questions is still there. In addition, being able to play the same reading game more than once (up to 10 times) is another way of learning the content.



After having played a game three or four times, a student will have memorized the answers and will therefore KNOW the right answers. He or she has learnt by trial and error.

Owlfinch focuses on learning and improving foreign languages - in particular English as a second language.

The worldwide importance of the English language is the reason why we have been developing this area of learning. The more informal and natural the activities, the better the learning effect. Here, too, the combination with the "Knowledge" section plays a role. The topic "London" plays a part in many non-fiction and school books. In Owlfinch it is assigned to "Knowledge". It is quite possible for a non-native English-speaking student to play this informative, entertaining reading game – without being aware that the game is in a foreign language.

Reading games of the "Reading online" section, which are provided with online texts, have also gained importance in the Owlfinch data base. The advantage for students is that they can read the text online or print it out in a chosen language and read it "on paper". Online texts are mainly available for fables, fairy tales and legends, i.e. ...

- Die Gans die goldene Eier legt (German)
- Die Krähe und der Wasserkrug (German)
- Hansel and Gretel (German)

I wish you continued success and enjoyment with your work with Owlfinch for the new school year.

Best Regards
Albert Hoffmann

P. S. The next Owlfinch newsletter will be published at the beginning of September.