

Sample of Cover and Selected Pages

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CODE READER™

Making Difficult Words Easy

Code Reader Books provide codes with “sound keys” to help read difficult words. For example, a word that may be difficult to read is “unicorn,” so it might be followed by a code like this: unicorn (*YOO-nih-korn*). By providing codes with phonetic sound keys, Code Reader Books make reading easier and more enjoyable.

Examples of Code Reader™ Keys

Long a sound (as in make):

a (*with a silent e*) or **ay**

Examples: able (*AY-bul*); break (*brake*)

Short i sound (as in sit): **i** or **ih**

Examples: myth (*mith*); mission (*MIH-shun*)

Long i sound (as in by):

i (*with a silent e*) or **y**

Examples: might (*mite*); bicycle (*BY-sih-kul*)

Keys for the long o sound (as in hope):

o (*with a silent e*) or **oh**

Examples: molten (*MOLE-ten*); ocean (*OH-shun*)

Codes use dashes between syllables (*SIH-luh-buls*), and stressed syllables have capital letters.

To see more Code Reader sound keys, see page 44.

**IF
ONLY
THEY HAD
KNOWN**

Sickening Mistakes They Used to Make

Written by
Bethany Latham

CODE READER™

If Only They Had Known

A Code Reader™ Chapter Book

Blue Series

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of Educational Leadership, Columbus State University

Patent Pending. Code Reader books are designed using an innovative system of
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Words with a dotted underline like this are explained in the glossary on page 42. Some words have a syllable in **bold**. Those syllables are **emphasized**.

If Only They Had Known

Have you ever made a mistake? One you could have avoided if only you had known? Perhaps you went outside without a raincoat. If only you had known it was going to rain . . .

We all make little mistakes. Usually (*YOO-zhoo-uh-lee*), they are pretty easy to fix, and you can learn what to do or not do the next time.



But sometimes, mistakes can cause a lot of **problems**. Like making wallpaper with poisonous (*POY-zun-us*) paint. Yes, that really happened.

History is full of problems caused by people not knowing stuff. The foods people ate, the medicines (*MEH-dih-sinz*) they used, the milk they drank . . . I'll tell you about some of those problems later.

MEDICINES
things that treat or
prevent illnesses

Thanks to modern science (*SY-ens*), a lot of stuff seems super obvious (*OB-vee-us*) to us. We know a lot more about the human body than people in the past, for example. So many people in history would have had much better lives if they had known what we know now.

Terrible Treatments

What do you do when you get sick? Stay in bed? Eat chicken soup? Take some medicine, maybe? I bet you don't rub spiders in butter and swallow (*SWAH-lo*) them whole. I hope you don't, anyway . . .



Today, we know many illnesses are caused by germs. Those tiny little things know how to cause problems.

For thousands of years, doctors had very different ideas about what made people sick. They believed (*buh-LEEVD*) all sorts of weird (*weerd*) and wacky things . . .

Long ago, doctors did not know germs existed (eg-ZIS-tid), so many illnesses were a **mystery**. At one time, doctors thought bad smells created illnesses!

Some doctors believed that to stay healthy (*HEL-thee*), the different liquids (*LIK-wids*) in a person's body needed to be perfectly balanced.

BALANCED
having the same or
the right amounts
of something



If there was too much blood (*blud*) in your body, just get rid of some! They thought that was a great idea! We'll talk more about that later.

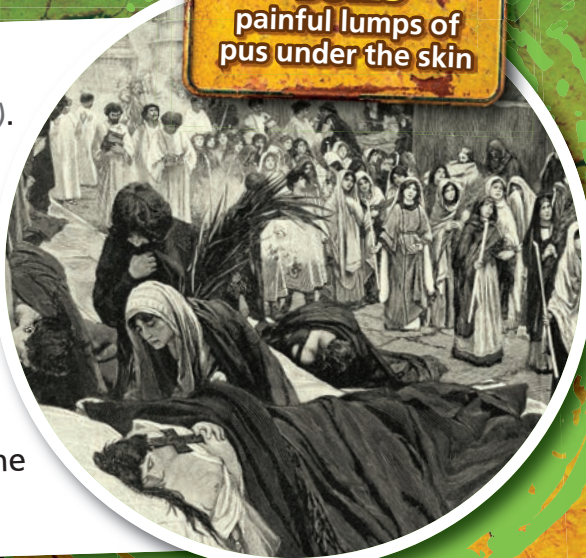
Lots of treatments used animals in weird ways, too. I wasn't lying about the buttered spiders, you know! If only they had known what a terrible idea it was!



Fart in a Jar, Anyone?

One of the worst illnesses in history was the plague (*PLAY-g*). The most common kind of plague was the bubonic (*boo-BON-ik*) plague. It was nasty—fever (*FEE-ver*), headache (*HED-ake*), black boils filled with blood and pus. There is a reason it became known as the Black Death.


BOILS
painful lumps of
pus under the skin



Doctors wore odd masks that they thought could help protect them from the plague.

One of the worst outbreaks of the plague was in London (*LUN-dun*) in 1665. Back then, many doctors thought people got the plague from bad, stinky air.





So, how do you fight bad, stinky air? With even worse, even stinkier air, apparently!

Some doctors told people to fart into jars. If someone felt sick, they should smell their own farts! They thought it would totally stop them from getting the plague.

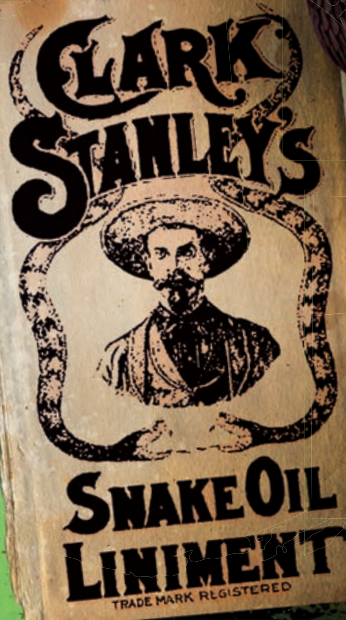
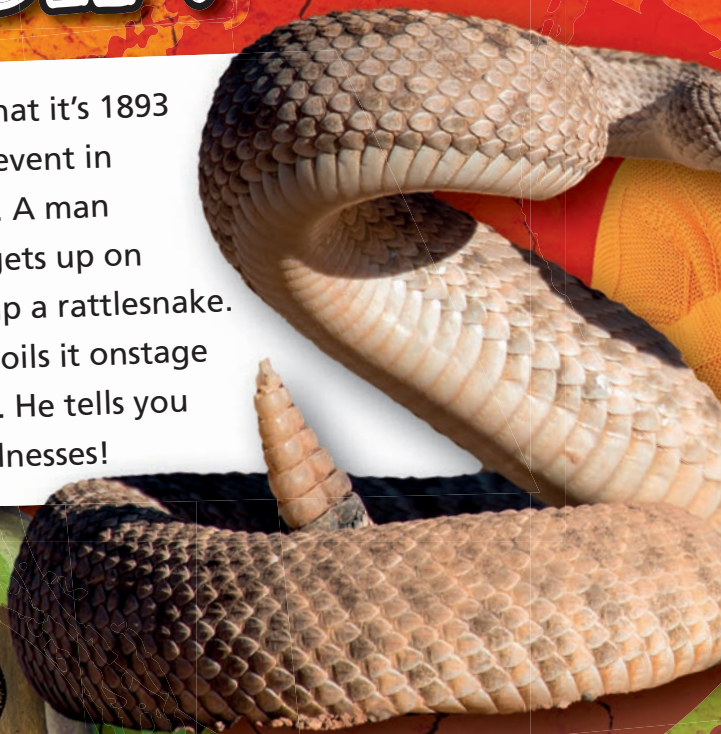
The fart jars did not work. And those masks with beaks didn't help. Today, we know the plague was spread by being bitten by fleas that carried deadly bacteria (*bak-TEER-ee-uh*). The fleas lived on rats, and rats were everywhere. Smelling farts is not so helpful when you are being bitten by fleas.

FLEAS
tiny bugs that drink
blood when they bite

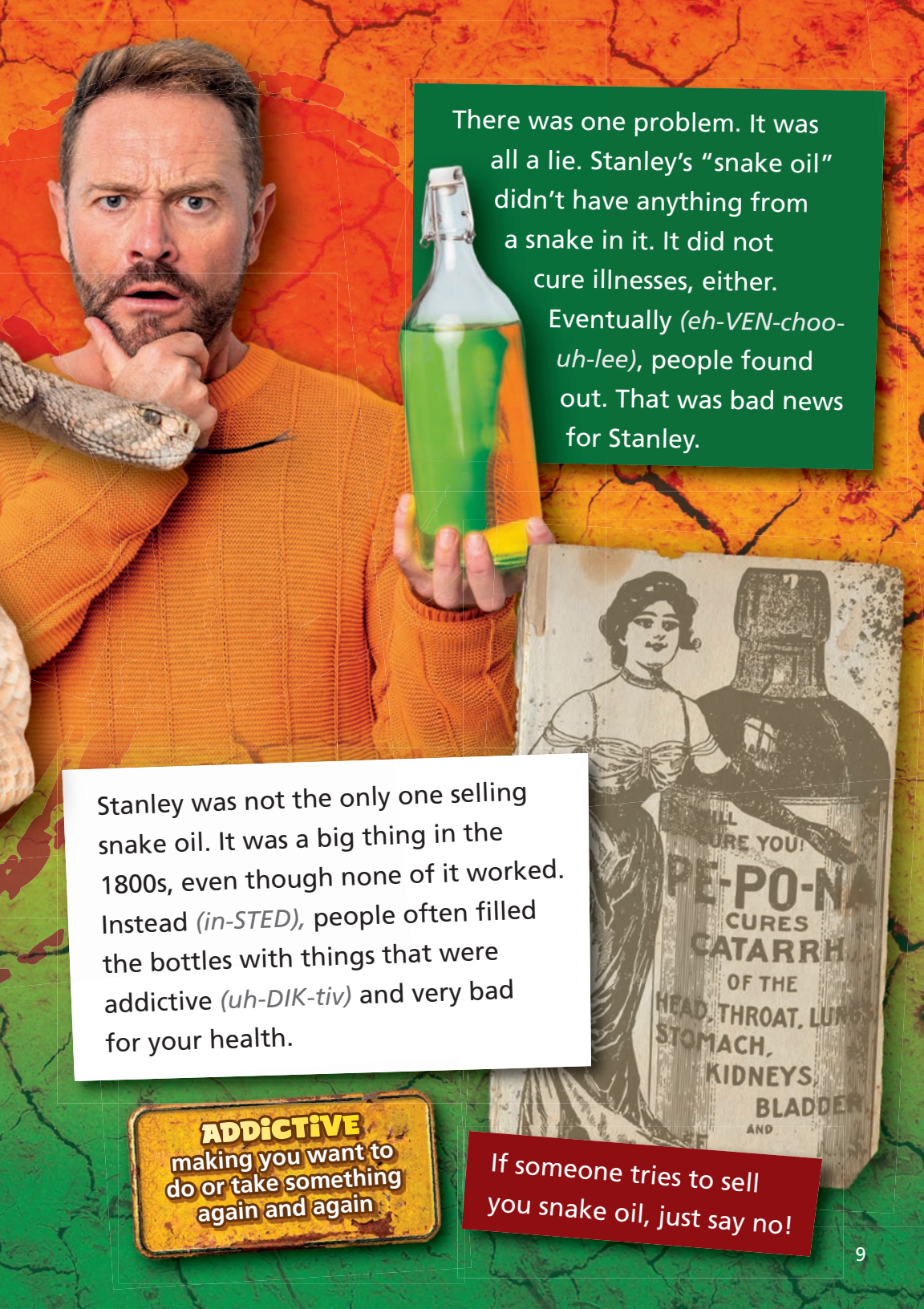


Some Snake Oil, Sir?

Imagine (*ih-MAJ-in*) that it's 1893 and you are at a big event in Chicago (*shi-KAH-go*). A man called Clark Stanley gets up on the stage. He holds up a rattlesnake. He cuts it open. He boils it onstage and pulls the fat out. He tells you it will cure all your illnesses!



Would you believe him? Well, people did believe him. Stanley called it snake oil. He sold so much of it that he called himself the Rattlesnake King.



There was one problem. It was all a lie. Stanley's "snake oil" didn't have anything from a snake in it. It did not cure illnesses, either. Eventually (*eh-VEN-choo-uh-lee*), people found out. That was bad news for Stanley.

Stanley was not the only one selling snake oil. It was a big thing in the 1800s, even though none of it worked. Instead (*in-STED*), people often filled the bottles with things that were addictive (*uh-DIK-tiv*) and very bad for your health.

ADDICTIVE
making you want to
do or take something
again and again

If someone tries to sell
you snake oil, just say no!