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Catch Up Literacy Digital Games 3 CD:

Interactive games to support literacy skills at KS 2 & 3.

Review by Victoria Crivelli.

Many readers will be familiar with the Catch Up reading scheme written by Dee Reid and Diana Bentley. In previous years they have released CDs of popular interactive games to support their scheme. The CDs can also be used as a standalone activity to improve and practise literacy skills.



The latest CD, Catch Up 3, is similar in content to the previous CDs but pitched at a higher interest level, 8-14 years, that will motivate older reluctant readers or older readers still needing to practise basic phonics, spelling and comprehension tasks.

The skills involved progress through literacy strategy levels 1 to 3. This new CD has great graphics and sound effects that look like they have been taken straight out of a typical computer adventure game. There are 5 different worlds to explore and 25 games in total.



Players log in and select a world to explore. (These appear to be random selections to the player but are actually presented in order of difficulty and skill progression). Once a level has been completed players can progress to the next world.



As the players explore the world, they are presented with challenges to overcome, such as physical obstacles, escape routes to find or locating missing clues. If they get stuck, or offer the incorrect response, they are prompted in carefully graded steps to help make the correct choice.

There is no detailed logging of pupil efforts other than the time taken to complete each part of that world. These are presented in log books so players are encouraged to beat their last time through the world to increase speed, accuracy and automaticity.

The CD offers players an exciting new environment in which to practise literacy skills, which can often become tedious if the user is struggling to learn to read.



Teachers can view and print all users' logs and times. Teachers can also use keyboard shortcuts to fast track to any game in any world, if required.

Catch Up 3 is available for a single user or network use.

Prices and details from: www.catchup.org.uk

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