Expanding 3

A2 to A2+

Story Quest Graded Readers

Beyond the Screen

Rayan begins to question his screen habits after surprising challenges from school and home.

Let's Explore

- ★ Digital balance
- ★ Mindfulness
- ★ Family
- ★ Friendship

Realistic Fiction

المملكة المغربيــة
Kingdom of Morocco

وزارة التربيـــة الوطنيــة
والتعليم الأولي والرياضة

Ministry of National Education,
Preschool and Sports

About this Series

This graded reader is part of Story Quest, a series that supports Moroccan students in building their English language skills. Its stories encourage curiosity, build confidence, and foster a lifelong love of reading.

The Story Quest series was developed through collaboration between the Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports, Curriculum Directorate, and Amideast. Together, we help students strengthen their English while opening doors to new ideas, cultures, and opportunities.

Supported by the U.S. Embassy in Morocco.

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Welcome to Story Quest!

Every story is an ADVENTURE.

- Open the book.
- Discover new words.
- Meet interesting characters.
- Explore new ideas.

And most of all... enjoy the story!



Your Reading Journey



Story Snapshot

Genre

Realistic Fiction	These stories are about people and events that could happen in real life.

Reader Level

3 Expanding A2 to A2+	These books have longer stories, more detail, and richer language to explore.

Get Ready!

Look, Think, and Predict

Look at picture on the cover. Answer the questions.

1. What do you think the story will be about?

2. What does "beyond the screen" mean?

Words and Phrases to Know

Match the phrases to their meanings.

____ 1. filled his free time

____ 2. your mind is far away

____ 3. things people usually miss

____ 4. a heavy habit

____ 5. look up from the screen

a) your thoughts are somewhere else

b) stop looking at your phone or device

c) things people do not notice

d) spent his free time doing something

e) a habit that is difficult to control

Ready? Your **Story Quest** begins now!

🎧 Listen as you read. Enjoy the journey!

Enjoy the Story!

Beyond the Screen

Rayan loved his phone. It was the first thing he checked in the morning and the last thing he used before sleeping. Messages, short videos, games, and football news filled his free time.



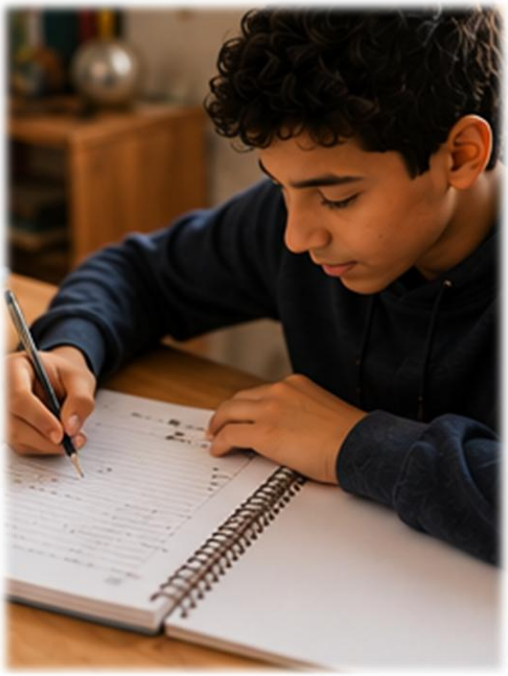
He told himself, “Just five minutes,” but five minutes often became one hour.



At first, it felt normal. Many students in his class did the same. During break time, they stood together, but everyone looked down at a screen.

They laughed at videos, sent emojis, and shared photos. Still, Rayan sometimes felt strangely alone.

One Tuesday, his English teacher asked the class to keep a simple screen-time diary for one week.



“Do not judge yourself,” she said. “Just notice your habits.”

Rayan wrote the numbers quickly, but when he added them, he was surprised. His phone was taking more hours than reading, sport, and family time together.



That evening, Grandma Fatima noticed his tired eyes.

“You are here,” she said gently, “but your mind is far away.”

Rayan smiled, “I’m just relaxing.”

She pointed to the window, “The world outside can relax you too.”

The next day, she gave him her old small camera.

“Take a walk after school,” she said. “No phone. Just this camera. Bring me three photos of things people usually miss.”

Rayan did not like the idea, but he respected his grandmother.

After school, he walked to a small lake near the town. At first, the silence felt boring. He wanted to check his messages.



Then he saw the orange light on the water. He saw a fisherman fixing his net. He saw two children helping a younger boy fly a paper kite.

Rayan took one photo, then another, then another. He noticed the sound of birds and the smell of wet earth near the lake.

For the first time that week, his mind felt clear.



At home, Grandma Fatima looked at the pictures.

“Beautiful,” she said. “Did you see? Life is full of stories.”

Rayan nodded. He did not want to stop using technology; he knew it was useful. He used his phone to learn English words, contact classmates, and follow football. But he understood that a useful tool could become a heavy habit.

Rayan made three small changes. He kept his phone away during meals. He stopped using it thirty minutes before sleeping.

He met his friends in the yard twice a week to play football instead of only chatting online.





After one week, Rayan felt more awake in class. He still enjoyed technology, but it no longer controlled him.

He had learned that the best moments sometimes begin when you look up from the screen.

Keep Exploring!

Check your Comprehension

Circle the correct answer.

1. Why did Rayan's teacher ask students to keep a screen-time diary?
   a. To see who used a phone the most.
   b. To help them notice their habits.
   c. To teach them how to use a camera.

2. What did Grandma Fatima give Rayan?
   a. a new phone
   b. a football
   c. a camera

3. Where did Rayan go after school?
   a. his house
   b. a football field
   c. a lake

4. What changed by the end of the story?
   a. Technology was no longer important to Rayan.
   b. Technology no longer controlled Rayan.
   c. Technology became Rayan's new hobby.

Make Connections

Design a poster with the title "Look Up".

Create the poster in your notebook. Include:

- one short slogan
- two tips for healthy screen use
- one small drawing



Answer Key

Get Ready!

Look, Think, and Predict

1. Answers will vary.
2. "beyond the screen" - the world around you, away from phones and computers

Words and Phrases to Know

1. d
2. a
3. c
4. e
5. b

Keep Exploring!

Check your Comprehension

1. b
2. c
3. c
4. a

Make Connections

Posters will vary.