

Sunshine, Level 3

Review by Aubrey Olsen Bronson

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Sunshine 3: Student’s Book. Marta Graciela García Lorea and Elida Beatriz Messina. 2011. Reading, UK: Garnet Publishing Ltd. 92 pp. ISBN: 9781859645918. £14.00

Sunshine 3: Activity Book. Marta Graciela García Lorea and Elida Beatriz Messina. 2011. Reading, UK: Garnet Publishing Ltd. 79 pp. ISBN: 9781859645925. £8.00

Sunshine 3: Teacher’s Resource Pack. Marta Graciela García Lorea and Elida Beatriz Messina. 2011. Reading, UK: Garnet Publishing Ltd. ISBN: 9781859646144. £65. 00

Sunshine 3: Big Book. Marta Graciela García Lorea and Elida Beatriz Messina. 2011. Reading, UK: Garnet Publishing Ltd. 16 pp. ISBN: 9781859646946. £30. 00

The Sunshine series is designed to help kindergarten students improve their listening and speaking skills in English. Level 3 is the third of three levels in this series. The four components of level 3 include the Student’s Book, the Activity Book, the Teacher’s Resource Pack, and the Big Book.

The Student’s Book is a lively, spiral-bound paperback with colorful pictures on every page. The illustrations introduce the characters for the series: Kim, Tony, Dan, and Jane (the children) and Miss White (the teacher), along with Emma the Elephant, Paul the Parrot, and Vicky the Snail. There are eight units in the *Student’s Book* including “My School,” “Toys,” “Animal World,” “Our Families,” “Food,” “Happy Birthday Party,” “Seasons & Clothes,” and “In the City.” Each unit has eight lessons. At the end of the book, there are finger puppets of Emma, Paul, and Vicky, which can be cut out and used to enhance the lessons. Each Student’s Book also includes a copy of the CD *Songs*.

While the Student's Book offers brightly colored illustrations, the pages in the Activity Book are black and white so that children can color the pictures themselves. The activity pages correspond to the units and lessons from the Student's Book and offer opportunities to color, match, count, and trace the items on the page.

The Teacher's Resource Pack has six main components: *Class* and *Songs* CDs, a birthday chart, a height chart, a resource book, and a set of word cards. *Class* contains 83 tracks, providing audio samples for each of the lessons in the Student's Book. The *Songs* features 19 songs and rhymes such as "If You're Happy," "Head and Shoulders," and "Here are Grandma's Glasses." The resource book provides printed lyrics for the tracks on *Songs*. It also offers teaching ideas and guidelines, suggestions for developing classroom routines, and games and crafts. The word cards are 8½" x 11" laminated cards highlighting letters and vocabulary words from the lessons.

The Big Book contains selected pages from the Student's Book in a larger format (18.9» x 26.8»). The Big Book allows teachers to lead the class in whole-group activities for two of the lessons in each unit.

Overall, the series seems well organized and age appropriate for young learners. The components in the series are nicely correlated to each other and provide the type of flexibility that would allow individual teachers to adapt the materials according to their needs.

About the Reviewer

Aubrey Olsen Bronson teaches ESL and TESOL courses at Brigham Young University–Hawaii. Her interests include curriculum development, distance education, and teaching English to young learners.