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# Between the Keys



## A publication of the JALT Materials Writers Special Interest Group

The Materials Writers SIG was established for the purpose of helping members to turn fresh teaching ideas into useful classroom materials. We try to be a mutual assistance network, offering information regarding copyright law, sharing practical advice on publishing practices, including self-publication, and suggesting ways to create better language learning materials for general consumption or for individual classroom use.

[WWW.MATERIALSWRITERS.ORG](http://WWW.MATERIALSWRITERS.ORG)



# Shift key\_

Robert Dykes

With the first 2021 issue of *Between the Keys*, we are returning to a special format we introduced in 2019, Shift key\_. Shift key\_ is a digital content format conceived and realized in issue 27.3 before the words “Covid” and “global pandemic” had become such a central driving force of change in our lives. In the previous issue of *Between the Keys*, we asked what the journal and material writing would look like moving forward. This issue, the first in a planned continuing series, is a partial answer. As we move further into a digital, video meeting, and socially-distanced world, today’s content feels like a natural progression for this journal.

Transcribed interviews with professionals are commonplace in journals and similar academic publications. With face-to-face JALT events mostly canceled currently and video teaching and meeting now a near-daily aspect of our professional lives in 2020 and 2021, bringing the academic interview to you in video form just feels natural. We are excited to bring you the archived interview, with graded reader author and editor, Andy Boon. We also offer the interview in audio-only format for those on the go who prefer a more podcast-friendly version.

Andy Boon’s interview is the first of a planned series of graded reading professionals. We also have a traditional issue in the pipeline as you read this. We have an exciting year planned for *Between the Keys*.

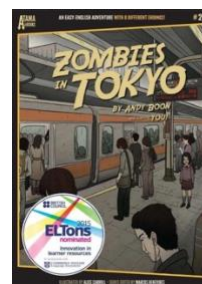
# Interview with Andy Boon: His Work With Graded Readers

Andy Boon (Toyo Gakuen University)

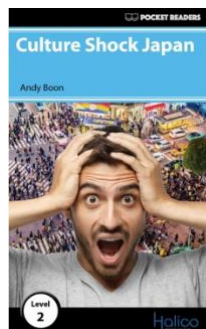
Robert Dykes (Sojo University)

In collaboration with Fukui Chapter, Andy Boon was interviewed live in front of a Zoom audience concerning his work in the graded reader industry. Instead of the traditional transcribed interview, we are excited to bring you the archived recorded video here through *Between the Keys*.

Graded readers are a vital component of many ESL/EFL programs. They can be found in libraries, self-access learning centers, classrooms, and even students' bookshelves at home. With the growing accessibility and popularity of services like XReading, a graded reader virtual library, graded readers are becoming even more widely available in printed and digital formats.



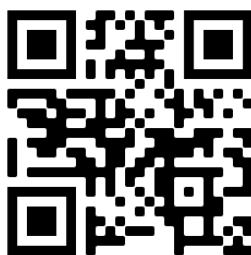
Andy Boon holds a Ph.D. from Aston University and is a professor at Toyo Gakuen University in Tokyo. He has been living and teaching in Japan for almost 20 years. His list of publications is too long to list here, but some highlights include co-authoring the Inspire textbooks series, author of nearly 20 graded readers for three different publishers.



He has also served as Series Editor for the *10 Ways* series (30 books!) and *Language Learning* series of graded readers from Halico. His latest graded reading publications are the bone-chilling horror stories *Kuchisake Onna*, stories one and two.

The complete interview is available on YouTube:

**JALT Materials Writers / Fukui Chapter present: Interview with Andy Boon: his work on graded readers:** <https://youtu.be/hLZ2agpznNY>.



For those of you who would prefer an audio version, it is available for download here: <https://materialswriters.org/betweenthekeys/boon.mp3>