



The Pirates

Early Reader No. 41

Story by Jennifer Cooper-Trent
Illustrations by Anthony Mitchell

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Page 1a

Complex Combinations

Series 3 builds on previous stories, introducing slightly more complex consonant blends

and "whole" words, which students should be remembering "on sight".

Reinforce "whole" words - the, said, was, .

Phonic Decoding

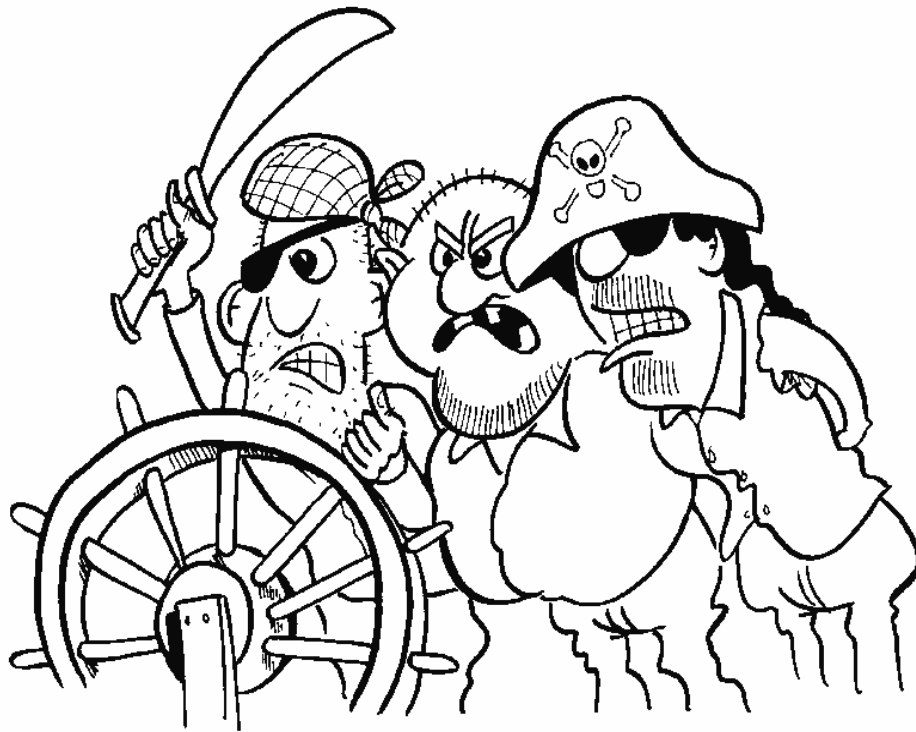
Explain how 'new', 'crew' share a common Sound of '..ew'

Explain silent 'k' as in 'knew'.

Whole Words : 'their', 'said',

Try These New Words

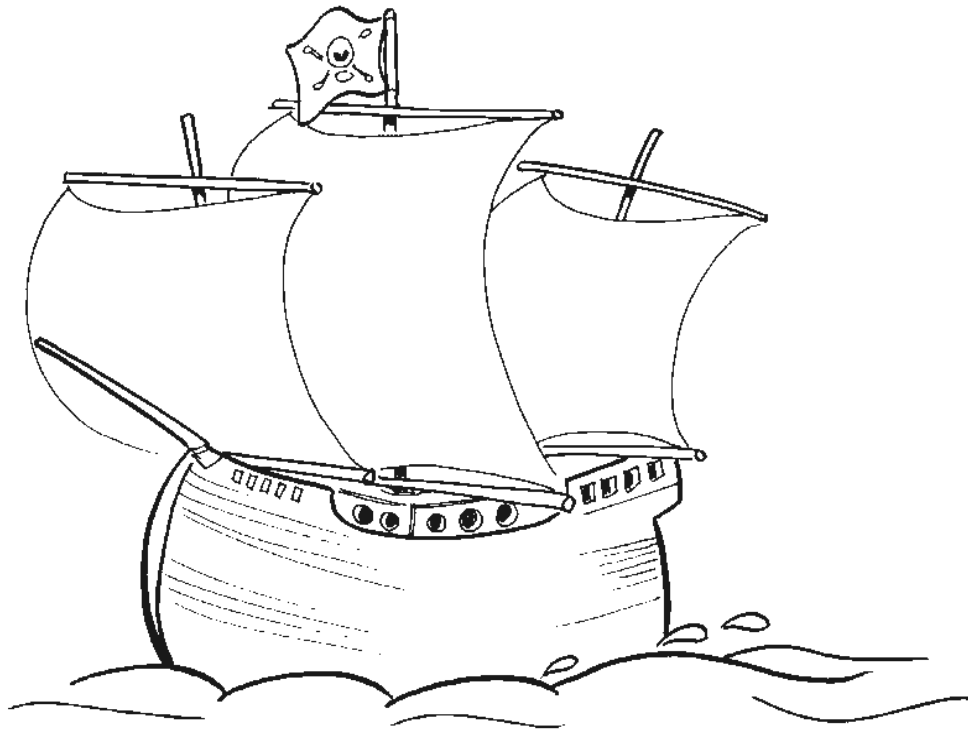
new flew drew knew blew crew
pirate swords cross-bones said
skull rowdy time their they



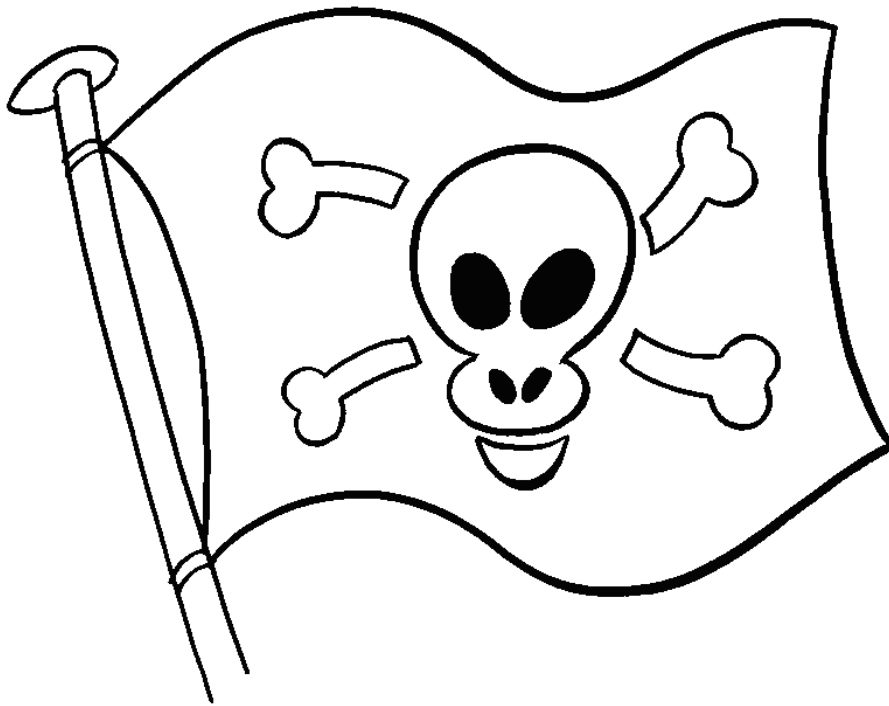
The pirate ship had a
rowdy new crew.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

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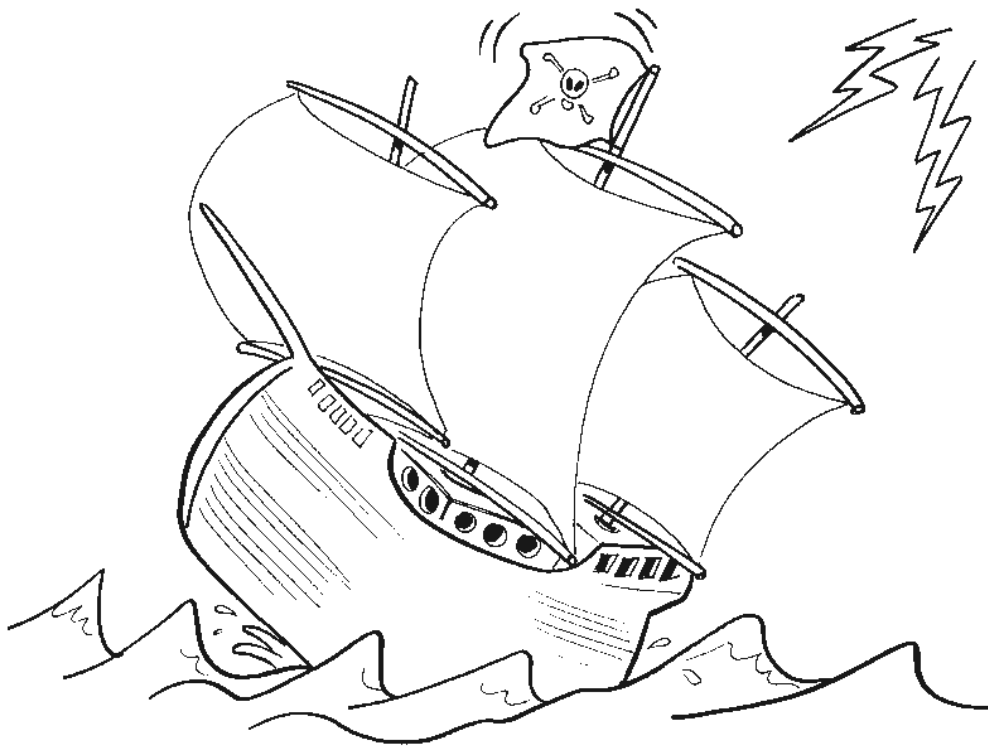
The ship's sails filled as the
strong wind blew.



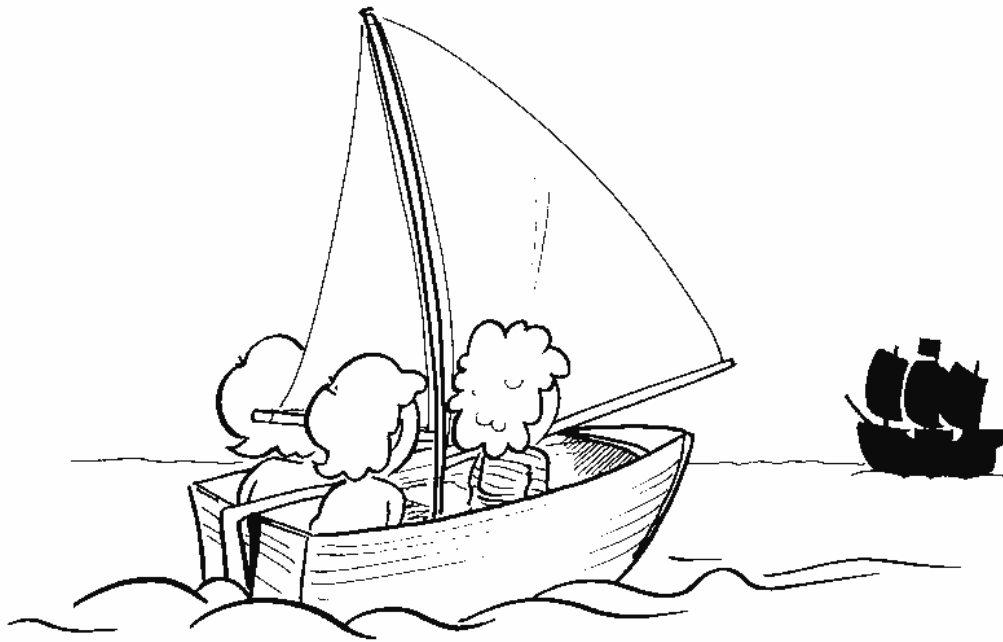
We could see that the skull and cross-bones flag was new.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

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In the wild storm, the pirate's flag flew.



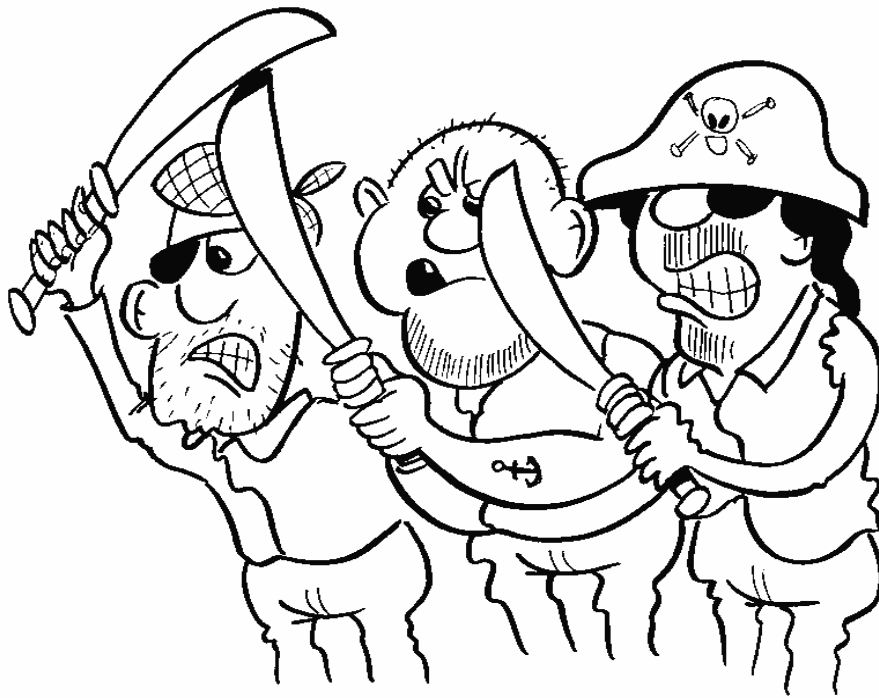
When we saw the evil flag we knew,
the pirates were out on the sea of blue.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



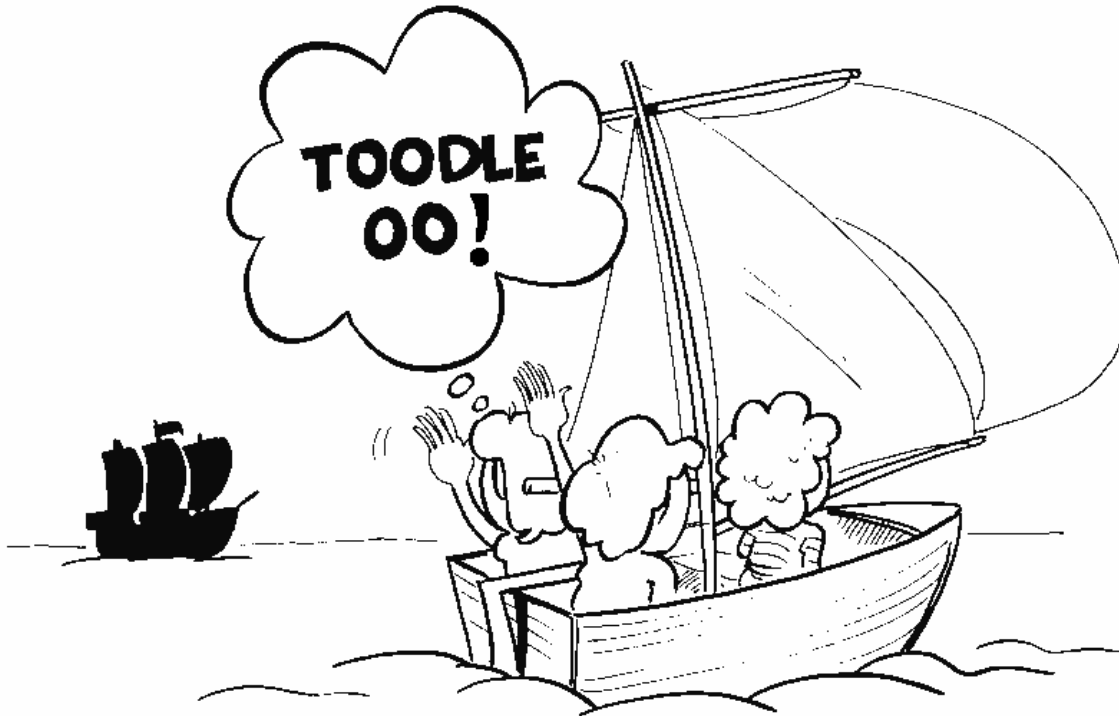
The pirates were happy as
their treasure grew.



When the pirates saw us ...
their sharp swords they drew.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

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We knew it was time we
set sail and flew.

Extra Words

stew grew few brew
sure measure pleasure

Comprehension

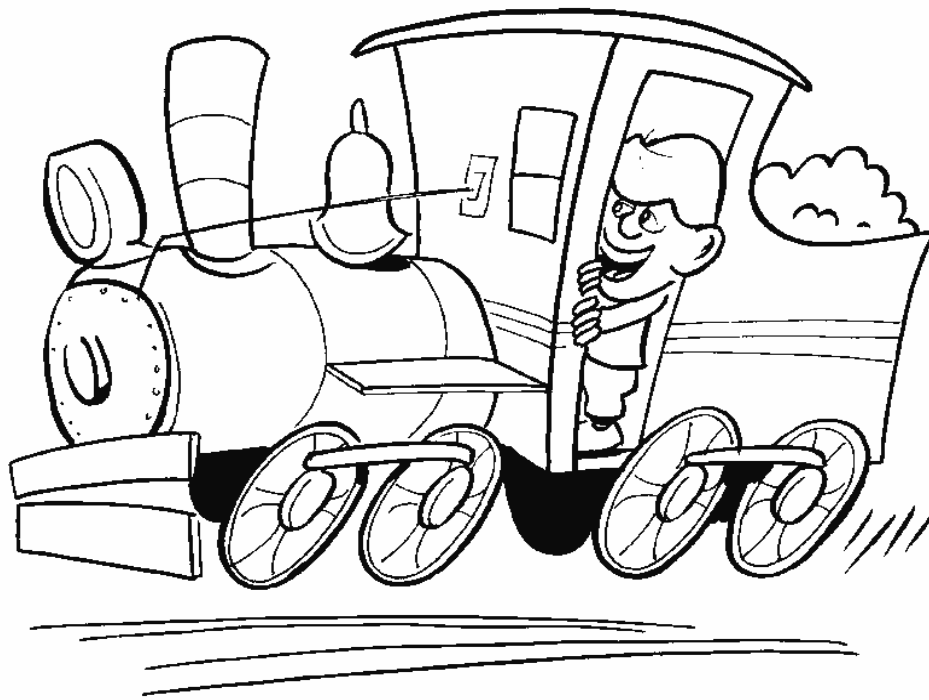
1. What type of ship was it?
2. How did the pirates behave?
3. What type of flag was it?
4. What happened in the storm?
5. Why did the children sail away?



Complete the sentences with these words.

boat, rowdy, swords, drew.

The pirate _____ had a _____
new crew. We saw the pirates -
their _____ they _____.



A Ride on a Steam Train

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Page 1a

Complex Combinations

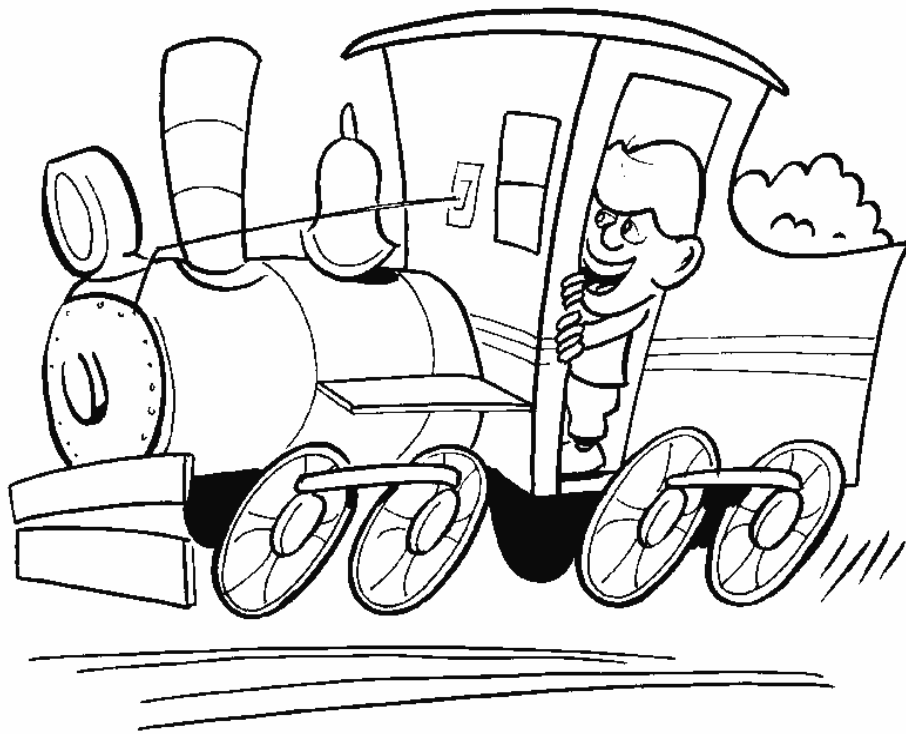
Reinforce "whole" words (the, and, said, was, my).
these should now be **Sight Words** - intuitive and fluent decoding.

Phonic Decoding

Explain how 'beam', 'steam' share a common Sound of '..eam'
Explain how 'track', 'black' share a common Sound of '..ack'
Explain silent 'e' as in 'fire', 'engine'.

Try These New Words

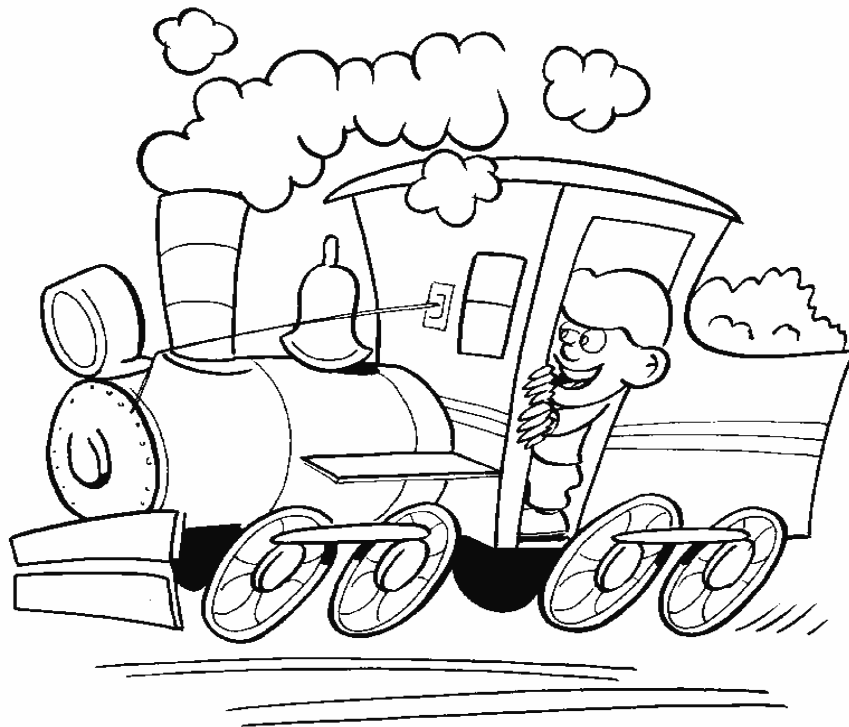
beam steam gleam scream
dream track black engine coal
worked tunnels silver fire driver



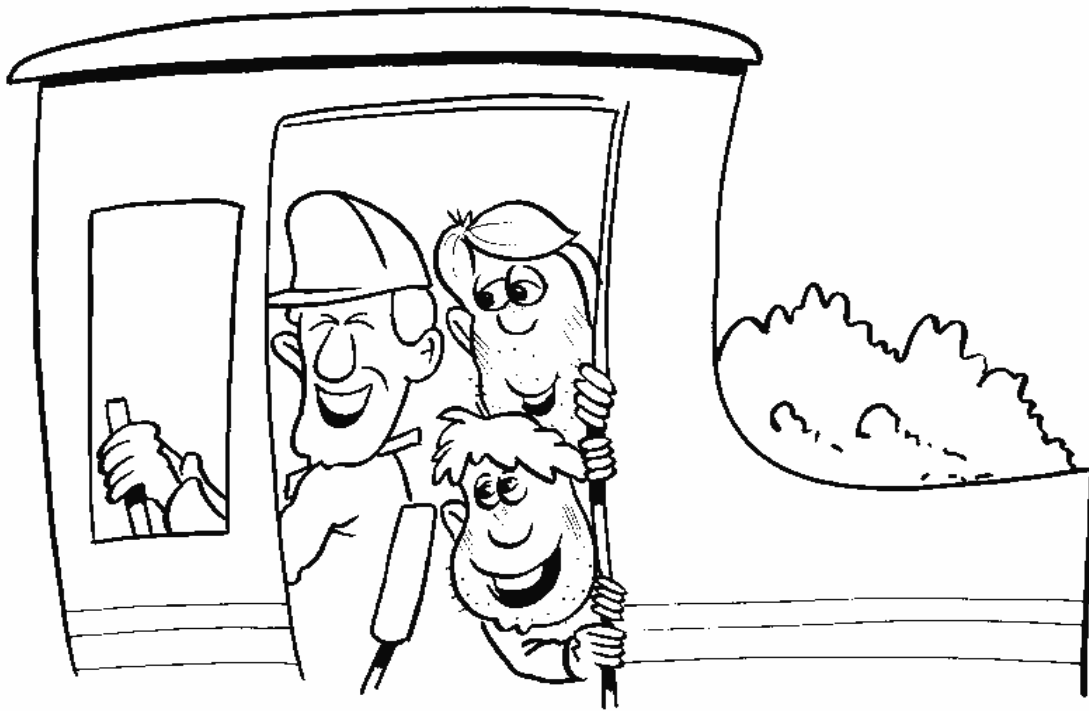
I had a ride on a steam
train in my dream.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 2a



The train had lots of smoke and
hissed jets of steam.



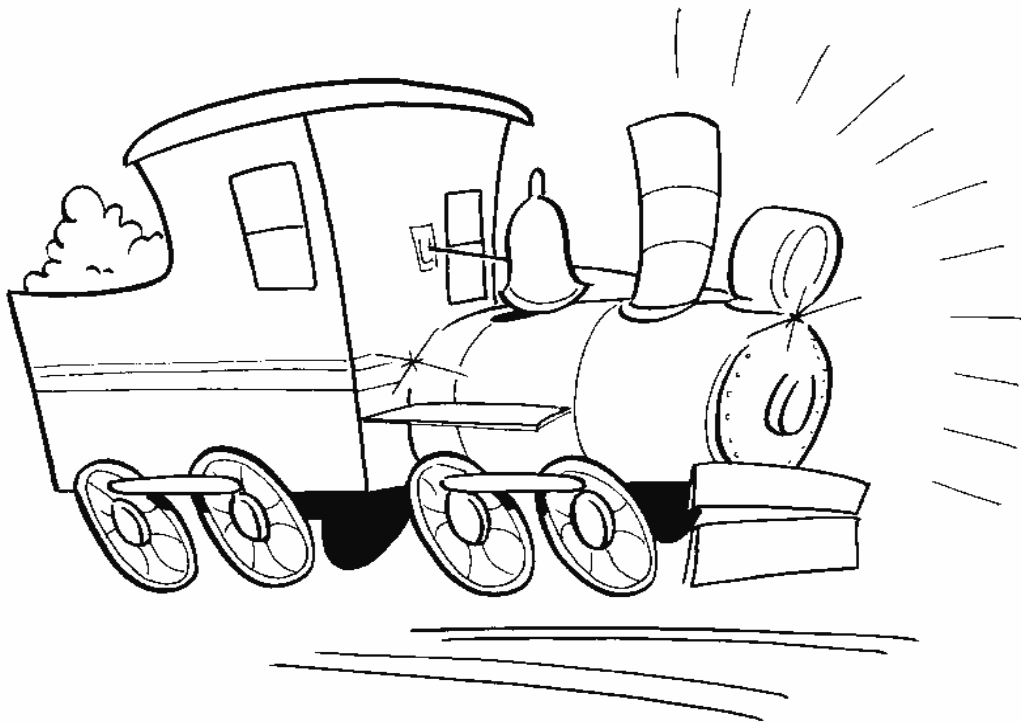
The driver and his men
worked hard as a team.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 3a



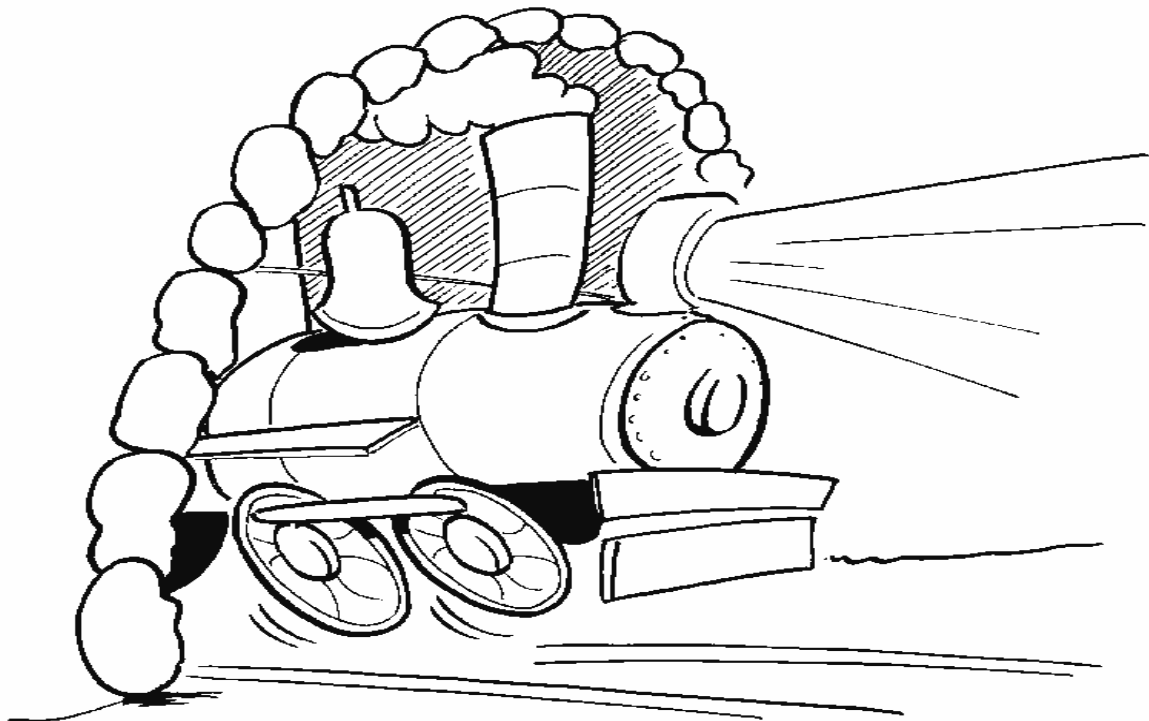
They loaded coal onto the fire to
make the steam.



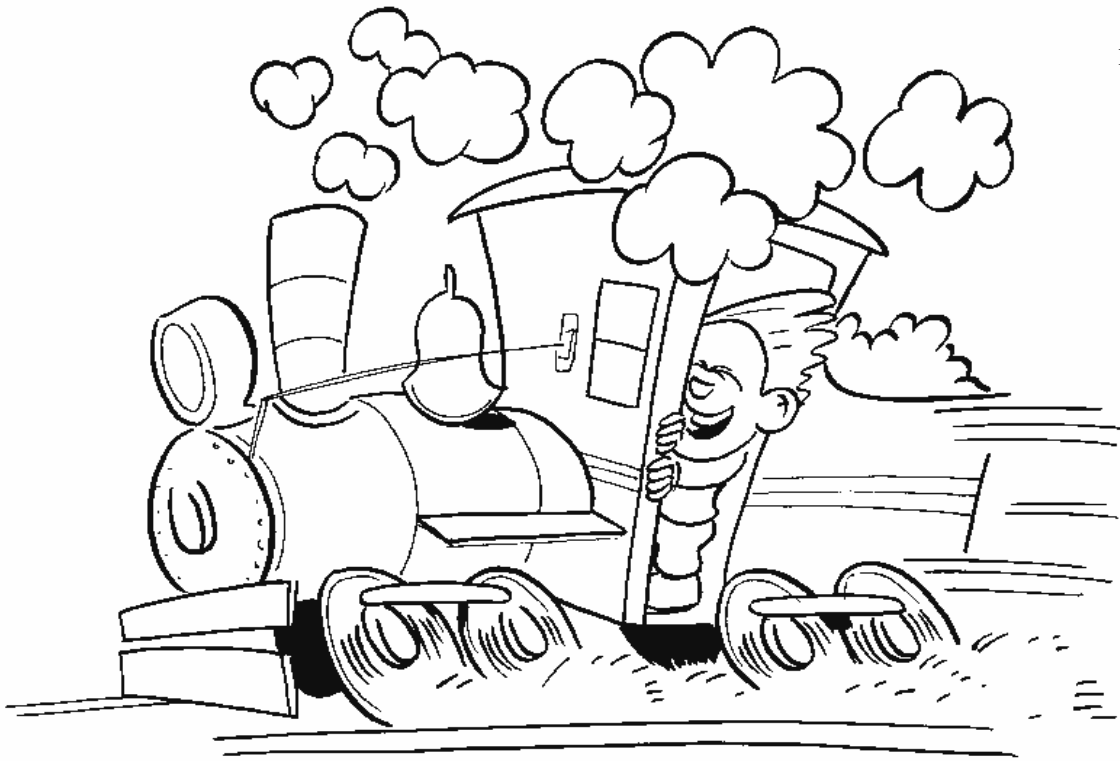
The train was big and black and
its silver gleamed.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



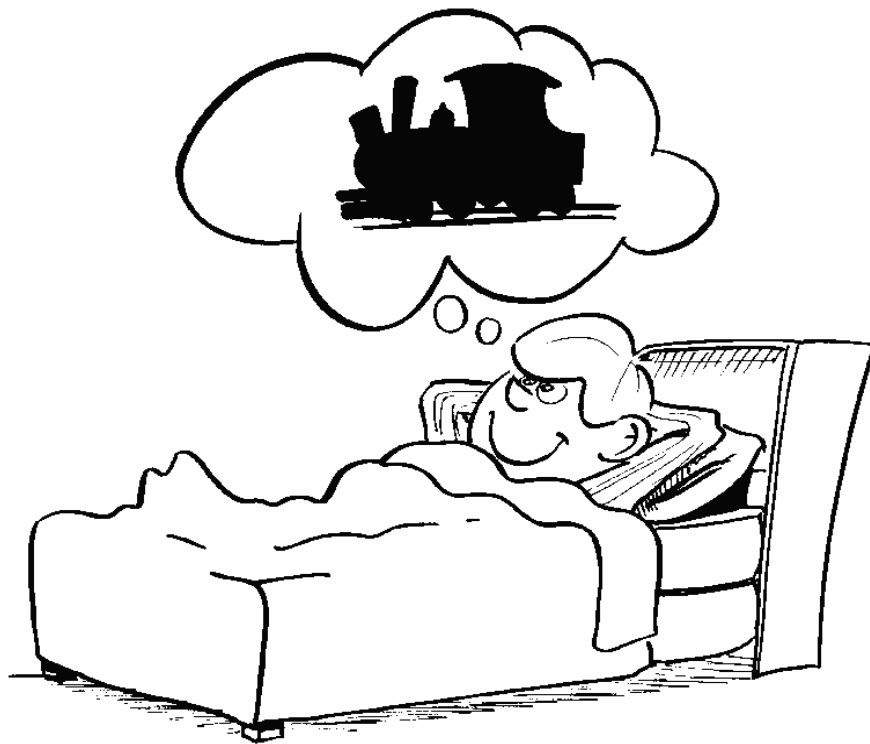
Through the dark tunnels the
head lights beamed.



Down the track the engine screamed.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



It all seemed so real, in my dream.

Extra Words

team seam ream cream
coal goal foal silver sliver liver

Comprehension

1. What did the train have lots of?
2. What were the driver and his men doing?
3. What two colours did the train have?
4. How did the train find its way in the tunnels?
5. What noise did the engine make?



Complete the sentences with these words.

track, steam, dream, screamed.

I had a ride on a _____ train in
my _____. Down the _____
the engine _____.



Fly My Kite

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Page 1a

Complex Combinations

Children should be remembering "whole" words (the, and, said, saw).
These should now be **Sight Words** - with intuitive and fluent decoding.

Phonic Decoding

Explain how 'bite', 'site' share a common Sound of '..ite'
Explain how 'Mike', 'bike' share a common Sound of '..ike'
Explain silent 'e' as in 'kite' - it makes the 'i' a long Sound

Try These New Words

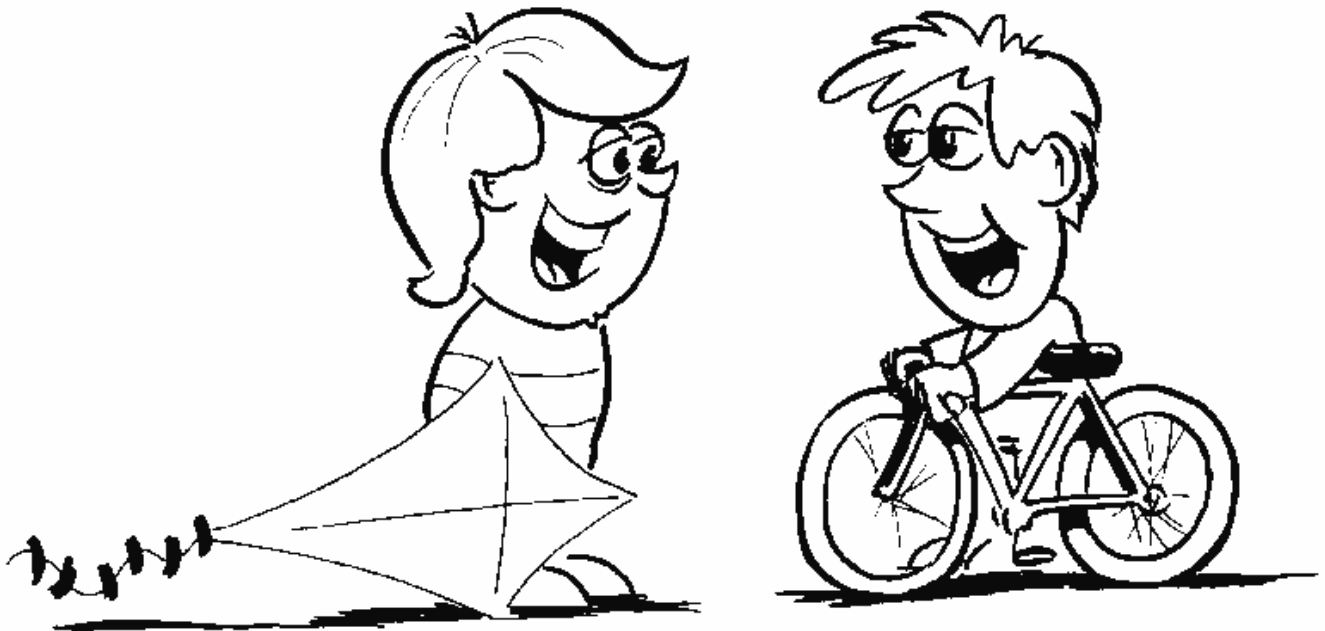
bite site kite Mike bike like
park great might shoo
after down jumped chomp



I went to the park to fly my kite.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

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At the park I met Mike,
on his bright, new bike.



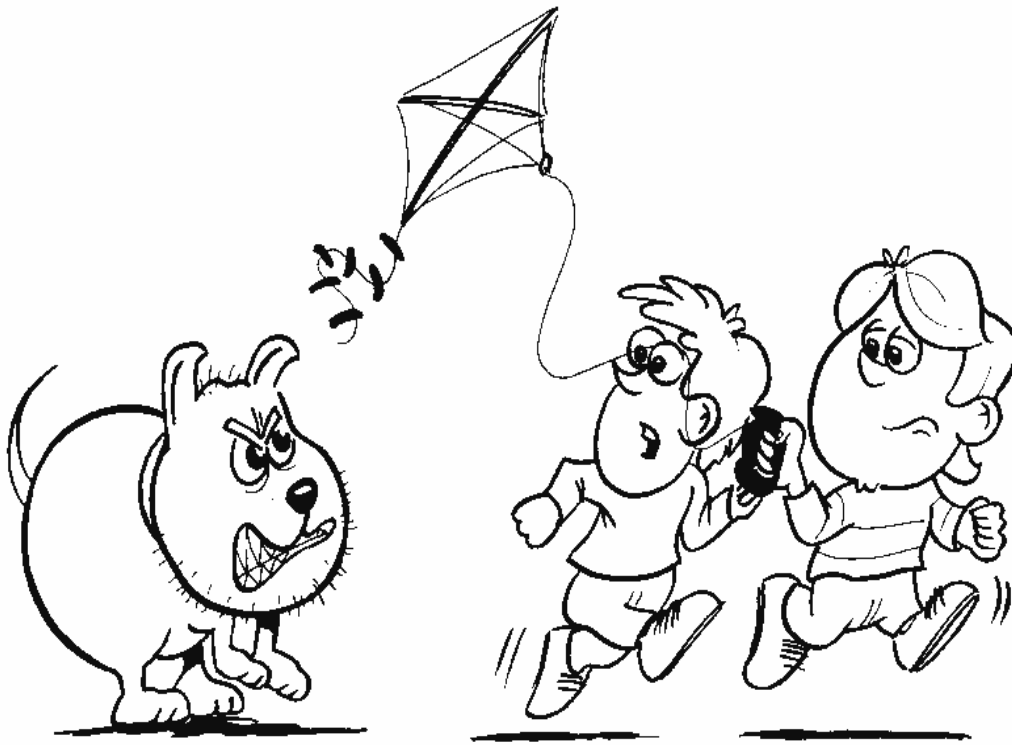
We ran up and down
with my flying kite.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 3a



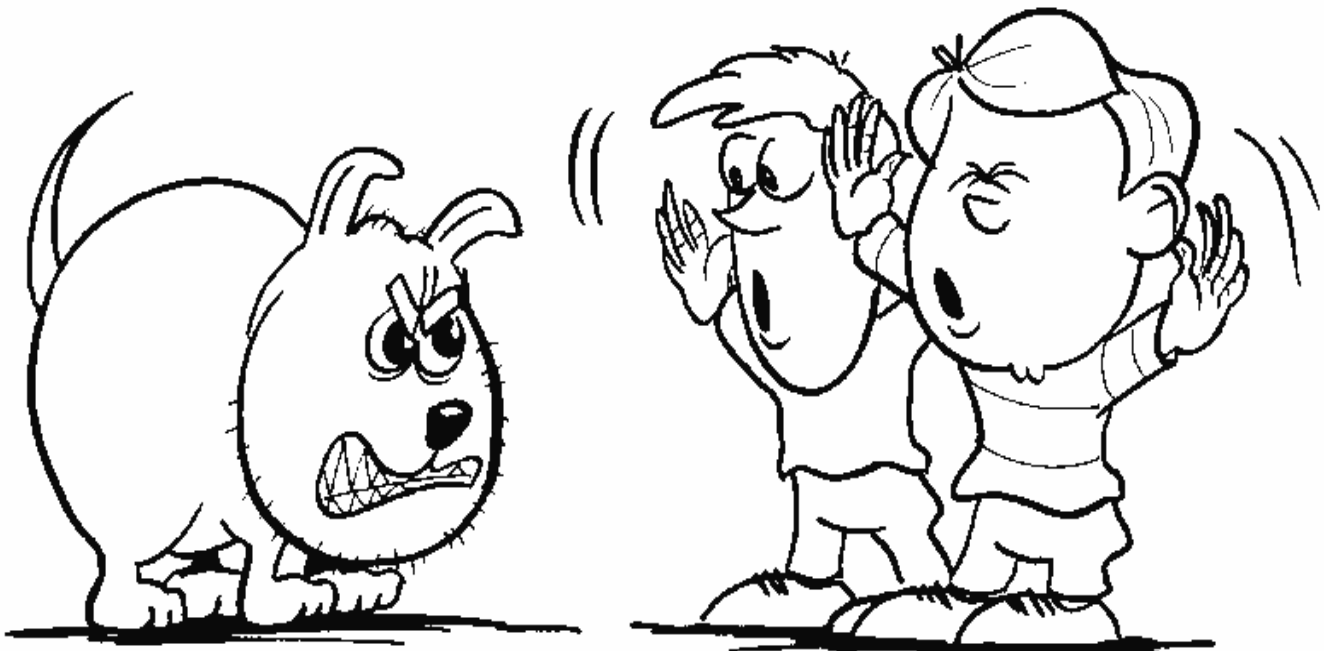
Then we saw a mean dog
that we didn't like.



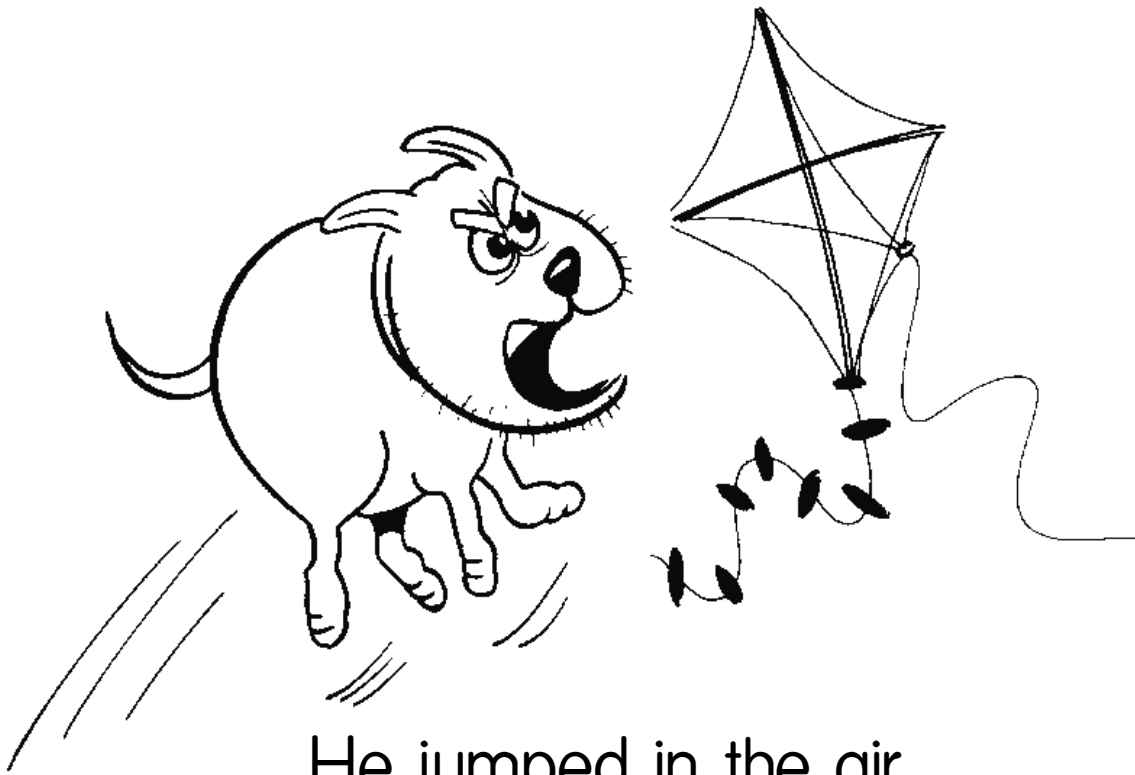
He jumped up and down, and
chased after my kite.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



He barked and growled as we
tried to shoo him off the site.



He jumped in the air
with all his might.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



And chomp, he took out a
huge bite from my kite!

Extra Words
 mark bark lark dark
 white quite pipe

Comprehension

1. Where did the boy take his kite?
2. Who did he meet on the way?
3. What was the boy playing with?
4. Who else was at the park?
5. What did the dog bite?



Complete the sentences with these words.

Mike, ran, bike, and, kite, down.

I met _____ on his new _____.

He _____ up and _____ after my
 _____.



I Knew A Boy

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Page 1a

Complex Combinations

Children should be remembering "whole" words (the, and, said, was).
These should now be **Sight Words** - with intuitive and fluent decoding.

Phonic Decoding

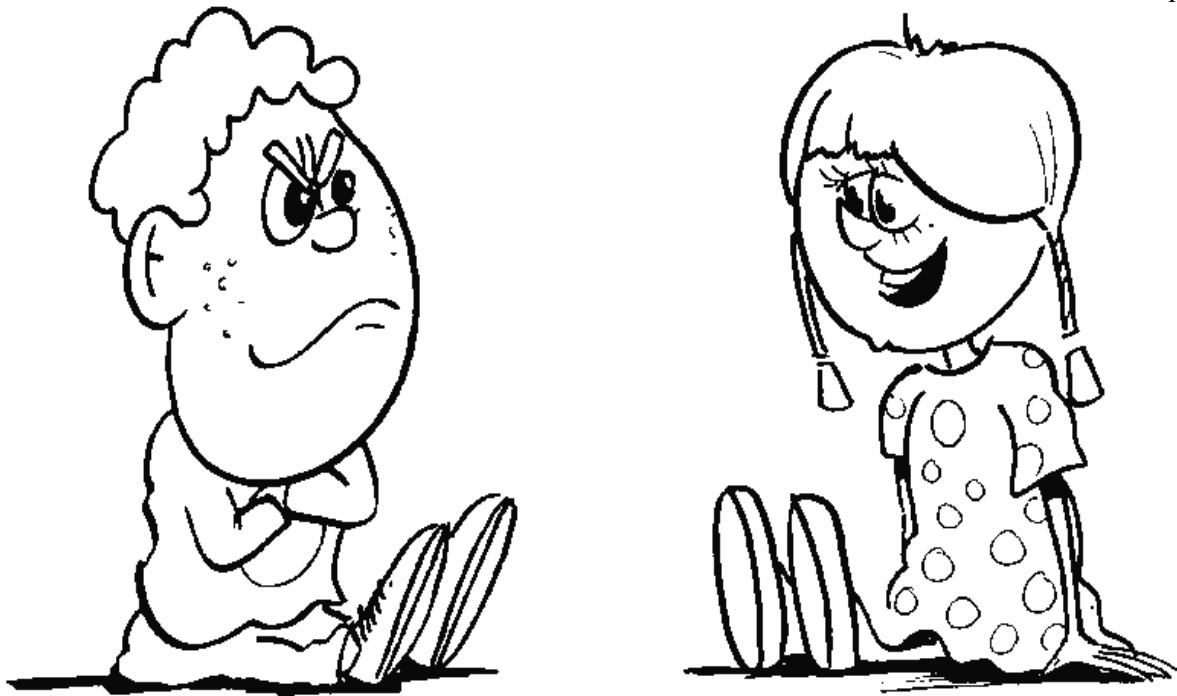
Explain how 'care', 'share' share a common Sound of '..are '

Explain how 'toy', 'boy' share a common Sound of '..oy '

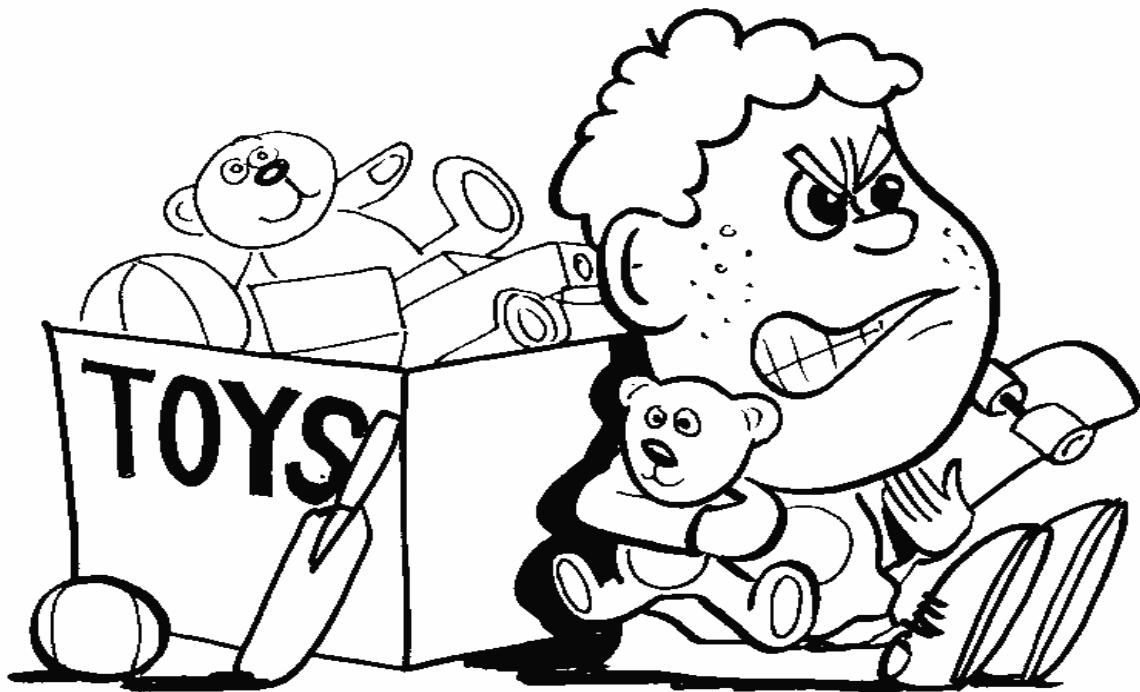
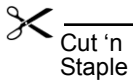
Explain abbreviation 'wouldn't' as in 'would not'.

Try These New Words

share care spare stare toy
boy joy would wouldn't until
please gave none



I knew a boy who would not share.



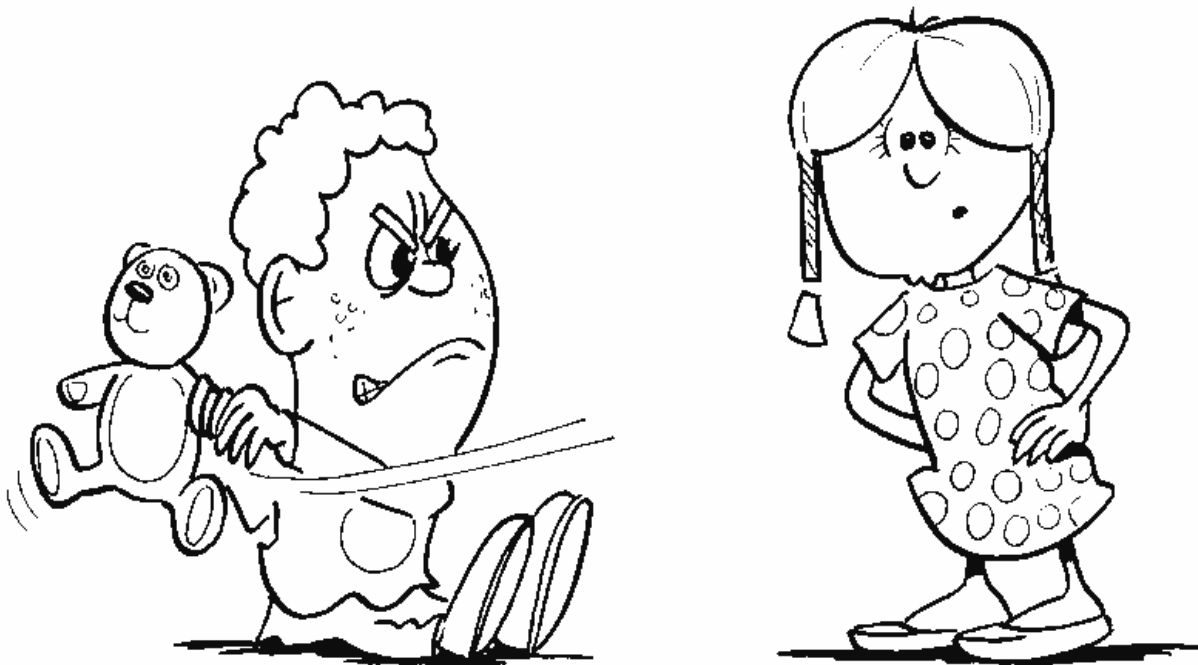
He had lots of toys but
there were none he would spare.



Play with his toys?
You wouldn't dare.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

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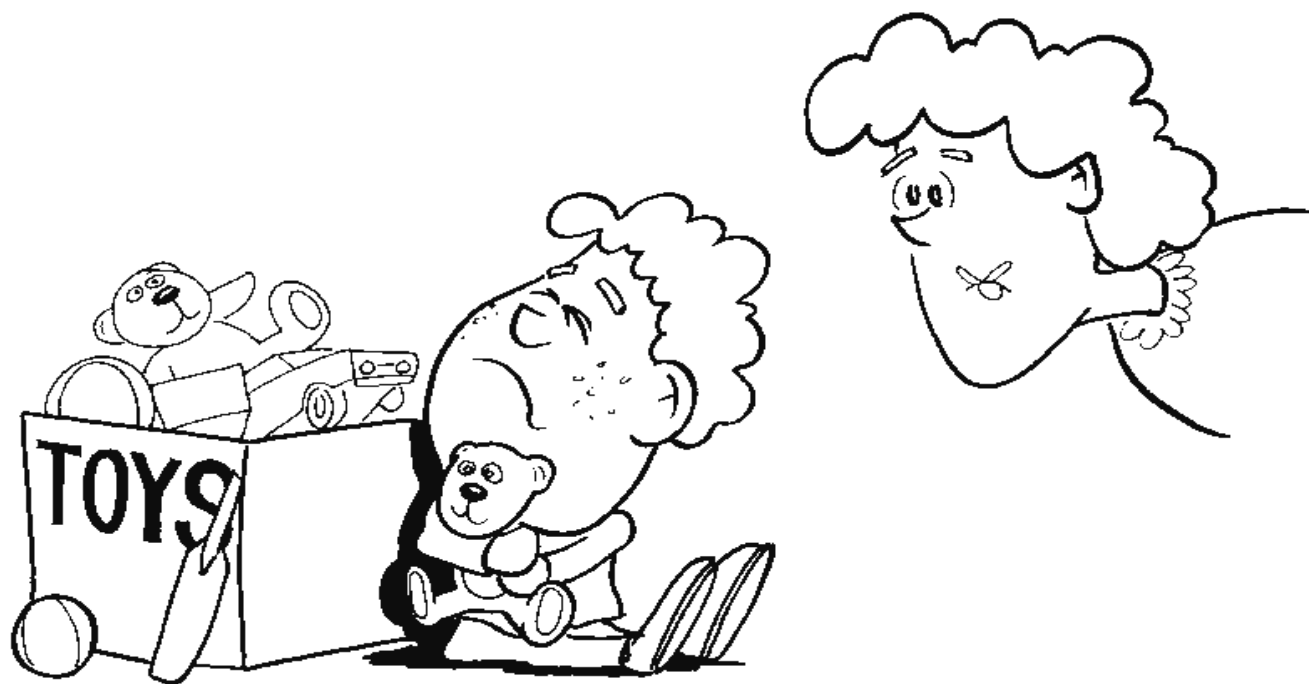
He would just grab his toys,
then sit and stare.



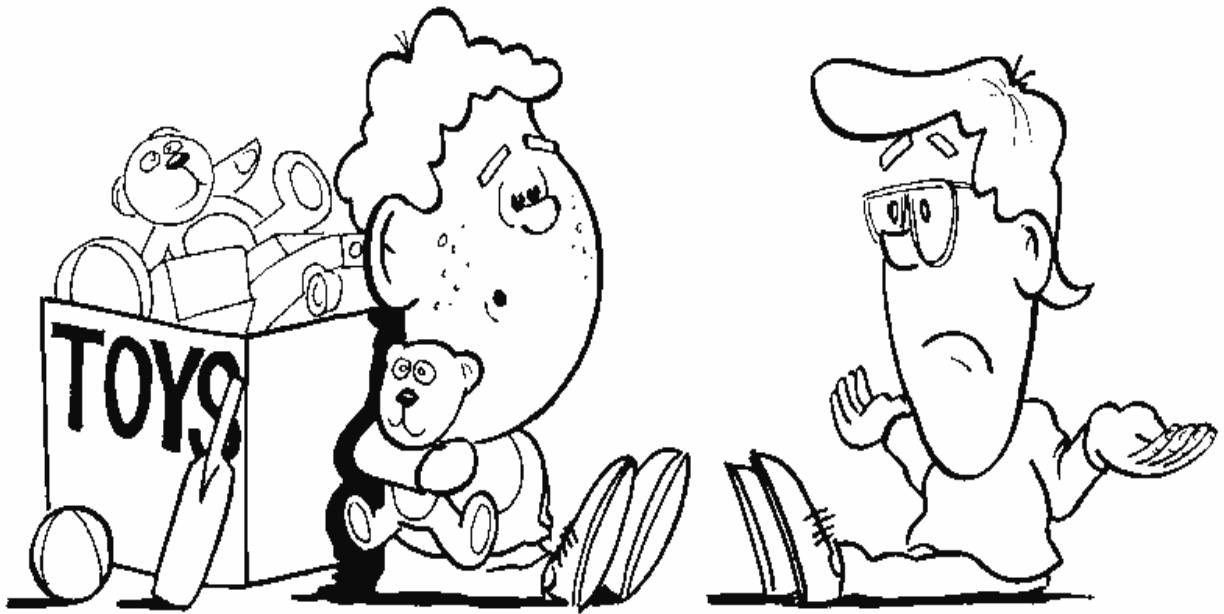
His mother would say,
"Please come and share".

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



But he wouldn't share,
he just didn't care.



One day, he met a boy
who had no toys to spare.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



Finally he gave him his toys, and a
friendship was shared.

Extra Words

dare mare bare fare could not
couldn't should not shouldn't

Comprehension

1. What wouldn't the boy do?
2. What did the boy have lots of?
3. What did his mother tell him?
4. What happened after the boy took back his toy?
5. Who did he meet one day, and what did he learn?



Complete the sentences with these words.

knew, toys, share, spare.

I _____ a boy who wouldn't
_____. He had lots of _____
but none to _____.



We went to the River

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Illustrations by Anthony Mitchell

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Page 1a

Complex Combinations

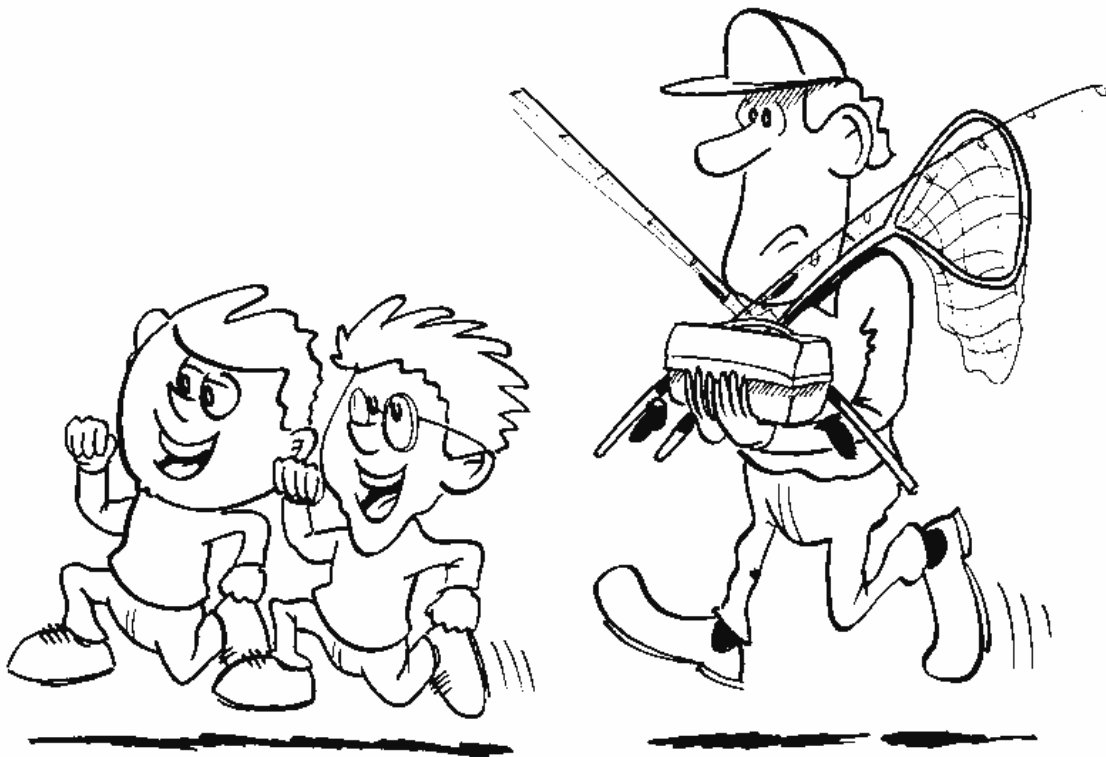
Children should be remembering key words (the, said, was).
these should now be **Sight Words** - with intuitive and fluent decoding.

Phonic Decoding

Explain how 'trout', 'shout' share a common sound of '..out'
Explain how the blend 'wr' creates 'r' sound.
Explain silent 'w' as in 'wriggled'.

Try These New Words

out trout shout about pout
wriggled brother line cast river
catch some worms finally began



We went to the river to
catch some trout.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 2a



As I put worms on my line,
they wriggled about.



I baited the hook with wriggling worms,
and cast the line a long way out.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 3a



I felt a tug and gave a shout,
"Dad, come over and help me out".



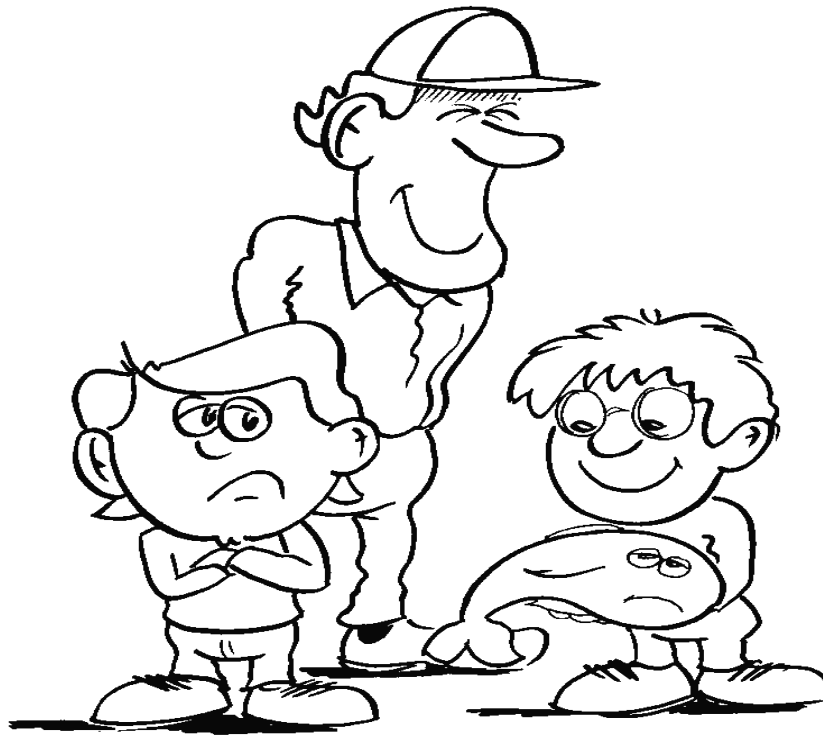
I felt a bite, I gave another shout
"I've caught a fish, it's a rainbow trout".

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



As the trout was jumping all about,
Dad helped me net the rainbow trout.



"Well done, Tom", Dad called out. My brother just stood there, with a pout.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



So I said to my brother, "Don't be sad, here, you can have my rainbow trout".

Extra Words

stout come become
done undone

Comprehension

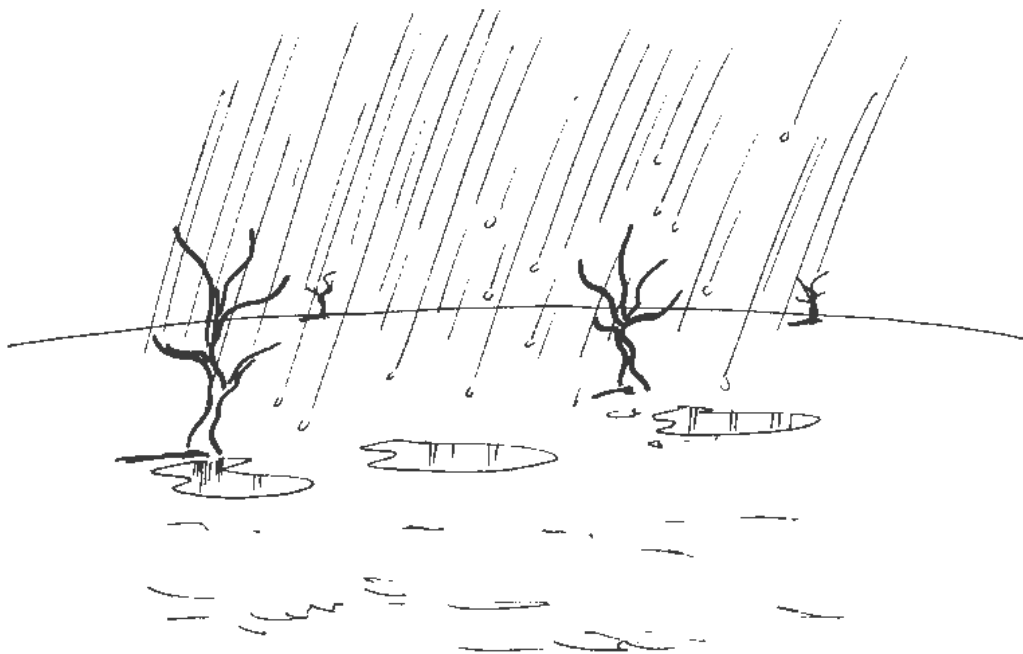
1. Why did they go to the river?
2. What type of fish was in the river?
3. What colour was the trout?
4. What face expression did his brother have?
5. How did he make his brother happy?



Complete the sentences with these words.

river, tug, shout, trout.

We went to the _____ to catch
some _____. I felt a _____ and
began to _____.



The Rain on the Plain

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Page 1a

Complex Combinations

In this story there are many newer words and 3 syllable words 'travelling', 'imagine'.

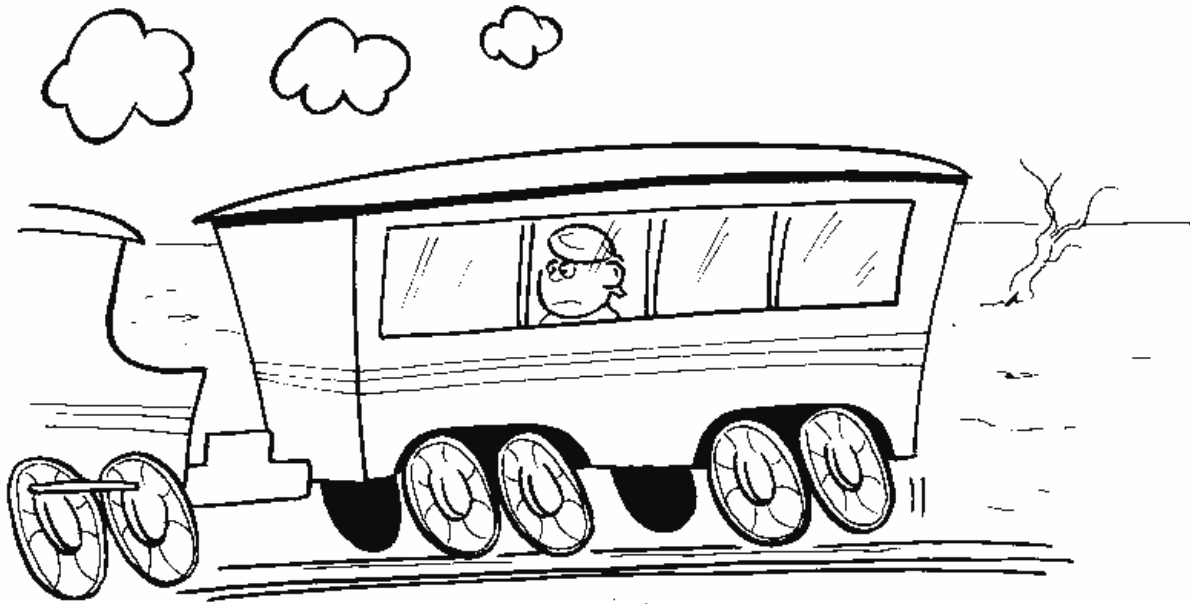
We've used the sound '..ing' with more complex onset blends.
Spend as much time as necessary to master this story.

Phonic Decoding

Explain how 'rain', 'plain' share a common sound of '..ain'
Explain how 'washing', 'looking' share a common 2nd syllable sound of '..ing'
Explain silent 'e' as in 'imagine'

Try These New Words

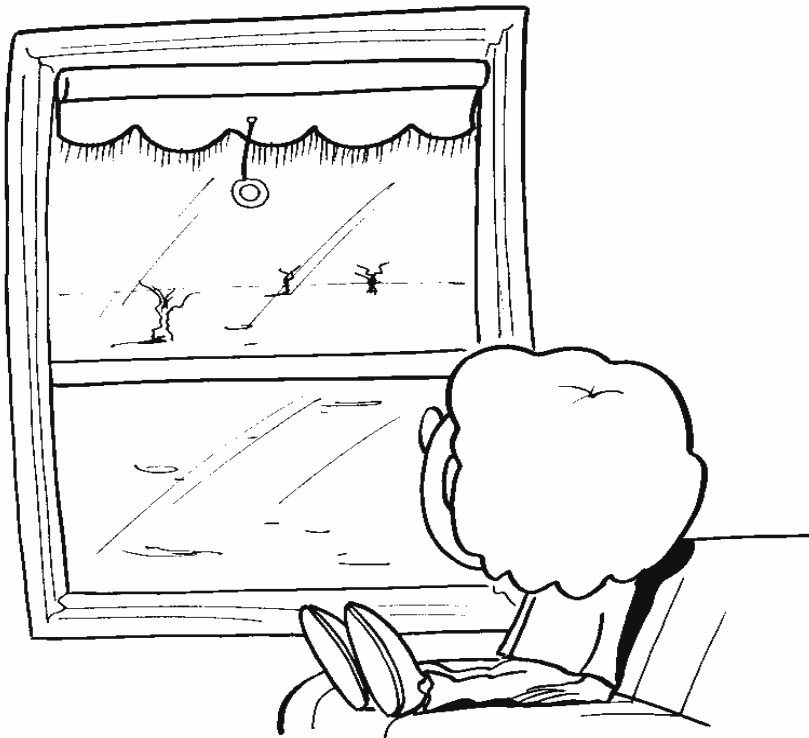
rain plain stain drain again brain
washing looking splashing travelling
playing changing across house



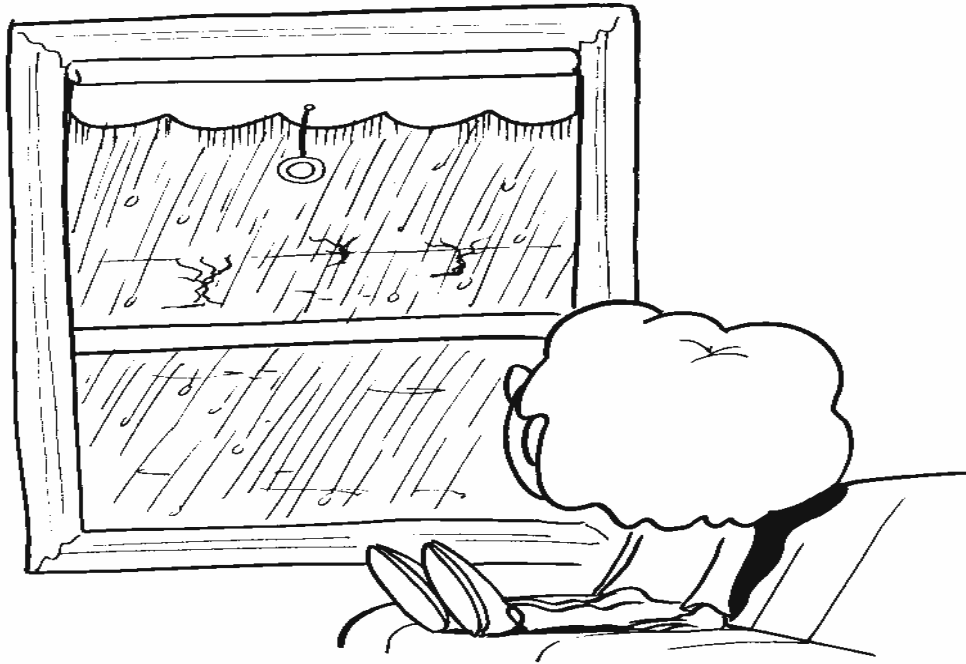
I was travelling across dry land
on a slow steam train.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 2a



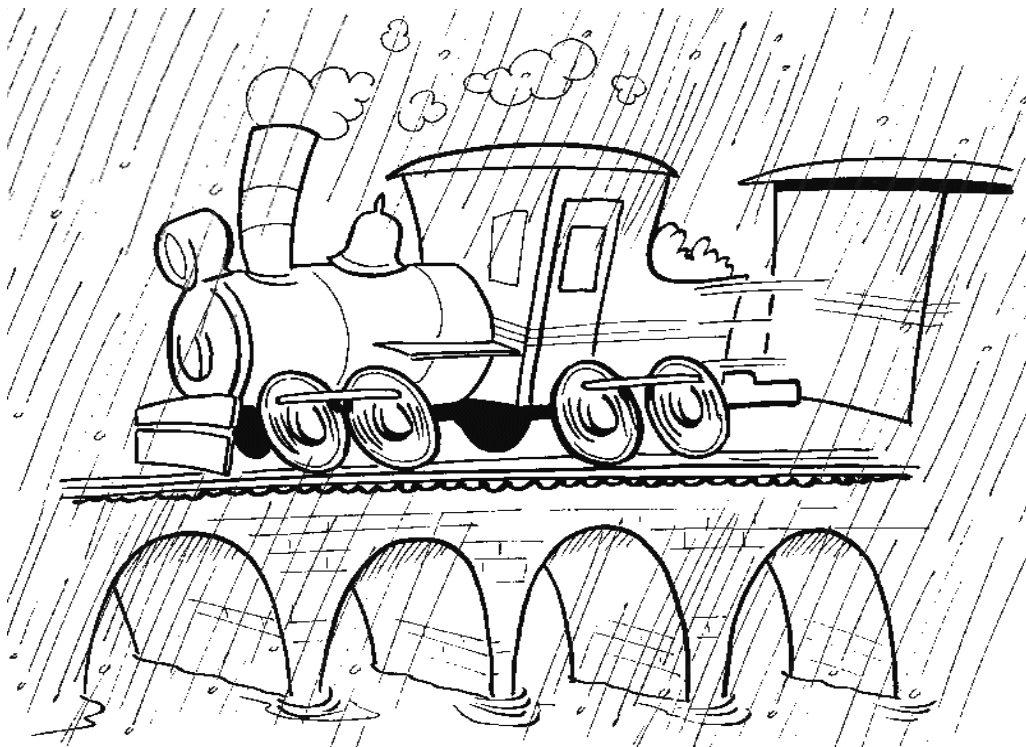
I was looking out the window
as it began to rain.



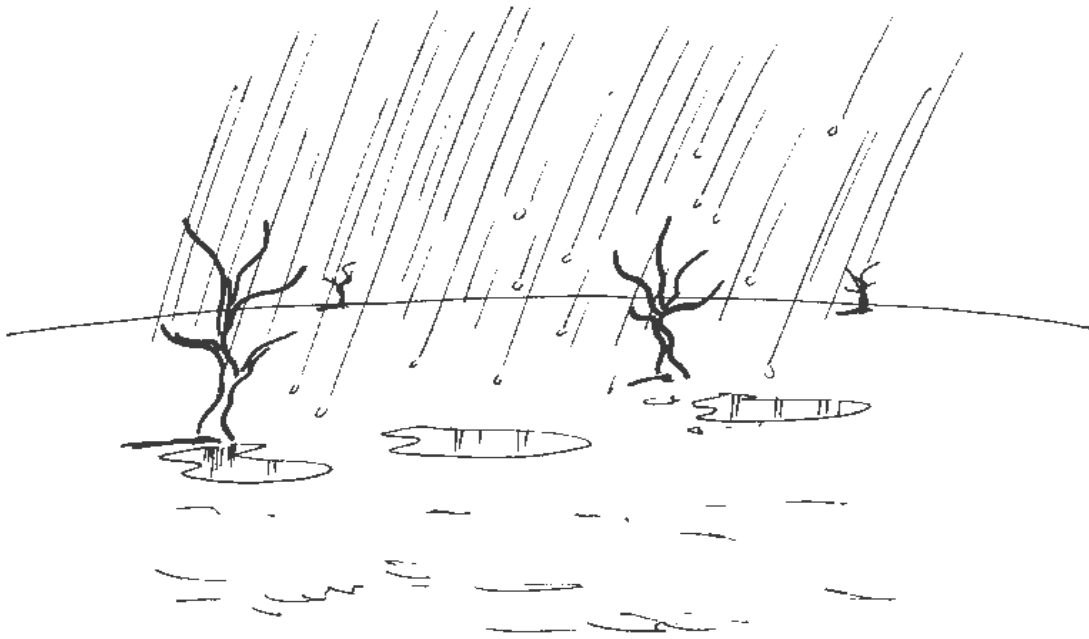
I could see the raindrops splashing
on the dusty plain.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 3a



The rainwater was washing into
the creek, you could see it drain.



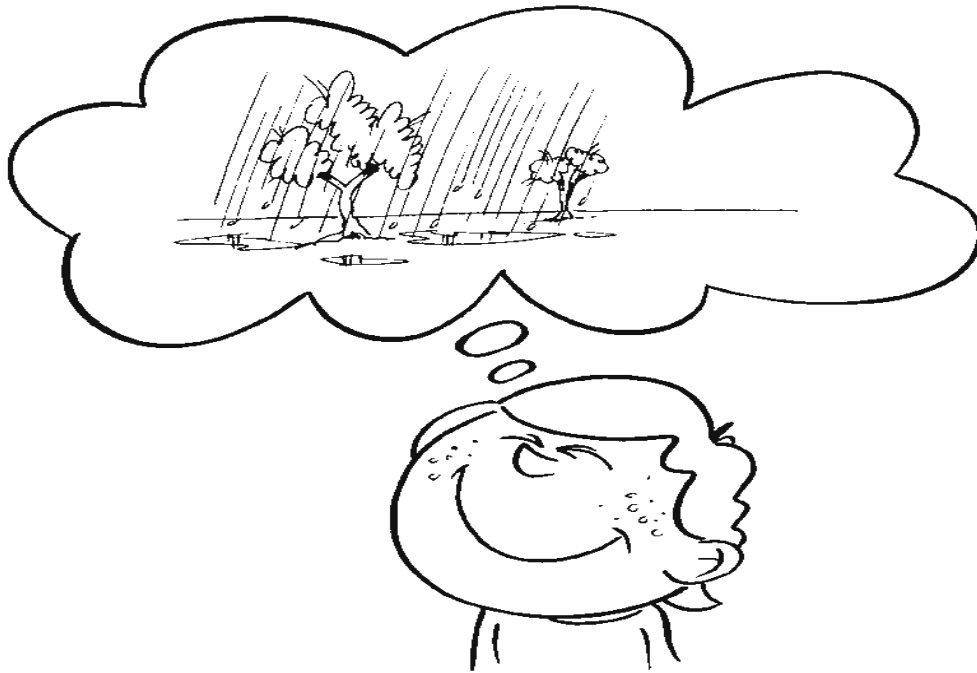
The plain was plain brown,
like a rusty stain.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



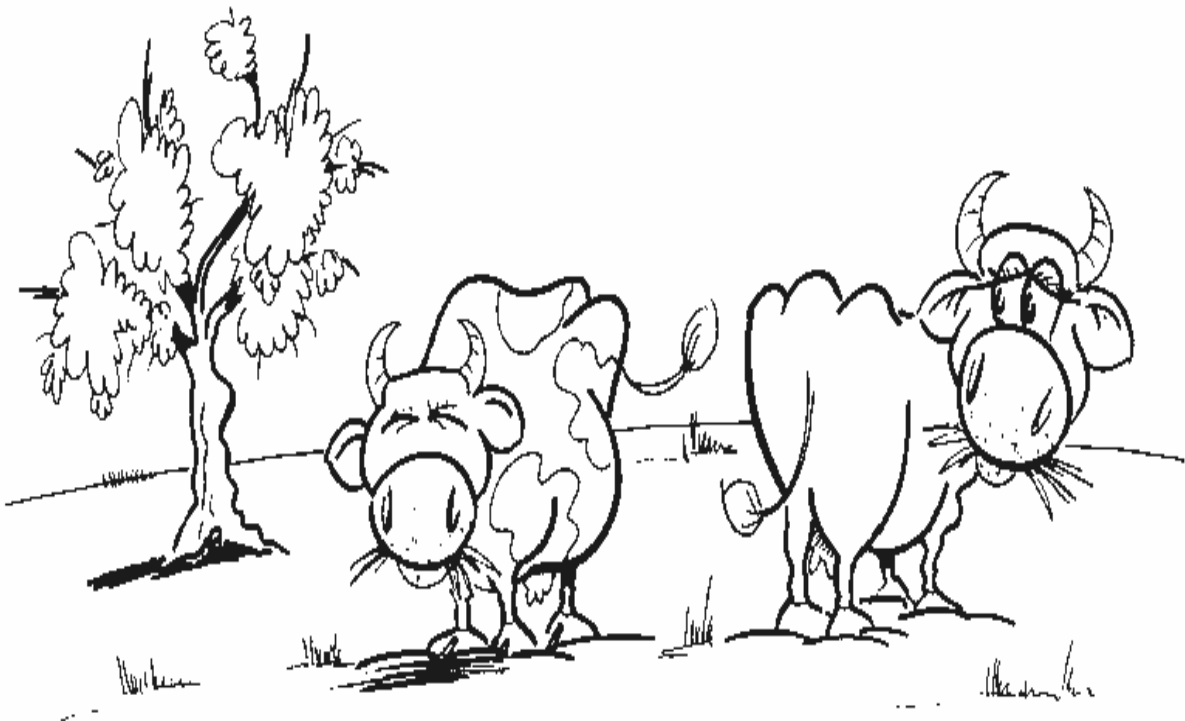
We passed a farm house ... the children
were playing in the rain.



I could imagine the dry brown
land changing in my brain.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



And knew in a few days it would
be a green plain again.

Extra Words

main pain gain vain grain
came dame tame lame flame

Comprehension

1. Where was he travelling?
2. What was he travelling on?
3. Where did the rain water wash?
4. What colour was the plain?
5. How did the rain change the plain?



Complete the sentences with these words.

rain, brown, plain, stain.

I could see _____ drops on the
_____. It was coloured _____
like a big _____.



Harrison's Goal

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Page 1a

Complex Combinations

In this story there are many Proper Nouns - the names of the players.
Explain that the first letter of a person's name (and a place's name) is capitalised.

Phonic Decoding

Explain how 'pass', 'class' share a common sound of '..ass'
Explain how 'kick', 'quick' share a common 2nd syllable sound of '..ick'

Explain the blend 'qu' as in 'quick' to create a 'kw..' sound.

Try These New Words

pass class grass playing soccer
kick quick Seth Ben Claire Phillipa
Brock Nick Harrison Zac Coach



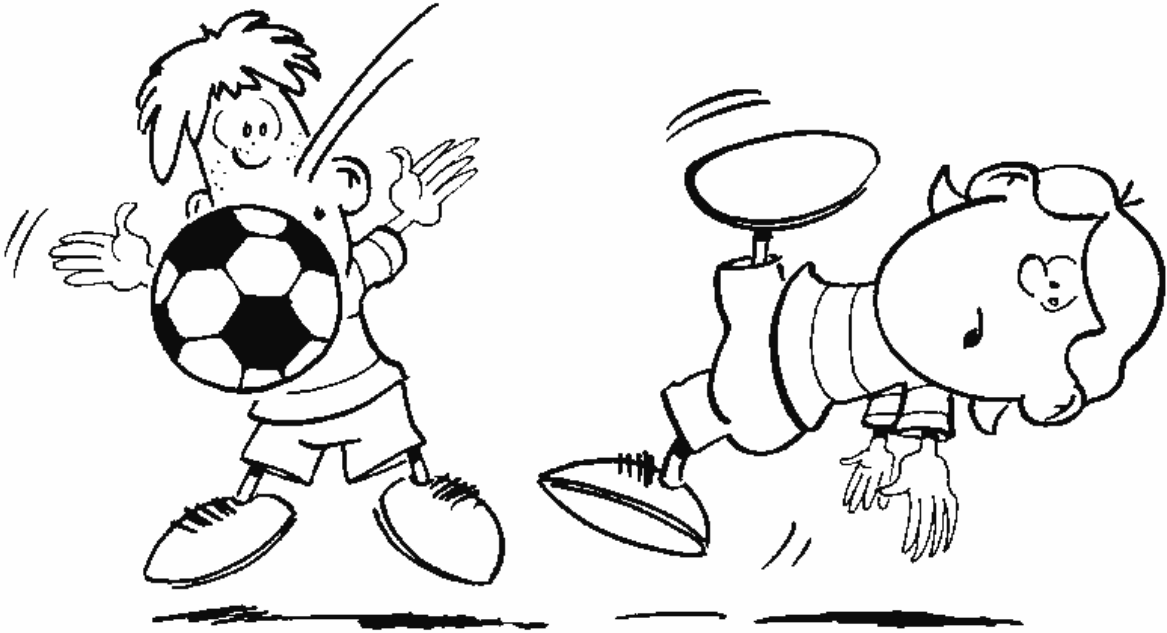
We were playing soccer and
I made a pass.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 2a



I kicked the ball to a boy who
plays soccer in my class.



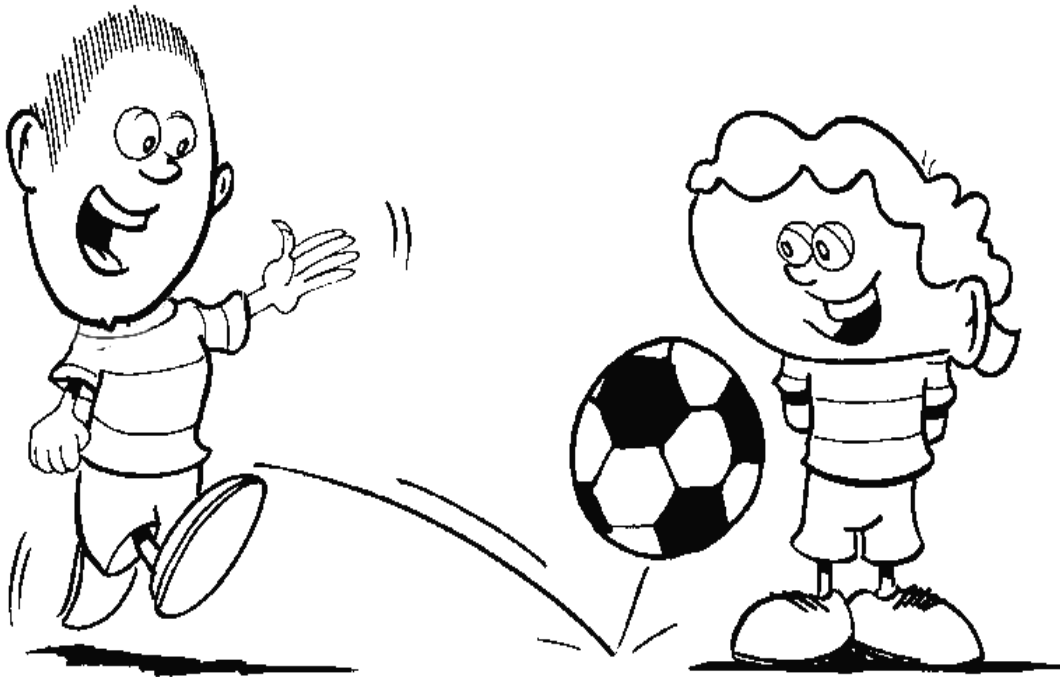
As he took the pass,
I slipped on the grass.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

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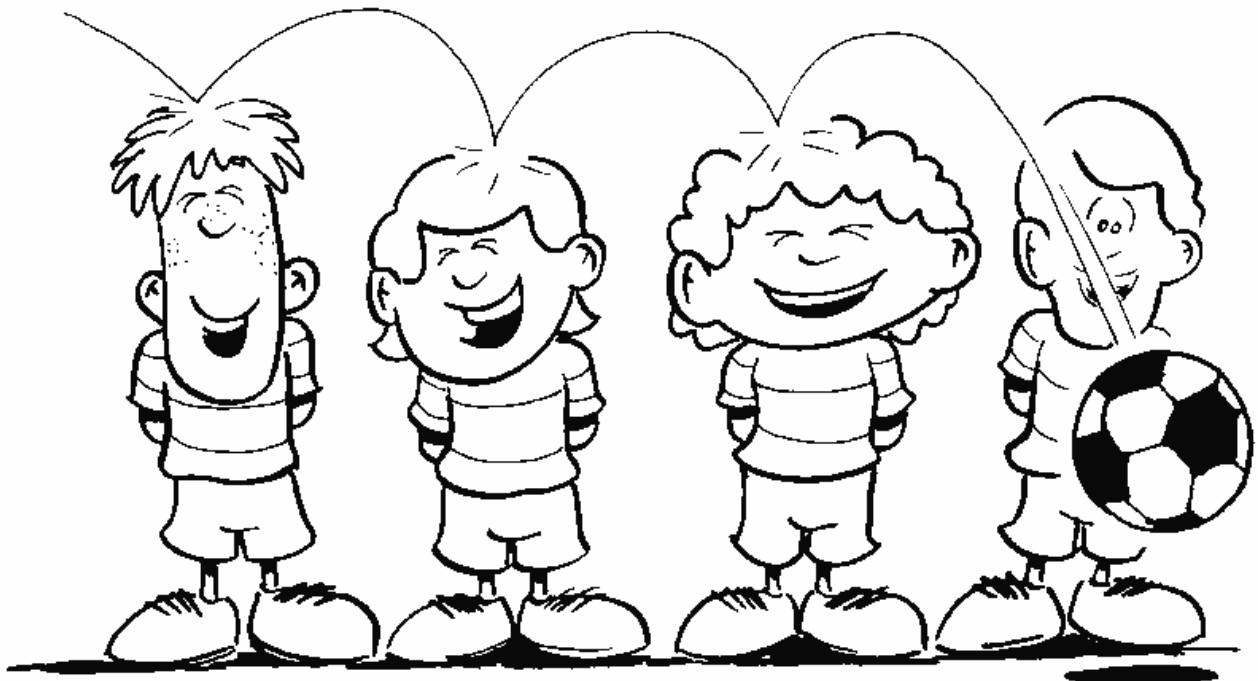
The Coach called out,
"What a great kick, what a great pass".



"Quick! Get the ball, Zac!
Now pass it to Nick".

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



"Ben, pass it to Brock, then to Richard ...
Now Seth, give it a kick".



"Phillipa, pass it to Claire, now
Harrison get it, quick!"

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



Yes, in it went!
Harrison, what a great kick!

Extra Words

team seam stream beam cream
seem deem quick quiet quite

Comprehension

1. What game were they playing?
2. Who called out to the team?
3. What were the names of the girls?
4. Who kicked the goal?
5. What were the names of the boys?



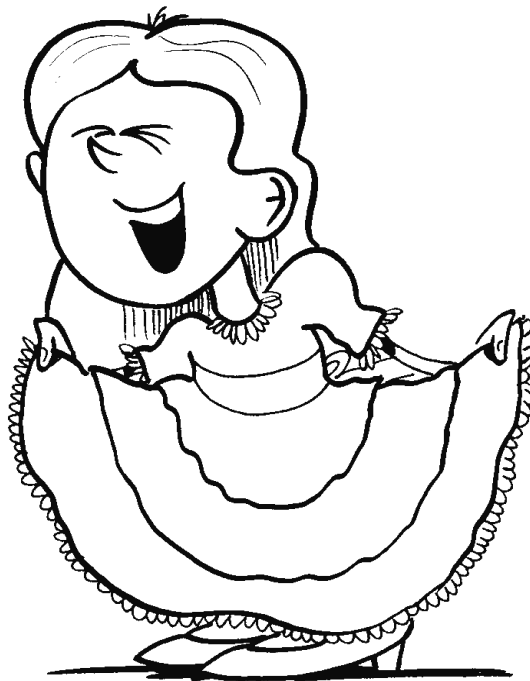
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 6a

Complete the sentences with these words.

were, ball, pass, Nick.

We _____ playing soccer and I
made a _____. Quick, get the
_____, Zac - now, pass it to _____.



A Dance in France

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Page 1a

Complex Combinations

In this story we explore silent '..e' again.

Phonic Decoding

Explain how 'France', 'dance' share a common sound of '..ance'

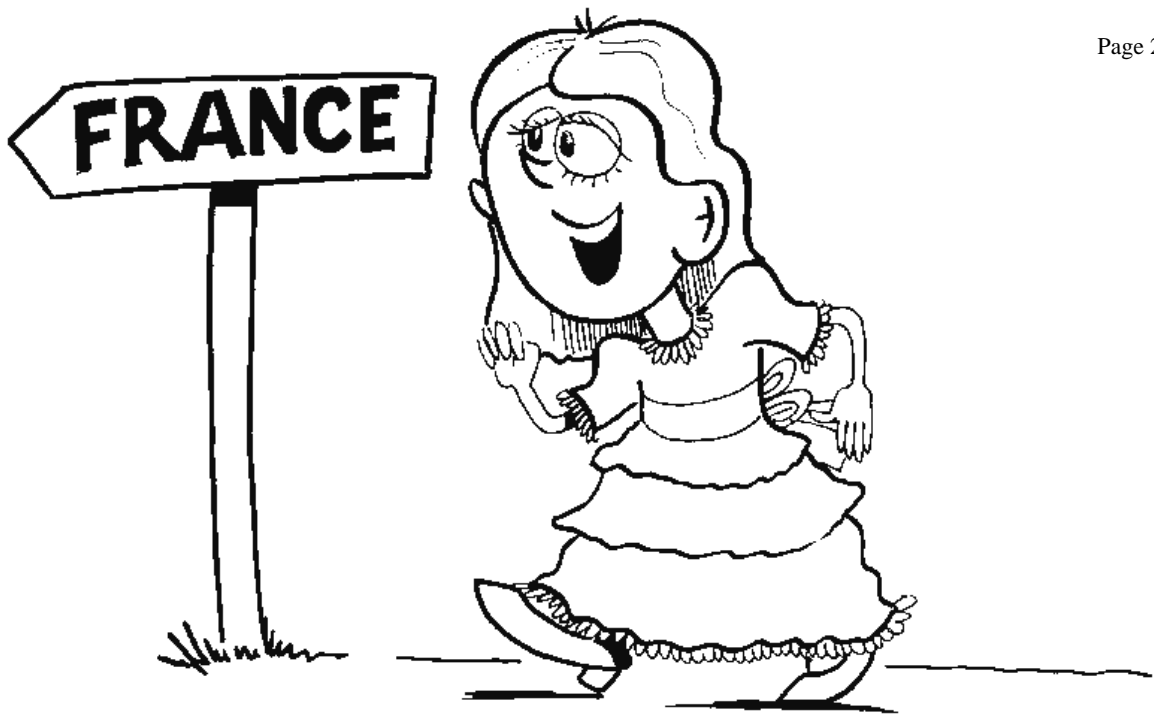
Explain how 'space', 'lace' share a common sound of '..ace'

Explain the silent 'e' in 'lively'.

Explain the sound 'altz' as in 'waltz' to create a 'alts..' sound

Try These New Words

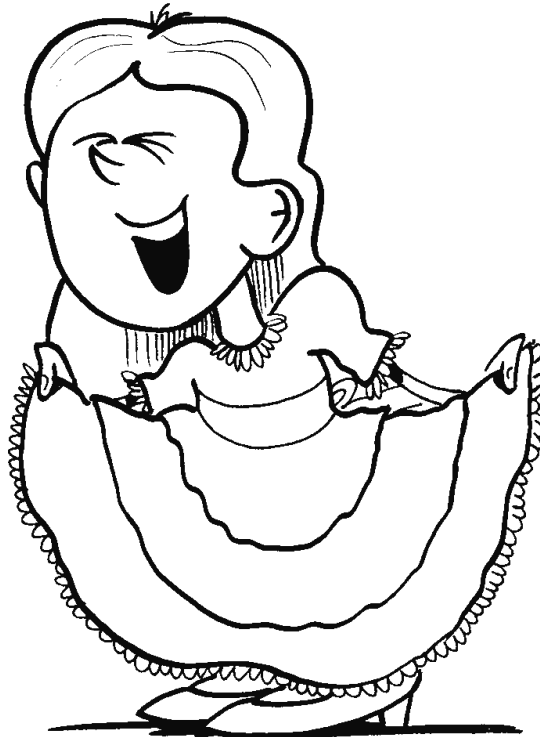
France fancy dance lively prance
shame lace space disgrace
around landed waltz



I went to a castle in faraway France,
to a royal ball, a fancy dance.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 2a



First I did a slow waltz and then
I joined a dance.



I tripped on my dress, all made of lace.
Bang! I landed flat on my face.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 3a



All around me there was lots of space.
Oh! What a shame. What a disgrace!



I put a brave smile back on my face.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



Picked up my fine dress,
all made of lace.



Without a sound, without a glance,
out the door, I did prance.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



I pranced out of the dance,
and out of France.

Extra Words

replace displace
abound surround rebound astound

Comprehension

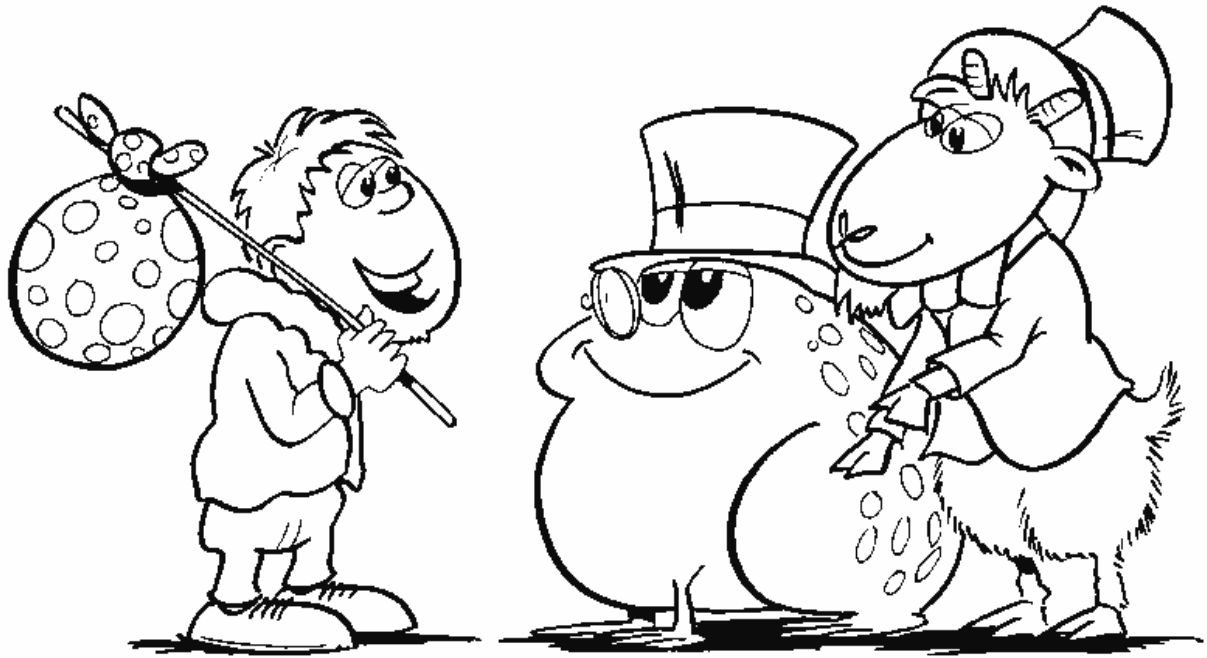
1. What country did she go to?
2. What dance did she do first?
3. What was her dress made from?
4. What did she do when she fell?
5. How did she go out the door?



Complete the sentences with these words.

shame, dance, disgrace, France.

I went to a fancy _____ in
_____. Oh! What a _____.
Oh! What a _____.



The Goat and the Toad

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✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 1a

Complex Combinations

In this story we explore the words which create the 'oat' Sound,
with other spellings for similar sounds.

Phonic Decoding

The Sound 'oa' - as in the word 'coat'
The Sound 'oke' - as in the word 'smoke'
The Sound 'ing' - as in the word 'walking'

Try These New Words

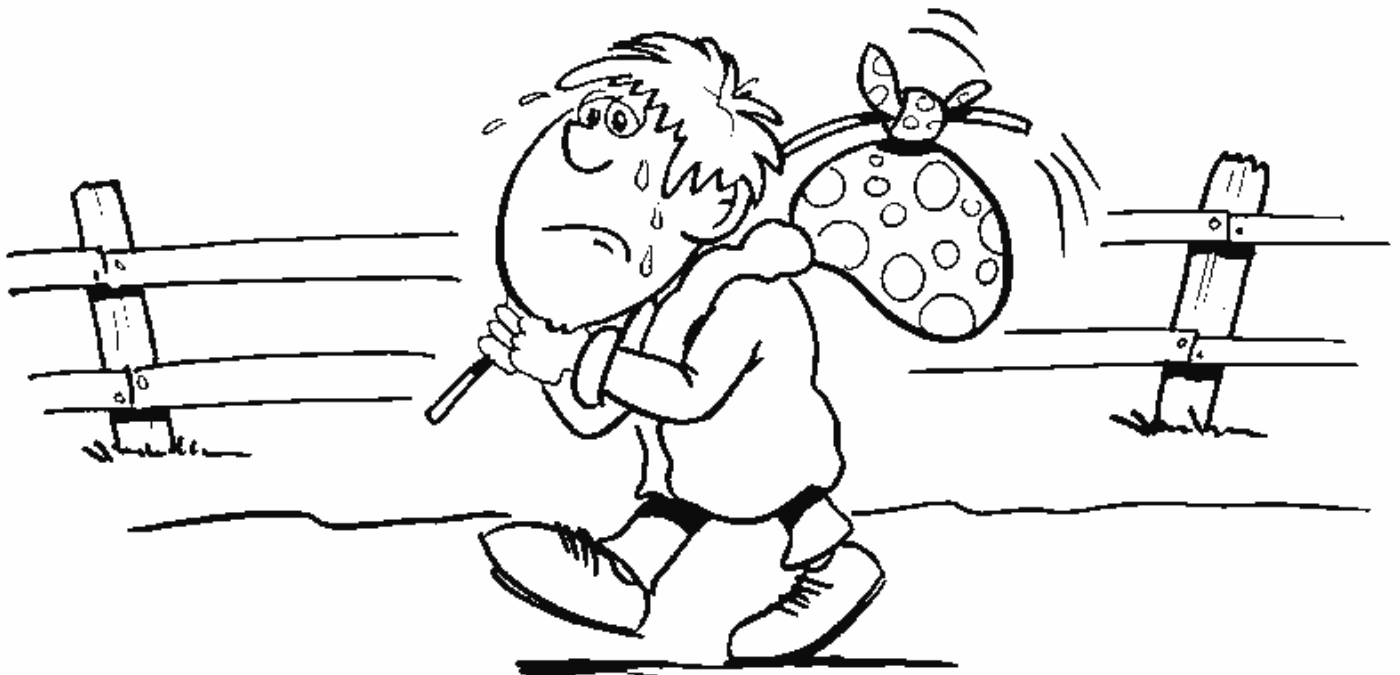
toad goat throat coat note
smoke wrote spoke things
walking winding lugging bumped



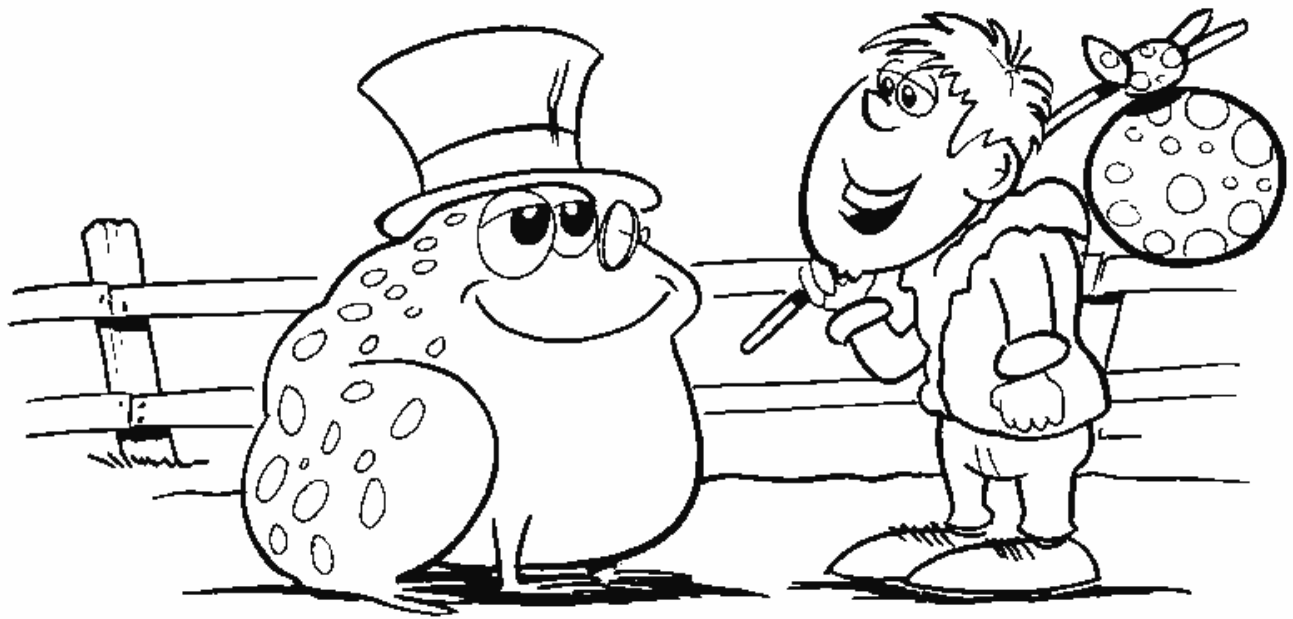
I was walking in winter
along a long winding road.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 2a



I was lugging my things in my
bag - such a heavy load.



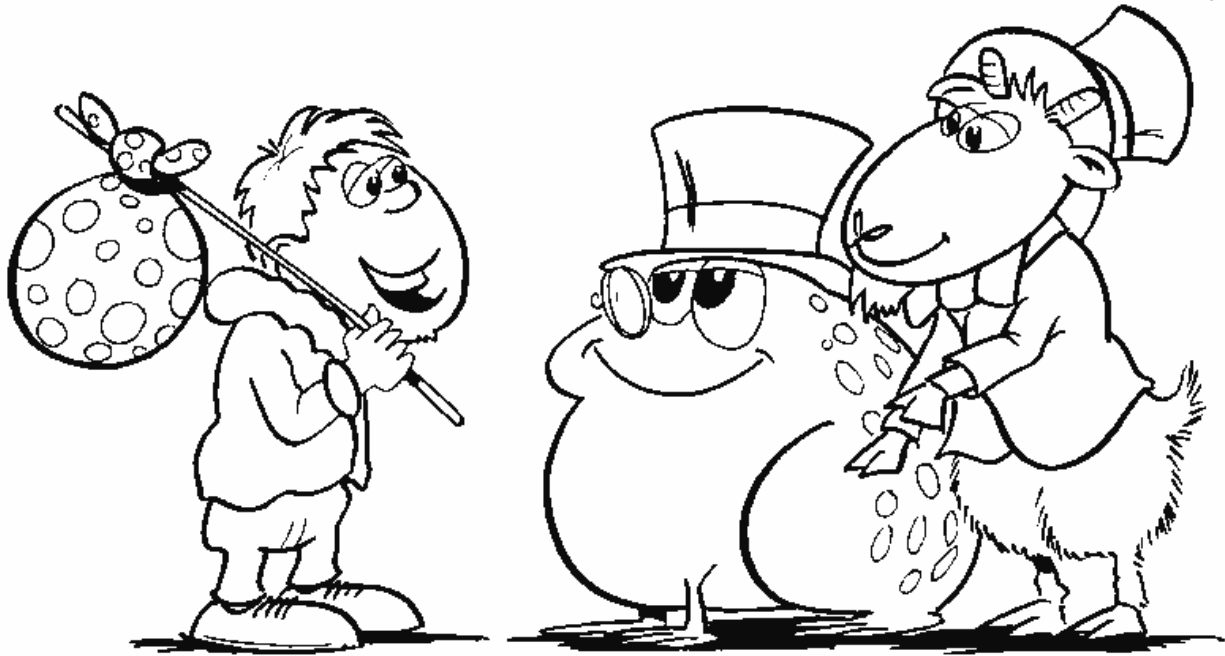
I bumped into a spotted green toad, sitting
in the middle of the road.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 3a



He let out a loud croak, from deep
down in his throat.



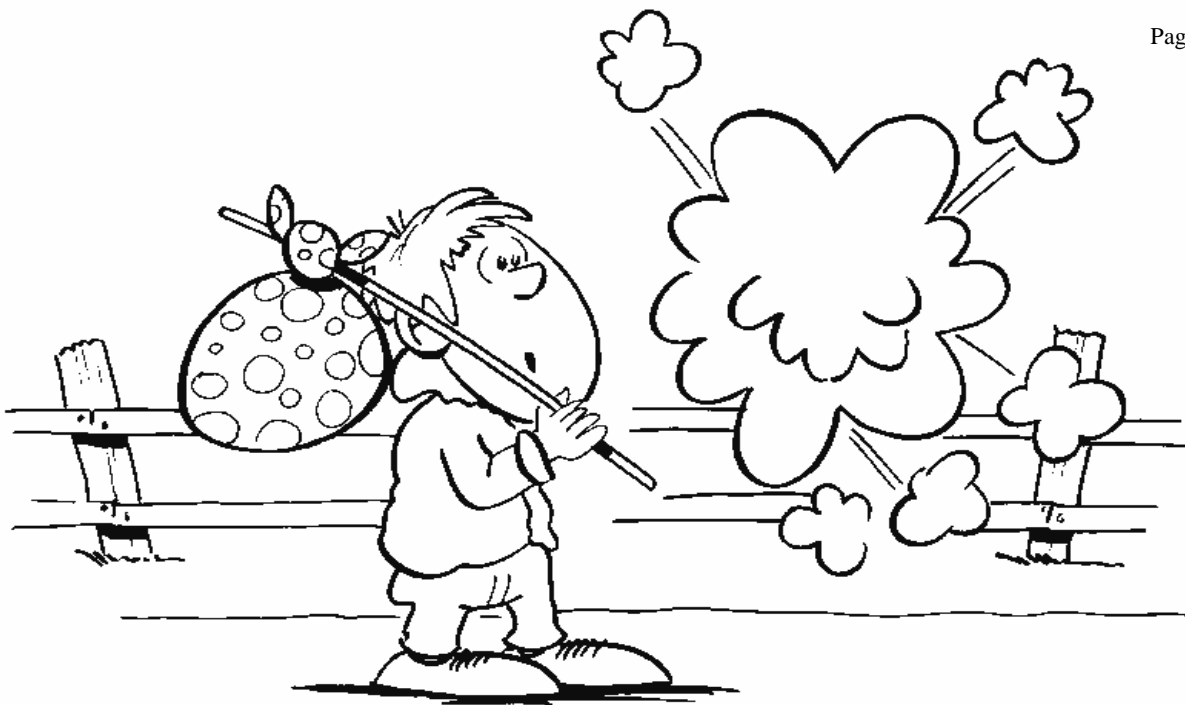
Then along the winding road
came an old billy goat.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



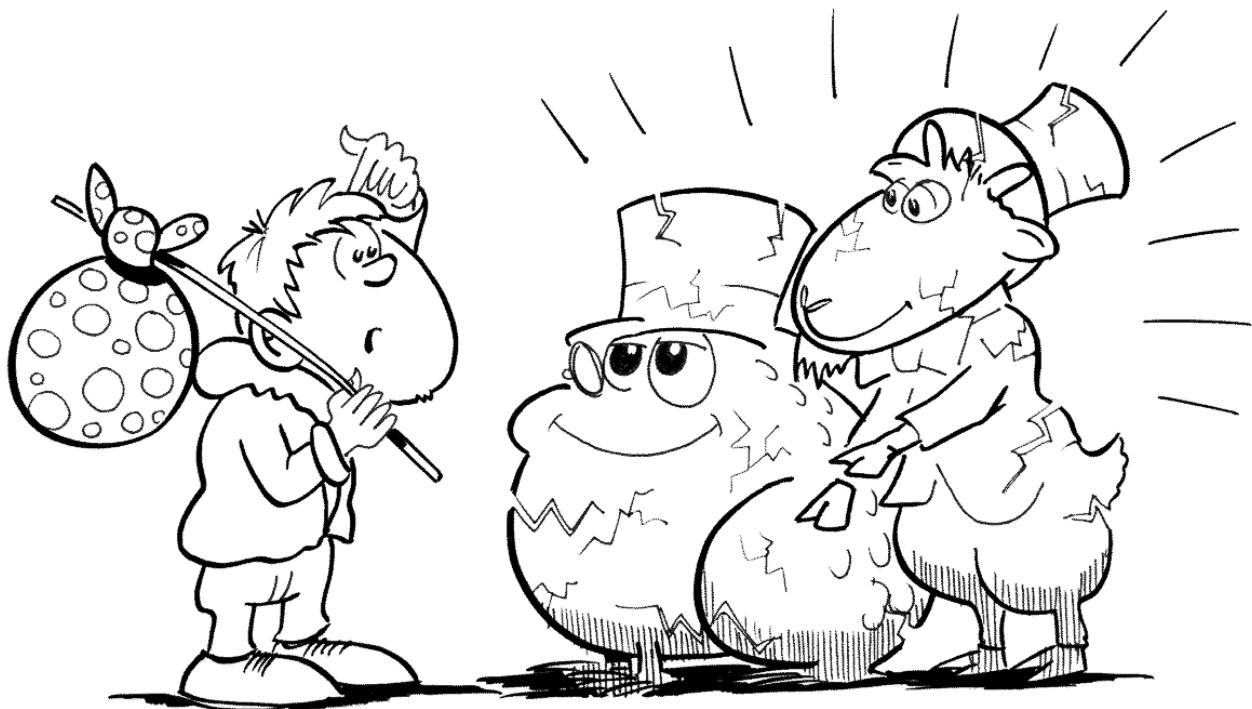
He wrote me a secret note and
placed it in my coat.



Then in a puff of smoke,
before I even spoke ...

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



They both turned to stone,
and left me standing all alone.

Extra Words

spring summer autumn winter
middle fiddle riddle

Comprehension

1. What season was it?
2. What type of toad was it?
3. What did the goat give the boy?
4. What was written on the note?
5. What did the toad and goat turn into?



Complete the sentences with these words.

croak, throat, note, coat.

A _____ came from deep down
in his _____. He wrote me a
_____ and placed it in my _____.



The Roar of the Boar

Early Reader No. 50

Story by Jennifer Cooper-Trent
Illustrations by Anthony Mitchell

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Cut 'n
Staple

Page 1a

Complex Combinations

This story introduces a smaller type size.
It also explores the 'aw' sound, with spelling variations,
as in door, boar, roar, thought, because.

Phonic Decoding

The sound 'ear' - as in the word 'fear'
The sound 'oar' - as in the word 'roar'

Carefully Explain

'ought' as in 'thought', sounds like 'ort'

Try These New Words

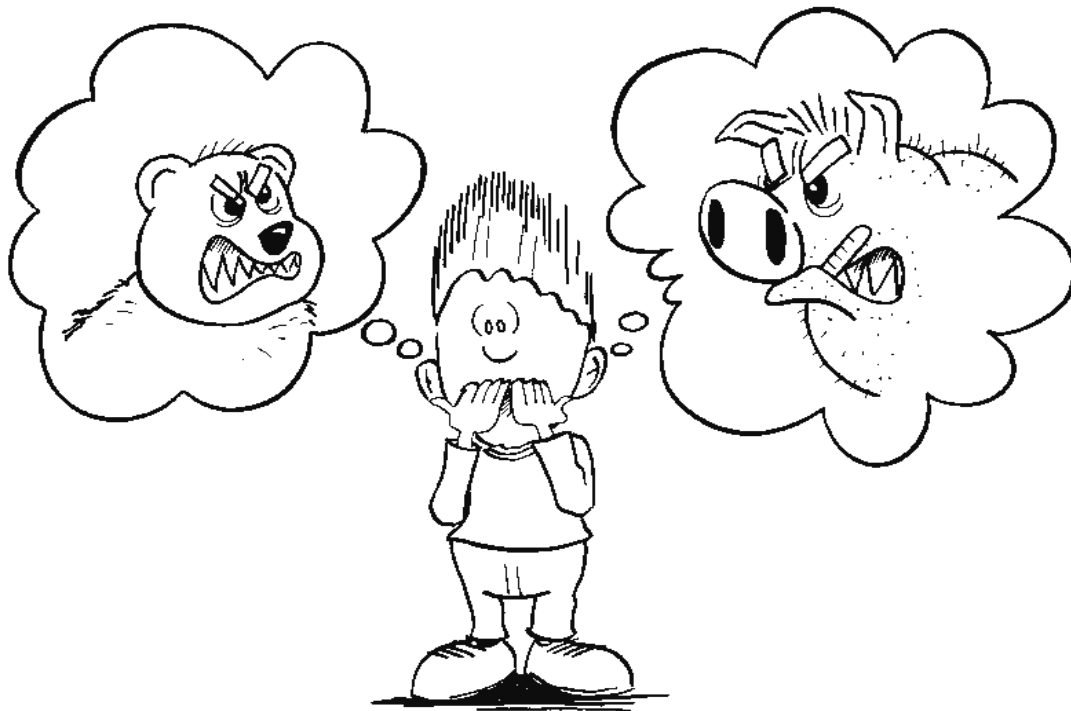
sound thought roar boar door
outside anyone there close
scared fear near clear heard



I thought I heard the roar of a boar.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 2a



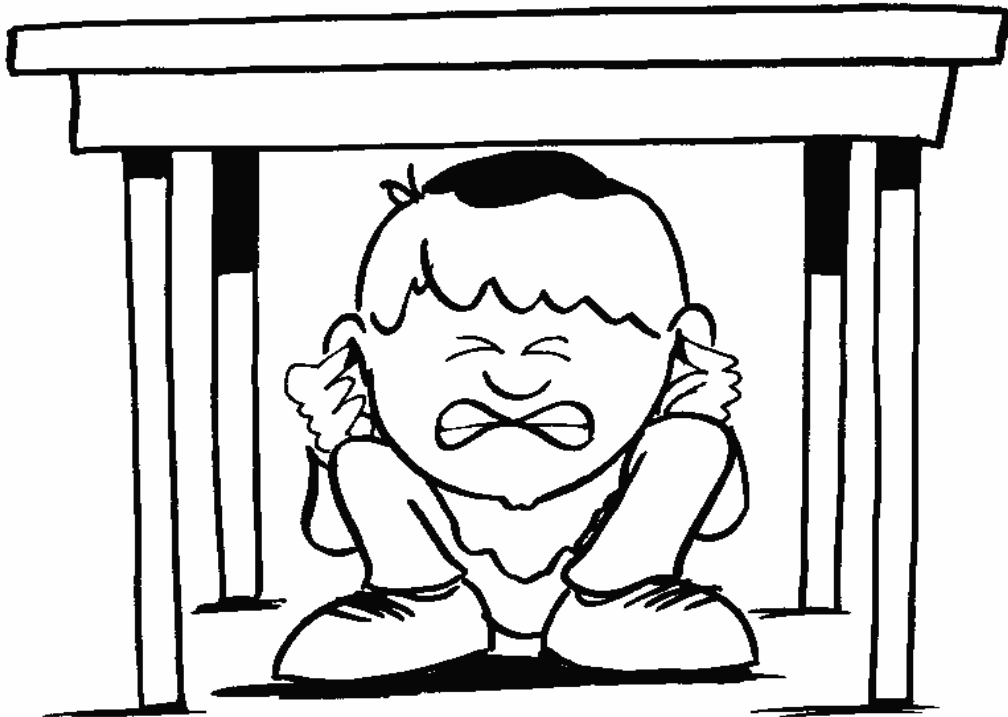
But was that the sound of a boar -
or a bear?



Quiet, listen - again, I can hear
it very clear.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 3a



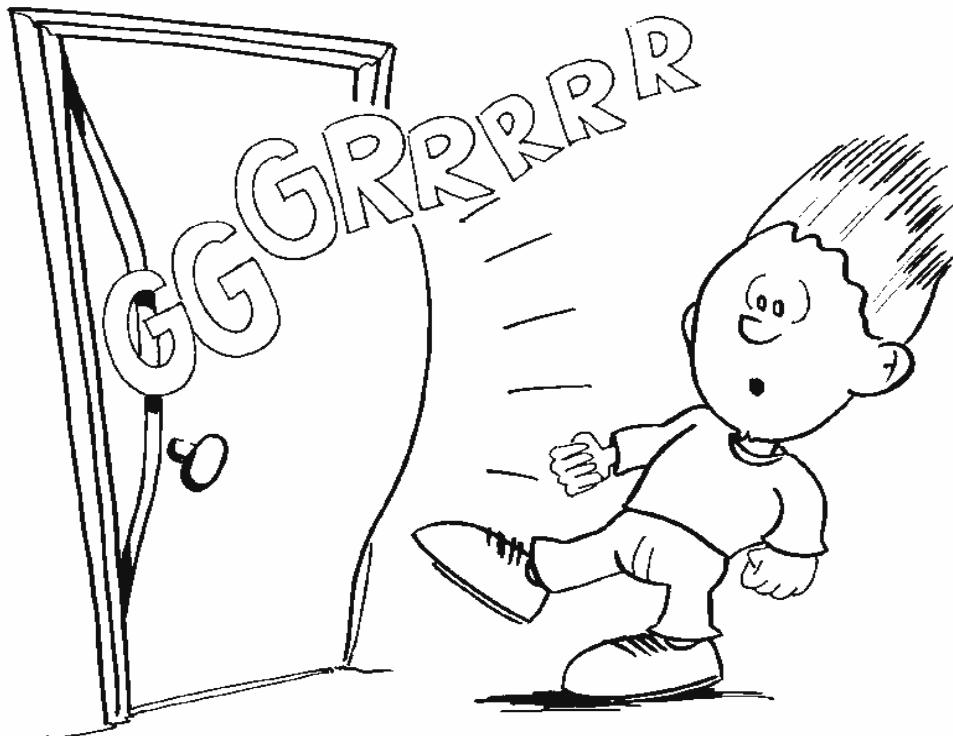
Now I'm scared, because I fear
it is quite near.



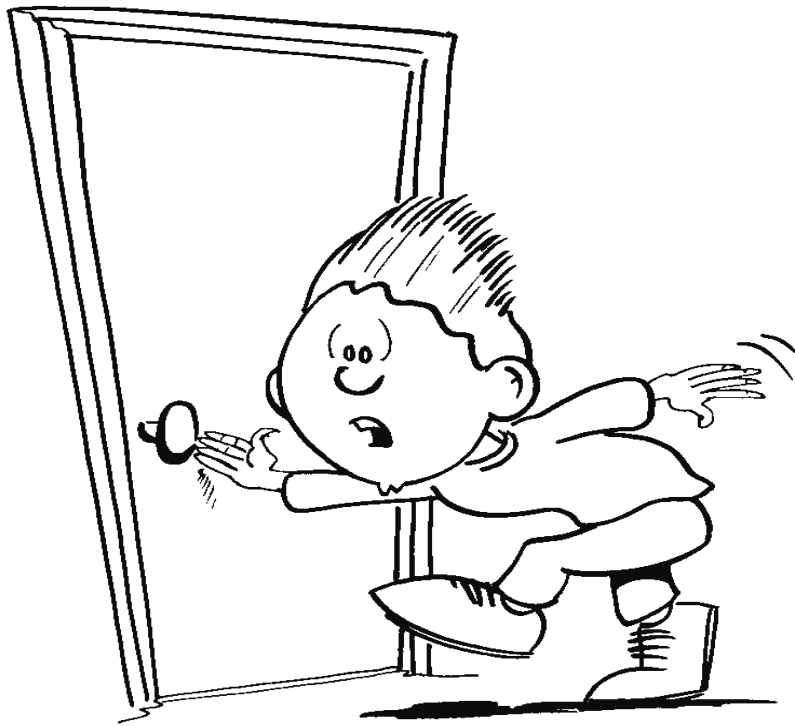
Hush now, listen - again I hear
the roar of a boar.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



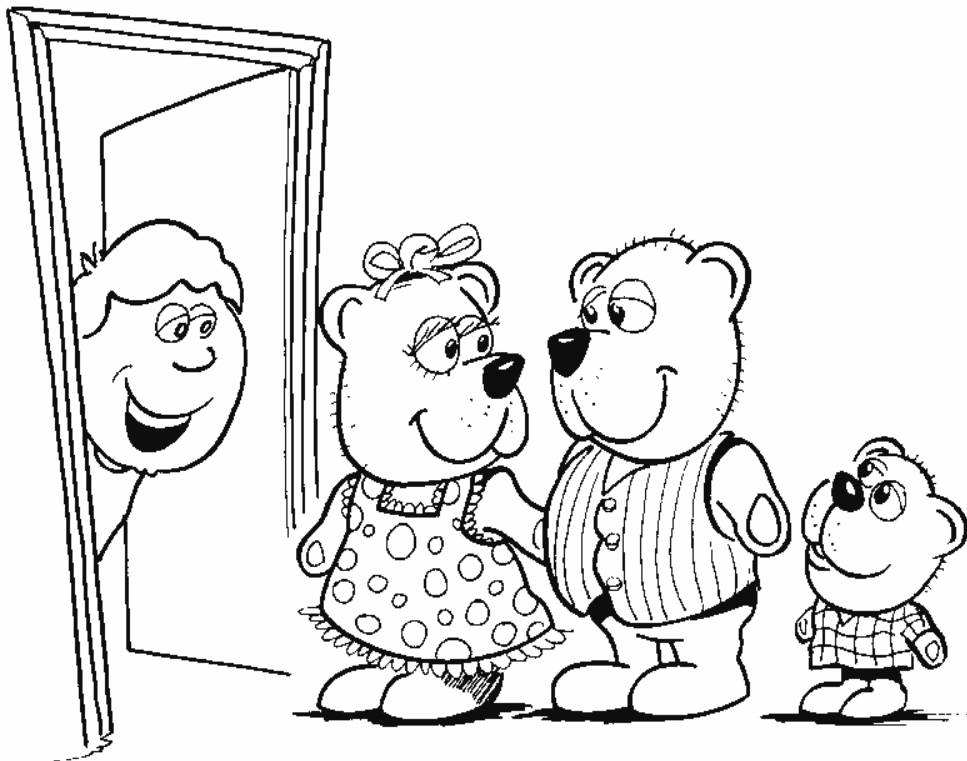
It sounds so close, I'm sure it's
just outside the door.



I went to the door. I asked,
"Is anyone there?"

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



"Only Mummy, Daddy and Baby bear!"

Extra Words

ought bought sought fought
sound mound pound ground

Comprehension

1. What animal did he think he heard?
2. What was the other animal it sounded like?
3. Why was he scared?
4. When he went to the door, what did he ask?
5. Who was at the door?



Complete the sentences with these words.

roar, fear, boar, near.

I heard the _____ of a _____.
I _____ it is quite _____.



My New Hammer

Early Reader No. 51

Story by Jennifer Cooper-Trent
Illustrations by Anthony Mitchell

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Page 1a

Complex Combinations

This story has several challenging words, particularly "knocked", "quite", "whack", "thumb".

Take the time to explain each word and the rules.

Phonics - Rules

'ie' as in 'friend' [/ i / before / e / except after / c /]

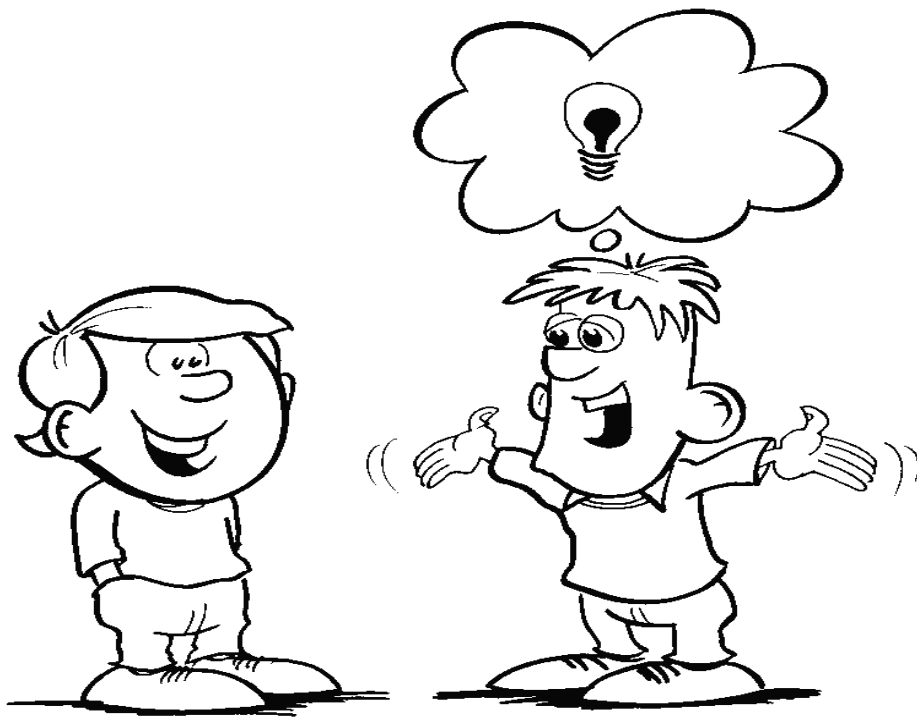
The sound 'qu' - as in the word 'quite' [/ u / always follows / q /]

silent 'b' as in 'numb', 'thumb'

silent 'k' as in 'knock'.

Try These New Words

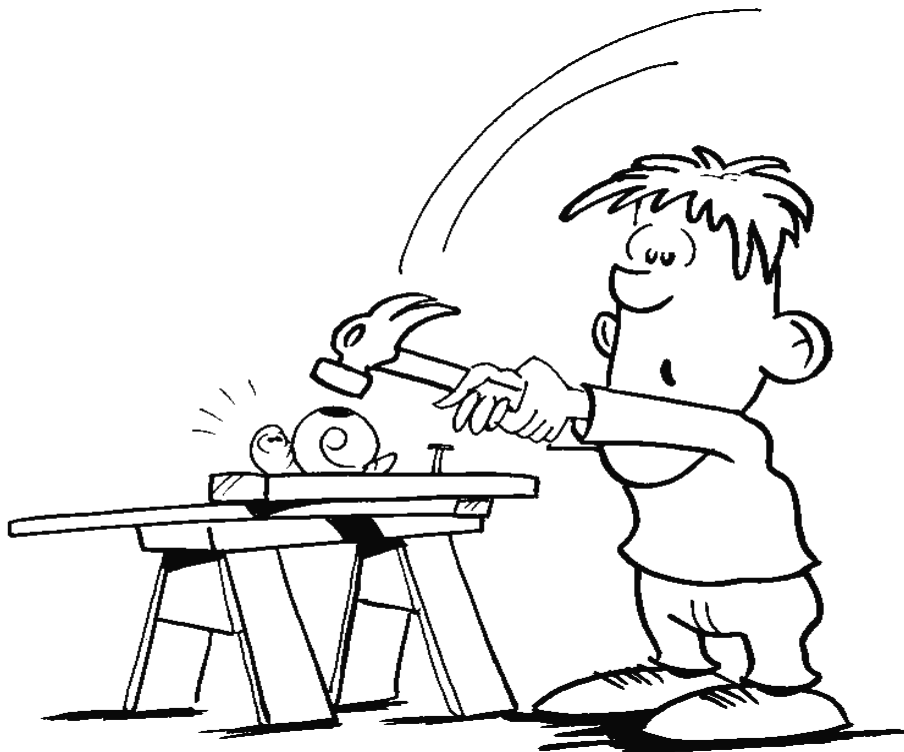
hammer treehouse friend strong
defend banged hammer tried swung
wail white thumb quite quick whack



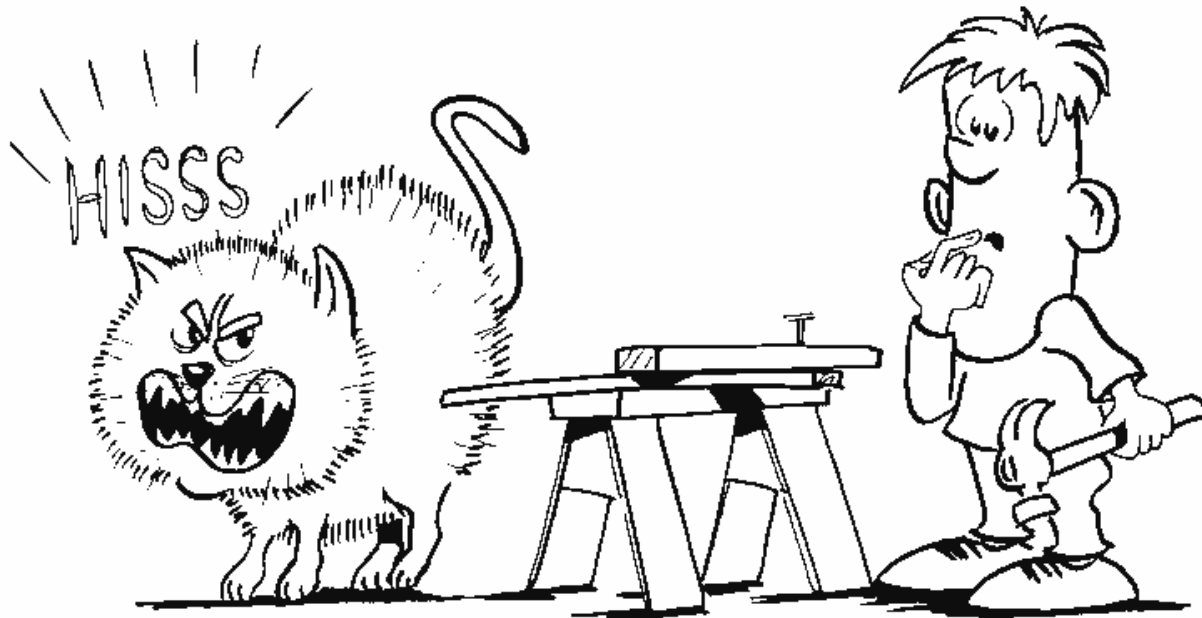
"Let's make a treehouse", I said to my friend.
"We'll make it so strong it's easy to defend".

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 2a



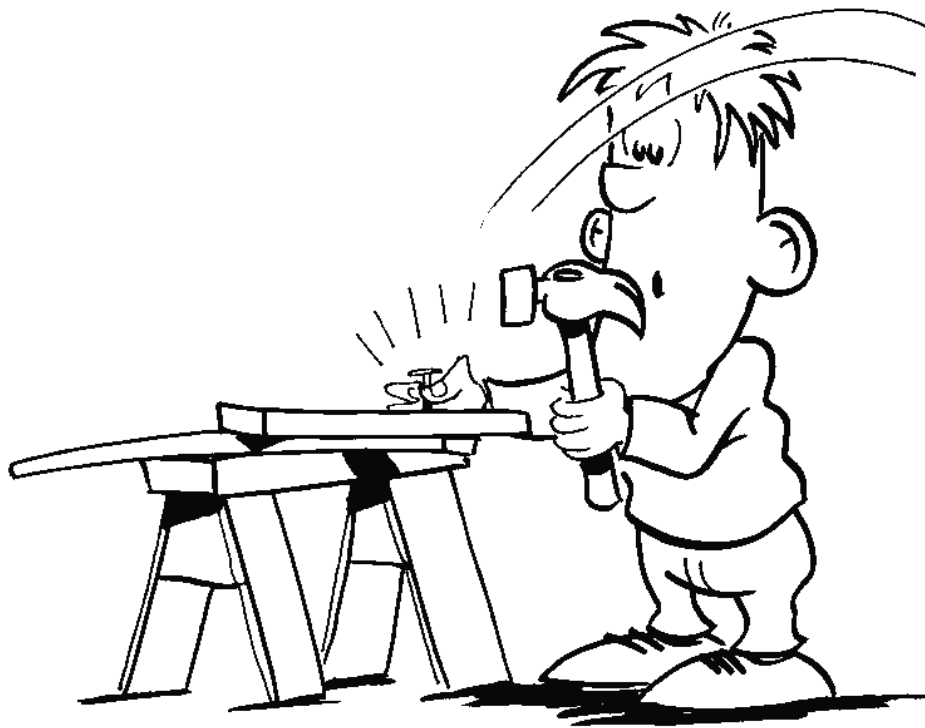
I banged down my hammer to hit the nail.
But I missed my mark and hit a snail.



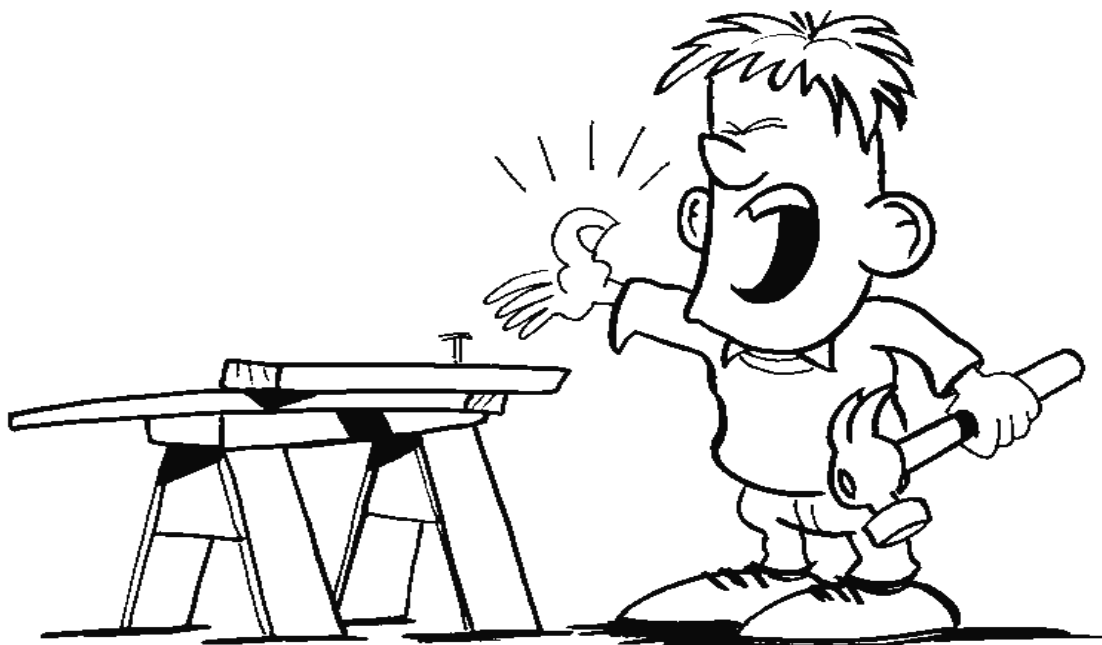
I tried again, I swung and I missed!
I hit the cat's tail ... it spat and it hissed.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 3a



I swung again and hit MY nail ...
My face turned white and I began to wail.



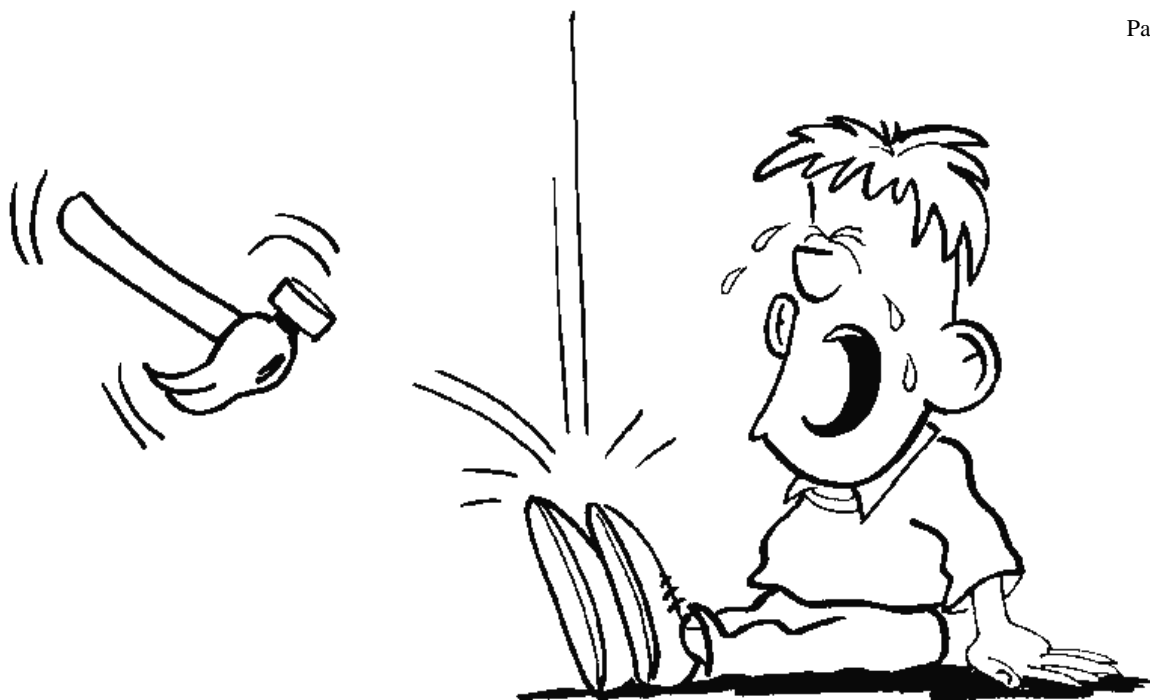
"Quick, Mum and Dad, I've broken my thumb,
I can't feel anything, it's gone quite numb".

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



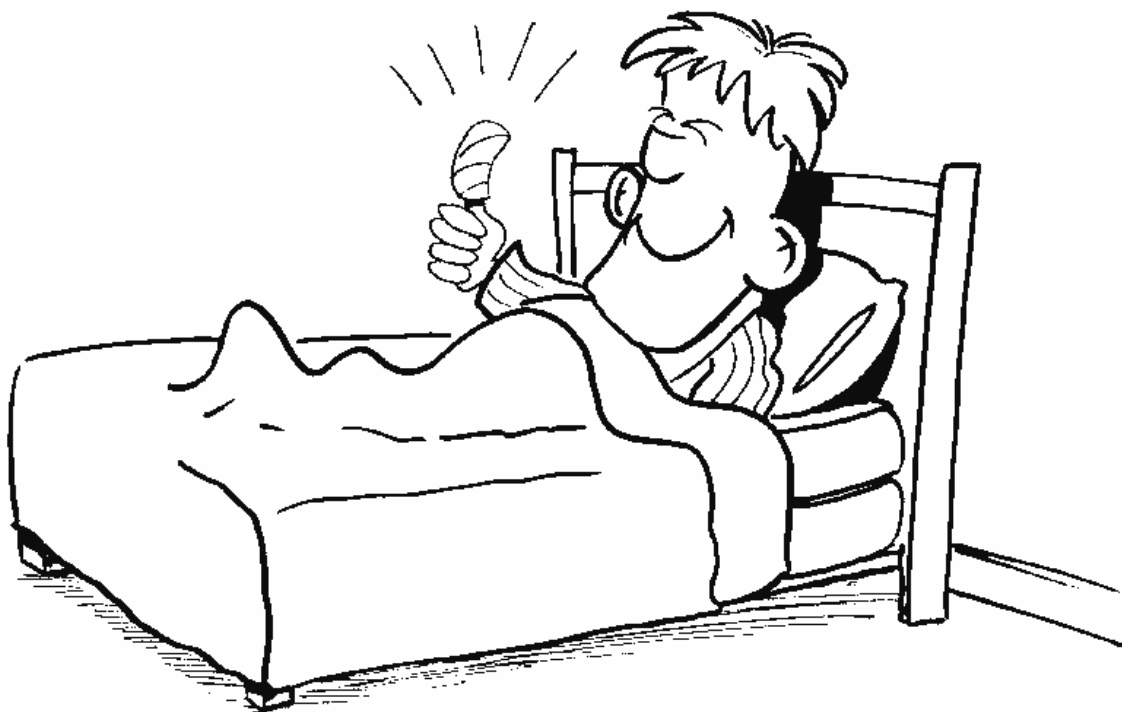
I tripped on some wood, it gave me a whack!
The plank knocked me over, onto my back.



The hammer flew high, up into the sky, then it dropped on my foot - now that made me cry!

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



I stumbled inside, holding my thumb and my head - now I feel quite safe, tucked in my bed.

Extra Words

quite quiet believe retrieve
friend receive deceive

Comprehension

1. When he missed the nail, what did he hit first?
2. What sound did the cat make?
3. What did he hit next?
4. What did he trip over?
5. What was the last thing the hammer hit?



Complete the sentences with these words.

hit, thumb, numb, wail.

I ____ my nail and began to
____. "I've broken my _____
and it's gone quite _____".



A Christmas Wish

Early Reader No. 52

Story by Jennifer Cooper-Trent
Illustrations by Anthony Mitchell

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Page 1a

Complex Combinations

This story compares different ways of creating the same sounds.

Phonic Decoding

The sound 'ouse' - as in the word 'house'
The sound 'ere' - as in the word 'there'

Carefully Explain:

The sound 'u' as in 'quiet'

Try These New Words

beam lovely Christmas brother
together laugh hospital
everywhere quiet



I had a dream that Santa came to our house.
He crept down the chimney, as quiet as a mouse.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 2a



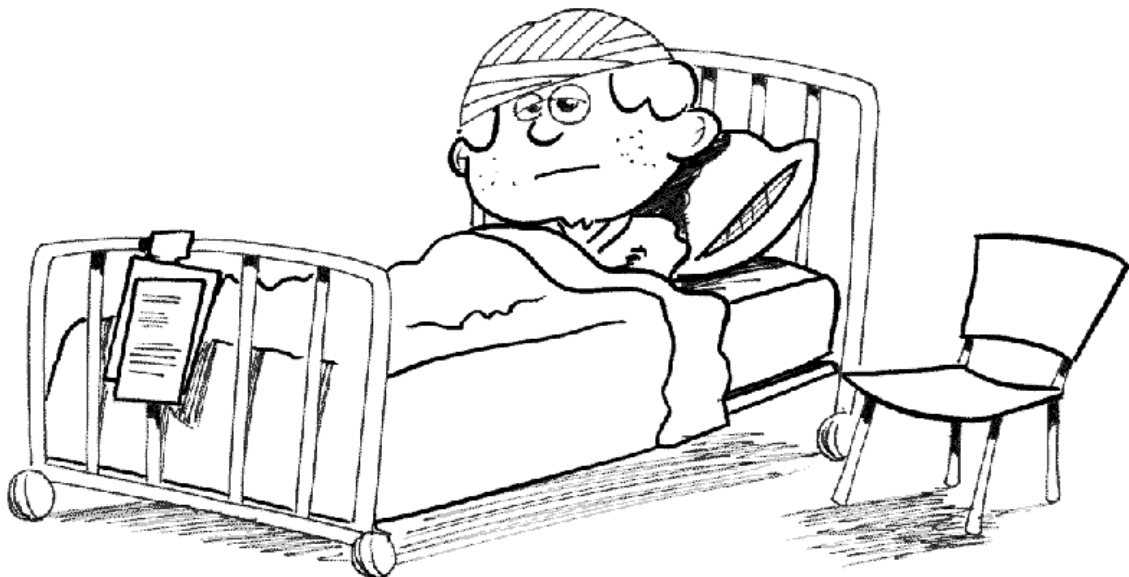
He had a sack full of toys, just for us - there were
lovely new dolls, cars, trucks and a shiny blue bus.



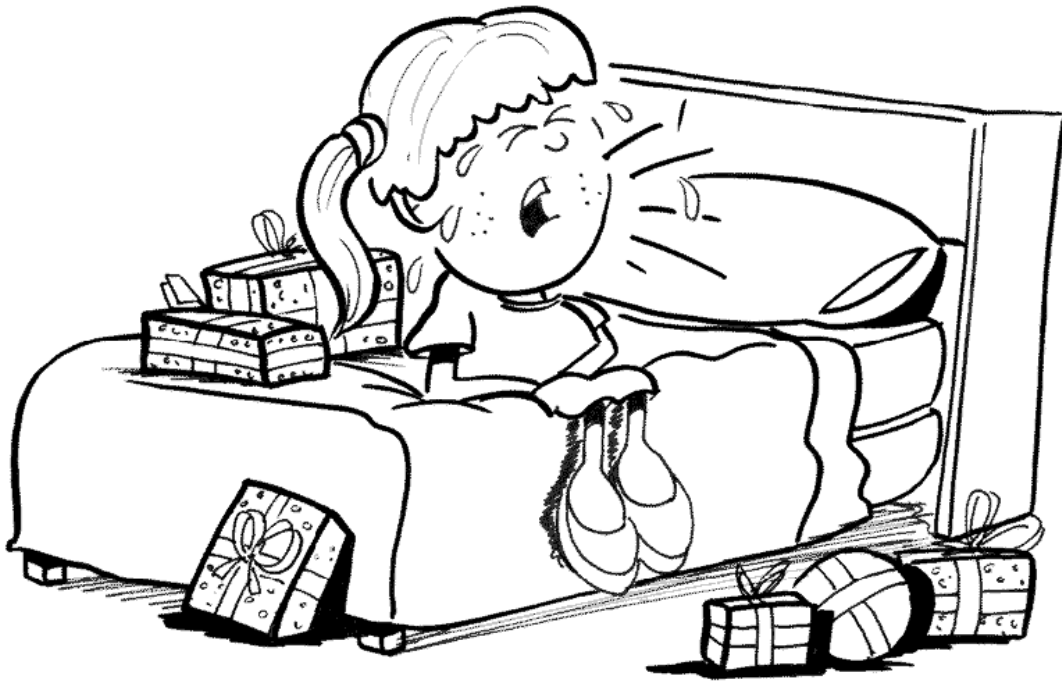
Excited, I turned to my brother - but he wasn't there.
I ran around the house, I looked for him everywhere.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 3a



Then I remembered that he'd hit his head.
And he was still very sick, in a hospital bed.



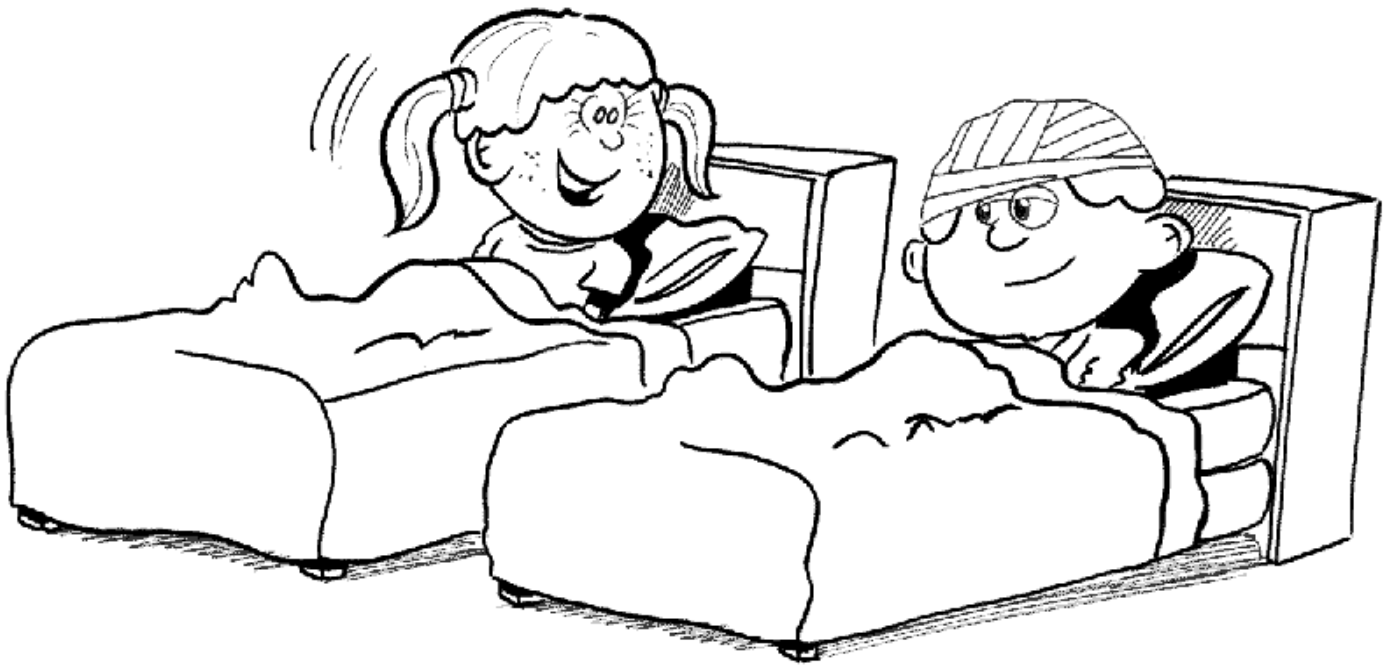
I sat down on my bed and began to cry.
All the toys are nice, but these, anyone can buy.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



What I really want for Christmas is my brother home with m
so we can play and laugh and be together as a family.



Then I woke up with a start, and looked around.
Tucked in bed was my brother, safe and sound.



Page 5a



I smiled to myself, my wish had come true!
I hope your dreams and wishes do too!

Extra Words

where we're there their stair
stare bear bare fair fare

Comprehension

1. What were the toys Santa had in his sack?
2. What colour was the bus?
3. What happened to the girl's brother?
4. What did she want for Christmas?
5. What did she see when she woke up?



Complete the sentences with these words.

around, house, sound, mouse.

Santa came to our _____ as
quiet as a _____. I looked
_____ and my brother was
safe and _____.



At the Beach

Early Reader No. 53

Story by Jennifer Cooper-Trent
Illustrations by Anthony Mitchell

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Page 1a

Complex Combinations

This story has explores the sounds " ..ush" & "..ash".
It has several challenging words, particularly "sickening", "knocked", "rescue",
"disappeared". Take the time to explain each word.

Phonic Decoding

The Sound 'ush' - as in the word 'rush'
The Sound 'ash' - as in the word 'dash'

Carefully Explain

Silent ' k ' as in 'knocked'.

Try These New Words

rush crush dash crash sand hand
stand land drifted knocked sickening
disappeared sprinted playing fishing



We went down to the beach to
build castles in the sand.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 2a



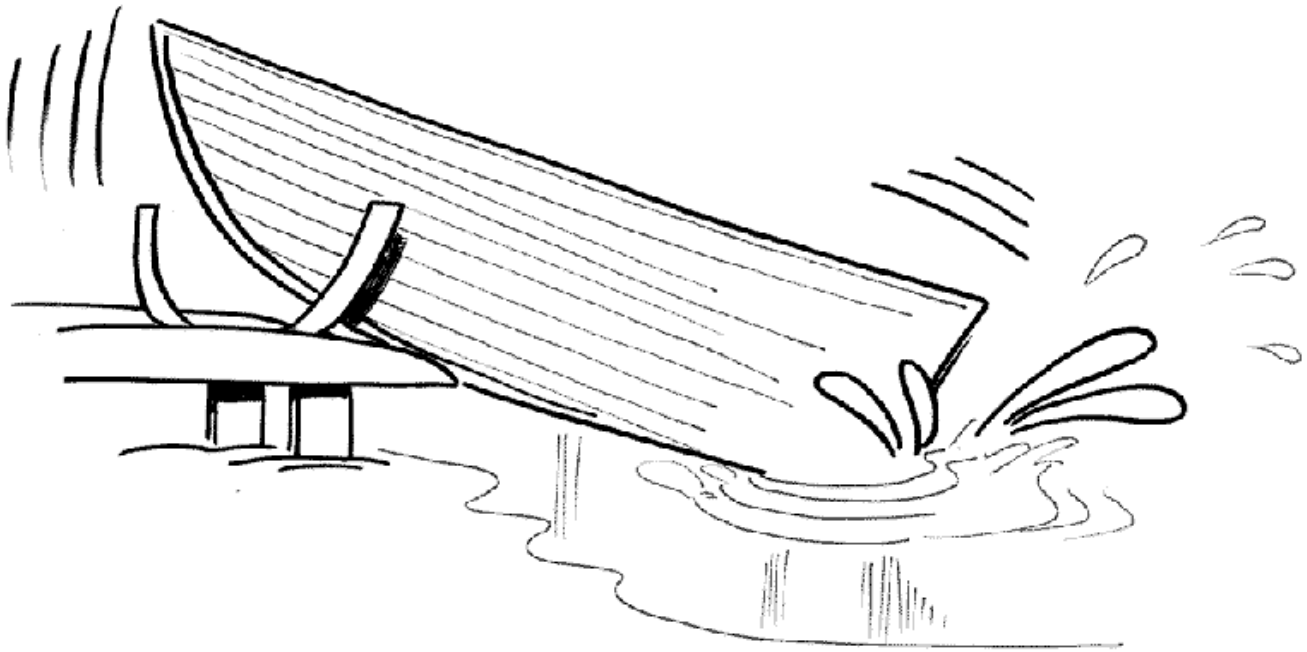
Dad stood on the rocks, with a
fishing line in his hand.



While the boys were playing on the shore,
they knocked a boat from its stand.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 3a



The boat crashed down into the water
and drifted far from land.



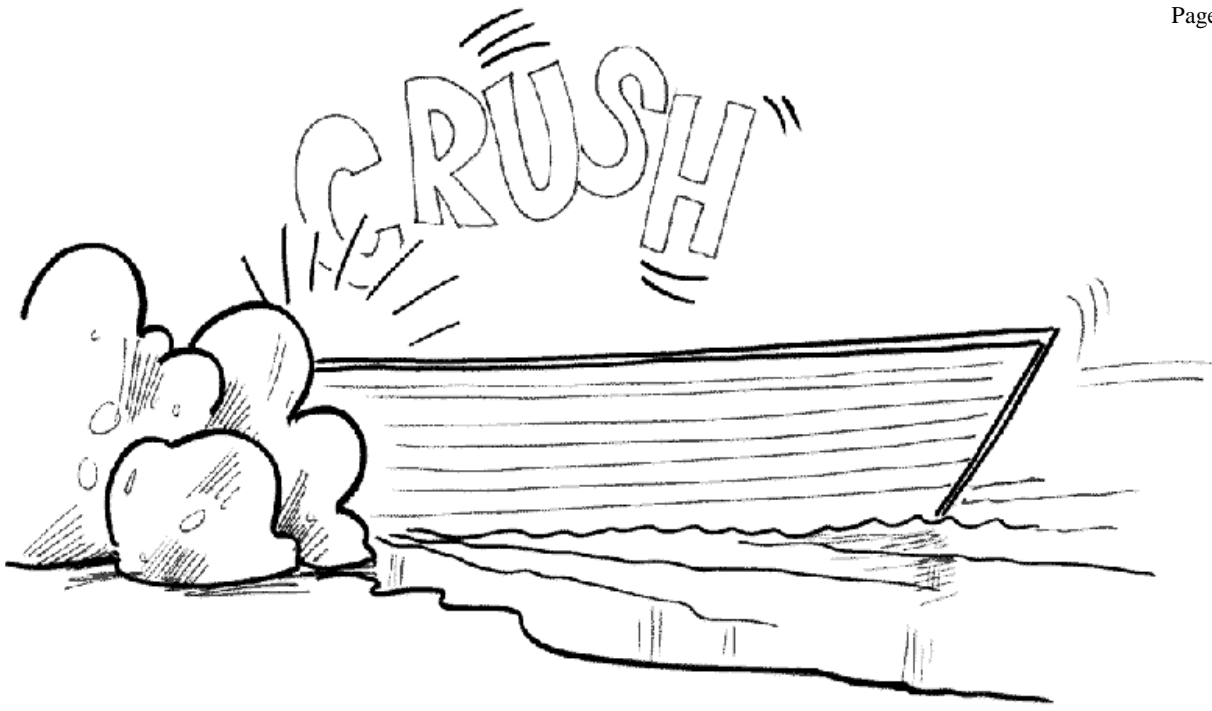
Dad dropped his fishing line and sprinted in a dash.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



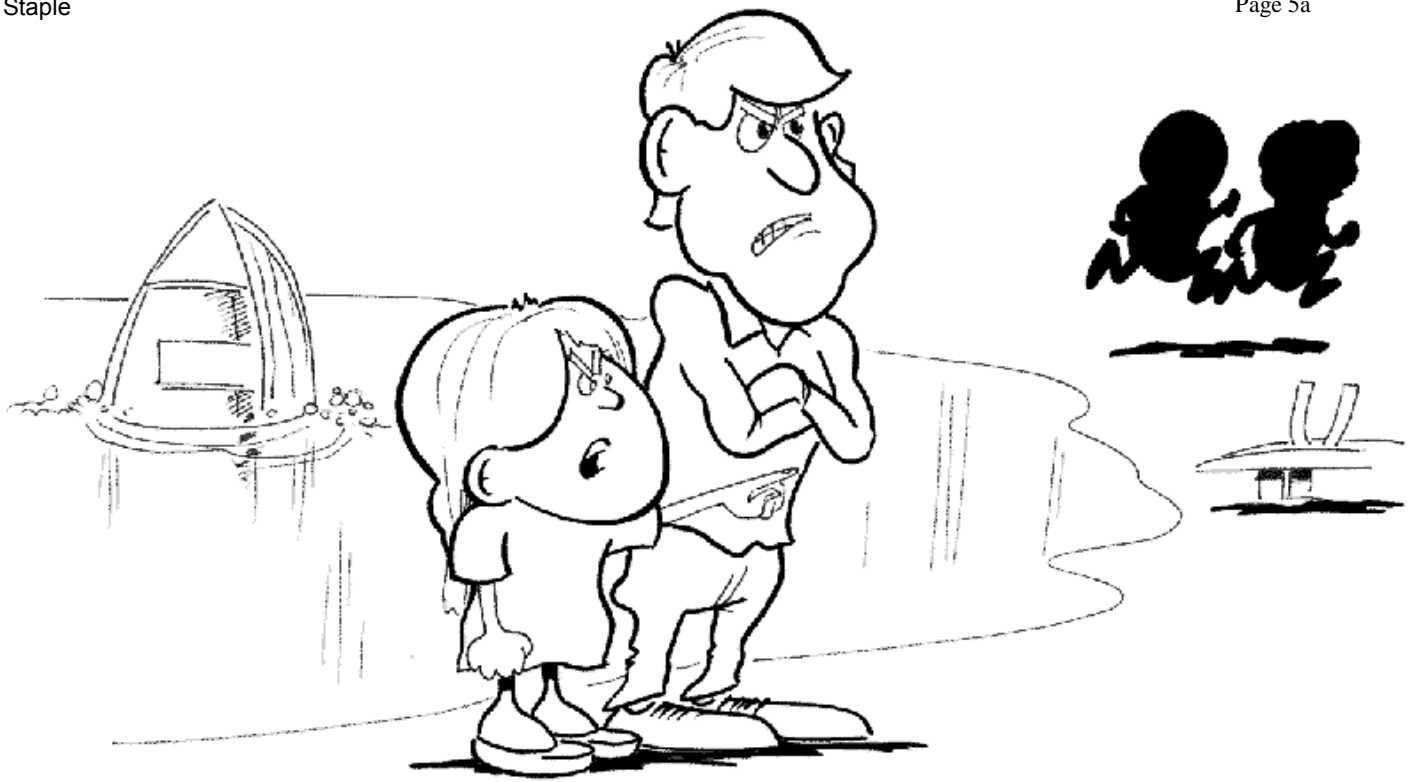
He tried to rescue the boat before it could crash.



But the boat brushed along rocks,
and we heard a sickening crush.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



The boat filled with water - and the boys
disappeared in a rush.

Extra Words

flash cash rash bash flush gush mush
laying staying wishing washing

Comprehension

1. What did the children build on the beach?
2. What was Dad doing on the rocks?
3. What was the boat resting on?
4. What was the sound when the boat hit the rocks?
5. How did the boys disappear?



Complete the sentences with these words.

down, castles, beach, sand.

We went _____ to the _____
to build _____ in the _____.



My Chicken Pox

Early Reader No. 54

Story by Jennifer Cooper-Trent
Illustrations by Anthony Mitchell

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Page 1a

New Sounds

Consonant blends : 'dr', 'st', 'gl', 'sc'

Phonic Decoding

The Sound 'ea' - as in the word 'dream'

The Sound 'oa' - as in the word 'coal'

Carefully Explain:

Silent 'e' as in 'fire'

Try These New Words

head dead bread tail wail frail
pale fever chicken pox horrid
covered white turned



I saw a red spot on my skin,
then it spread to my head.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 2a



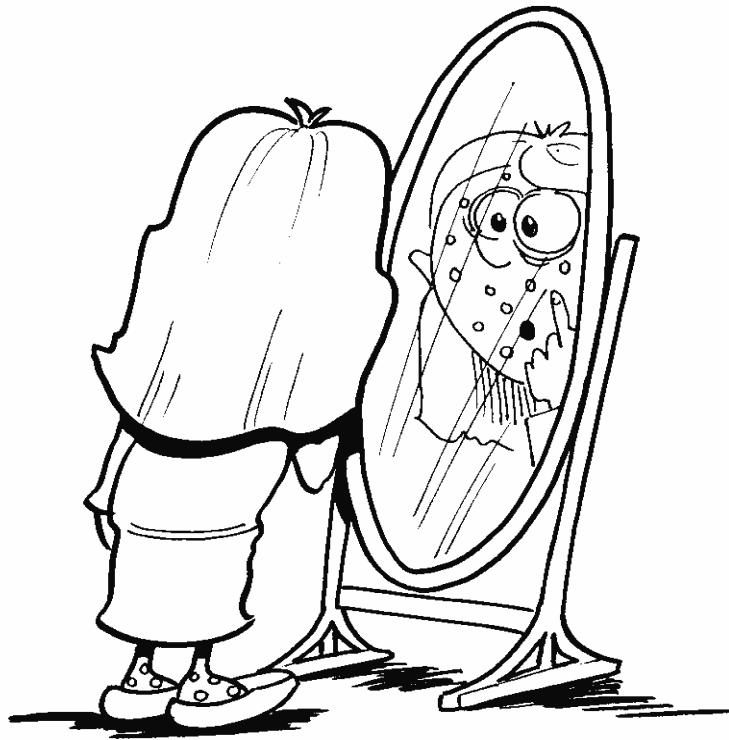
I could not eat my milk and bread,
I felt very soon that I would be dead.



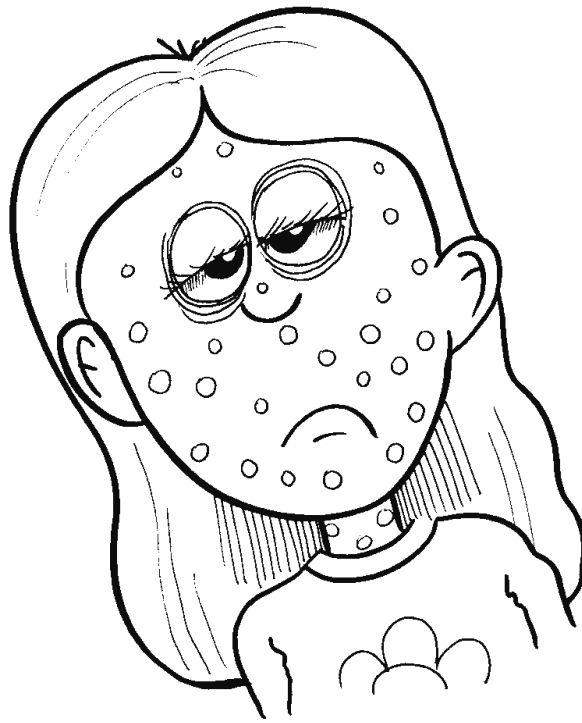
I felt so sick, I felt so frail, now I
have spots from my top to my tail.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 3a



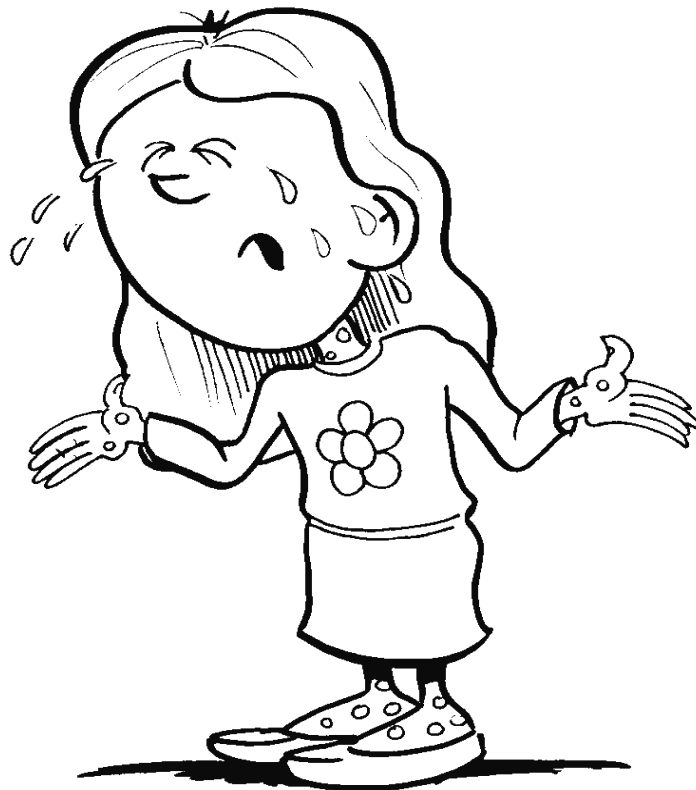
With my spots so red and my face so white,
when I looked in the mirror, I gave myself a fright!



I had spots in my hair and even spots
near my toe nail.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



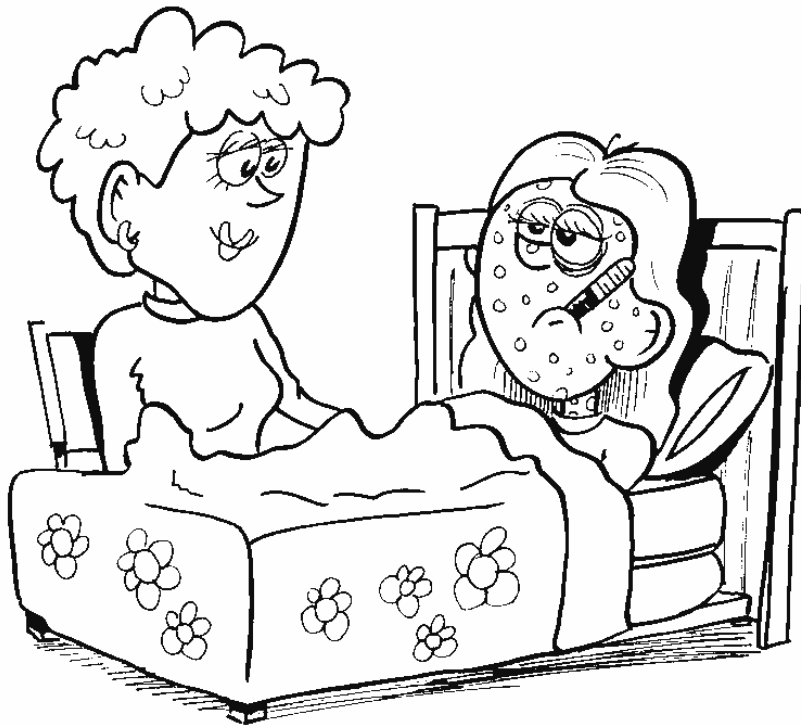
I began to feel hot and queer in the head,
the tears flowed and I began to wail.



"Mum, what have I got,
why I am covered in these spots?"

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



"My dear", she said, "you have the chicken pox!"

Extra Words

said read dread silk hilt silt
tilt built guilt

Comprehension

1. Where did the spot appear first?
2. What food couldn't she have?
3. What happened to her face?
4. What happened when she looked in the mirror?
5. What did her mother say?



Complete the sentences with these words.

lots, head, spots, tail.

I had _____ of _____ from my
_____ to my _____.



We went for a Sail

Early Reader No. 55

Story by Jennifer Cooper-Trent
Illustrations by Anthony Mitchell

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Page 1a

Complex Combinations

This story has several challenging words, "through", "howling", "forced".
Take the time to explain the complexities of each word.

Phonic Decoding

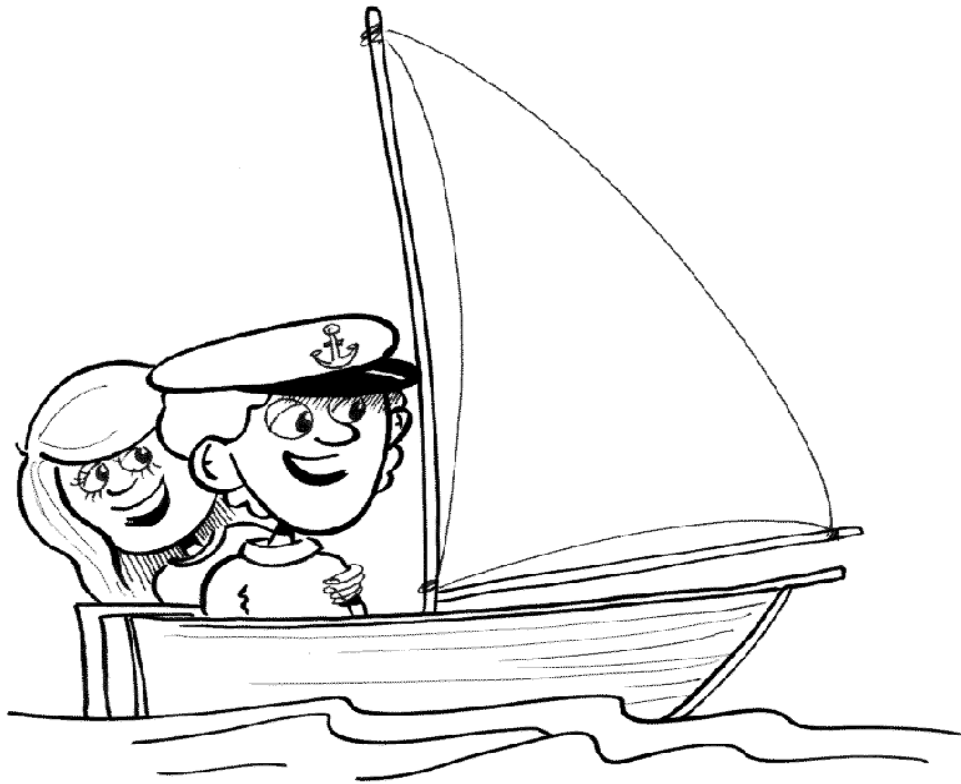
The Sound 'ail' - as in the word 'sail'

Carefully Explain

Silent 'h' as in 'whale' | The 's' sound in 'forced'

Try These New Words

sail tail hail trail snail wail
wailing whale buckets lashed
snapped captain through



We went for a sail to search for a whale.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 2a



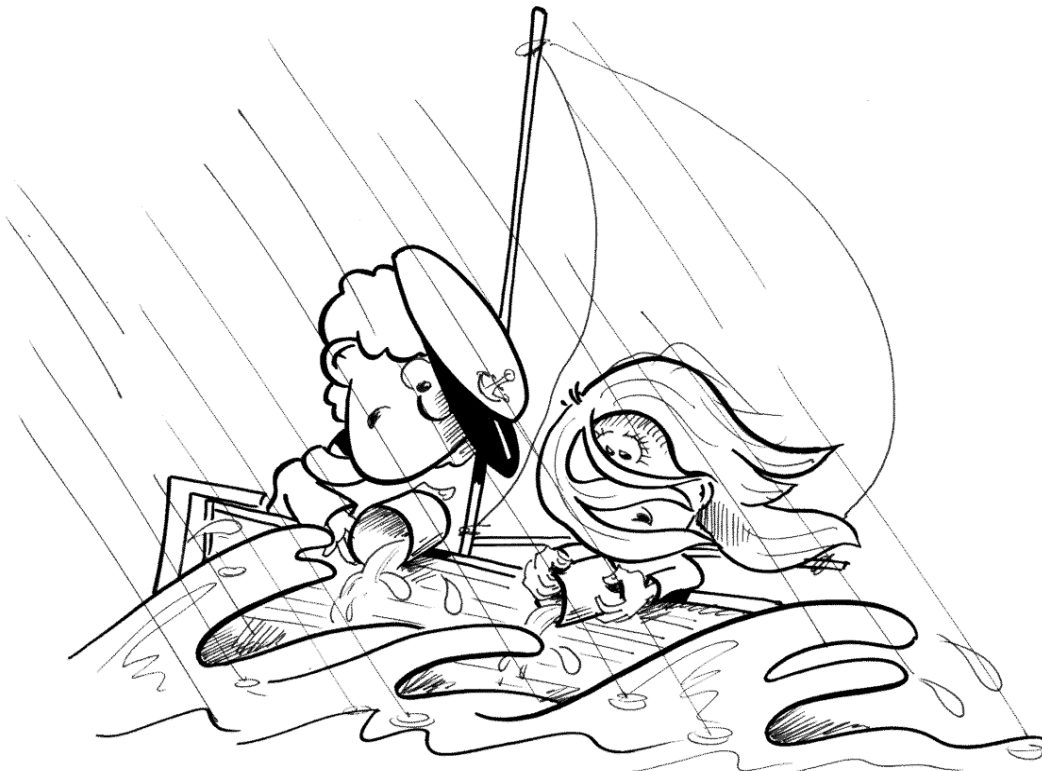
When a wild storm hit us, with a
howling wind and buckets of hail.



The waves broke over our frail boat
as we tried to sail.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 3a



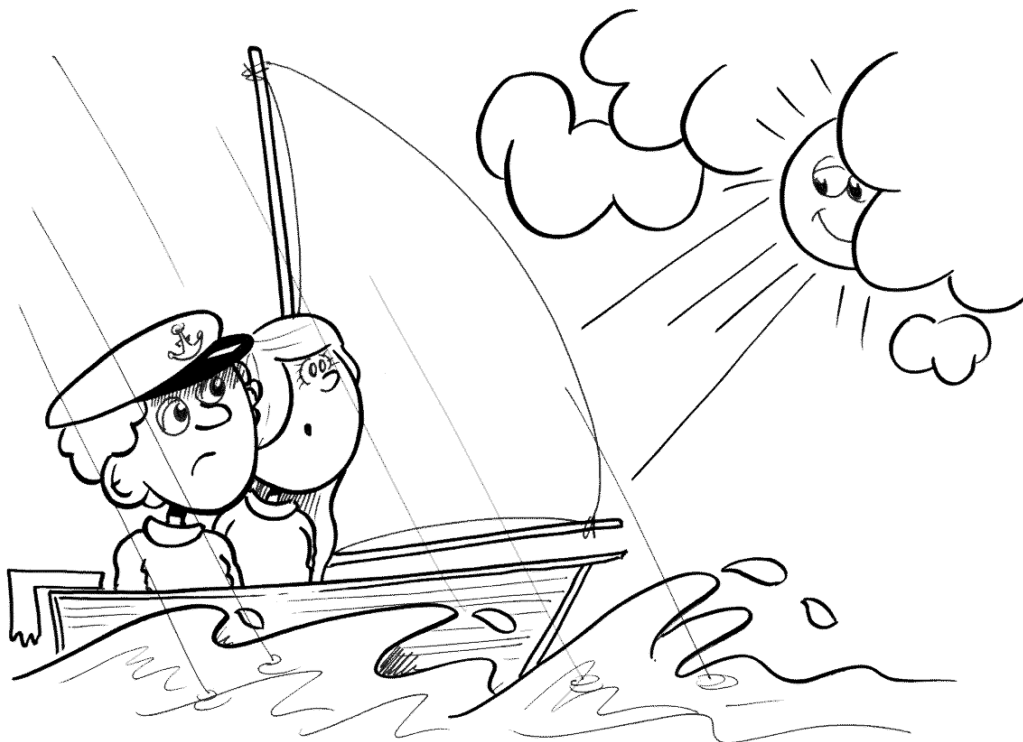
The water rushed in, and
we were forced to bail.



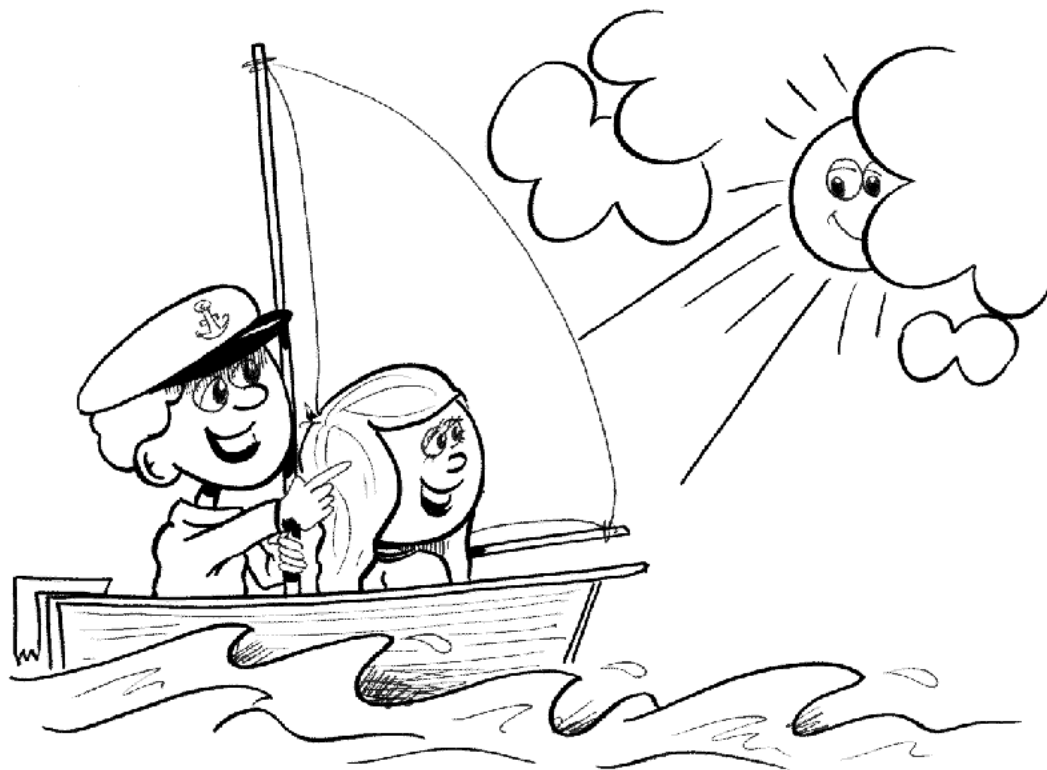
The wind lashed our sail and the
storm snapped our tail.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



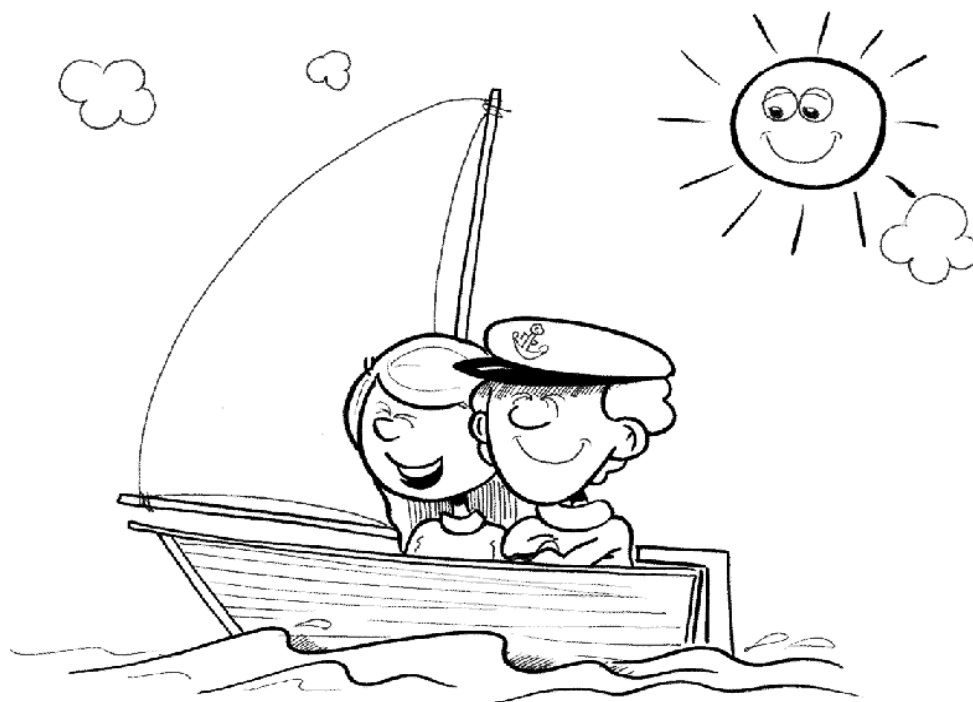
Then through the dark clouds a
ray of sun struck our sail.



The captain of the ship said,
"Let's follow the sun's trail".

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



So we sailed back home - no sight of a
whale, but we had an exciting time, and
it was a fantastic tale!

Extra Words

mail fail bail frail
stale shale pale

Comprehension

1. What animal were the children looking for?
2. The storm dropped buckets of what?
3. What happened when the water rushed in?
4. What did the storm break?
5. What struck the sail from the sky?



Complete the sentences with these words.

waves, broke, nail, tail.

The _____ snapped a _____
and _____ off our _____.



My Baby Bird

Early Reader No. 56

Story by Jennifer Cooper-Trent
Illustrations by Anthony Mitchell

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Page 1a

Complex Combinations

This story has several challenging words, particularly "squeak", "found", "young".
Take the time to explain each word and the rules.

Phonic Decoding

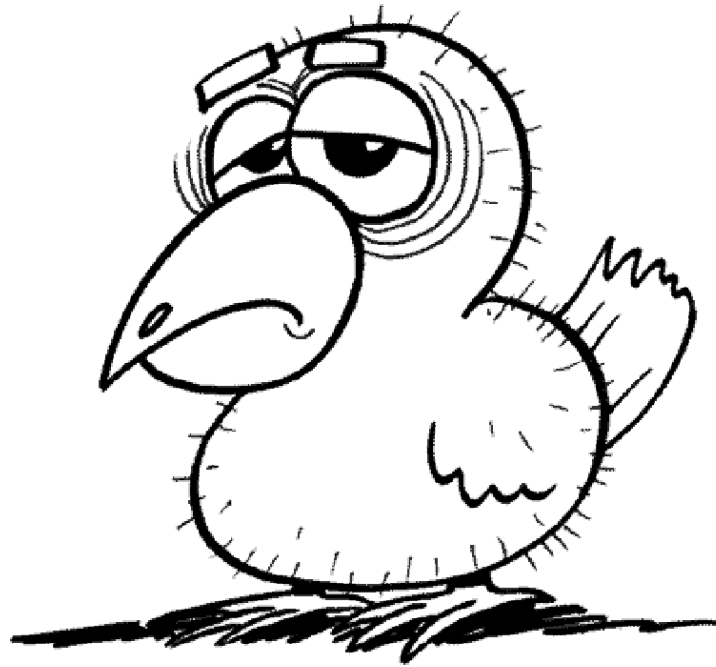
The Sound 'eak' - as in the word 'speak'
The Sound 'eep' - as in the word 'peep'

Carefully Explain

Silent 'e' as in 'little' & 'some'.

Try These New Words

weak beak squeak speak deep
sleep weep peeped started little
found young seemed began trying



I found a young bird, he was so weak.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 2a



I put some food in his baby beak.



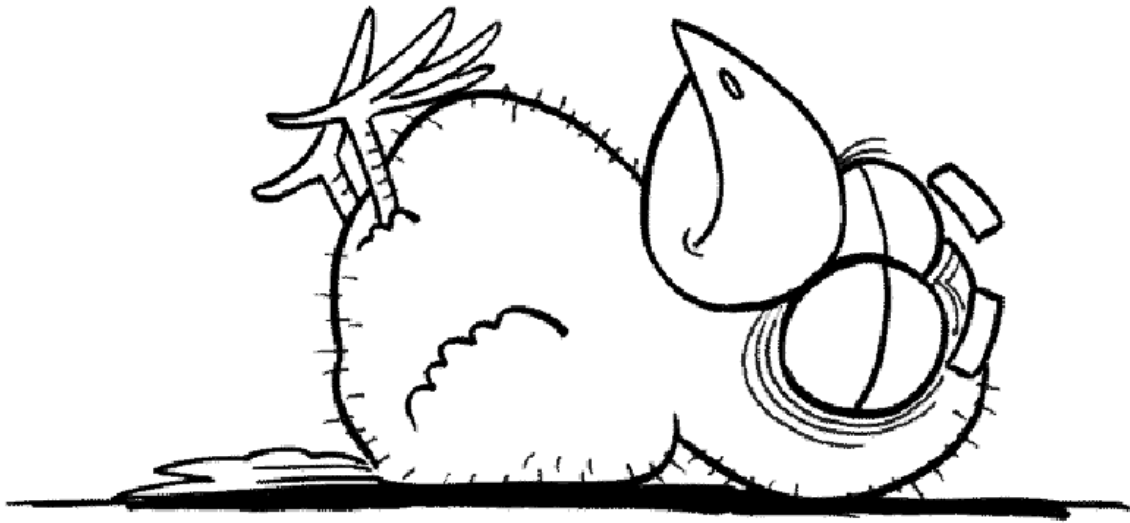
He looked up at me and made a squeak.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 3a



It seemed to me he was trying to speak.



Then he fell on his back, in a deep, deep sleep.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



I began to feel sad and started to weep.



The poor little bird seemed so sick,
and so weak.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



Then he peeped up at me and began to squeak.

Extra Words

sleep slept weep wept deep
depth little brittle

Comprehension

1. What was wrong with the baby bird?
2. What noise did the bird make?
3. What was the bird trying to do?
4. What did the bird fall on?
5. What did the baby bird finally do?

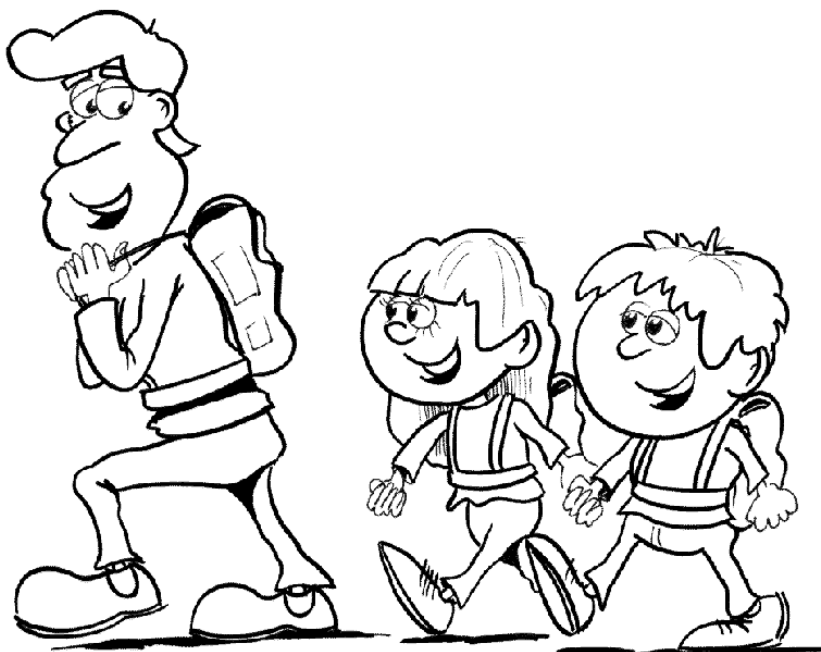


Complete the sentences with these words.

found, food, weak, beak.

I _____ a bird, he was so _____,

I put some _____ in his _____.



Off to Camp

Early Reader No. 57

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Illustrations by Anthony Mitchell

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Page 1a

Combinations

Encourage the child to read with expression, rather than simply narrating.
Help the reader use the "speaking marks" to "become the voice" of the other person.

This story contains numerous abbreviations. Explain them to the reader.

Abbreviation

I'd - as in the phrase 'I would ...'
I'm - as in the phrase 'I am ...'
there's - as in the phrase 'there is ...'
don't - as in the phrase 'do not...'

Try These New Words

adventure collapsed scared rather
I would I'd I am I'm there is there's
do not don't would not wouldn't



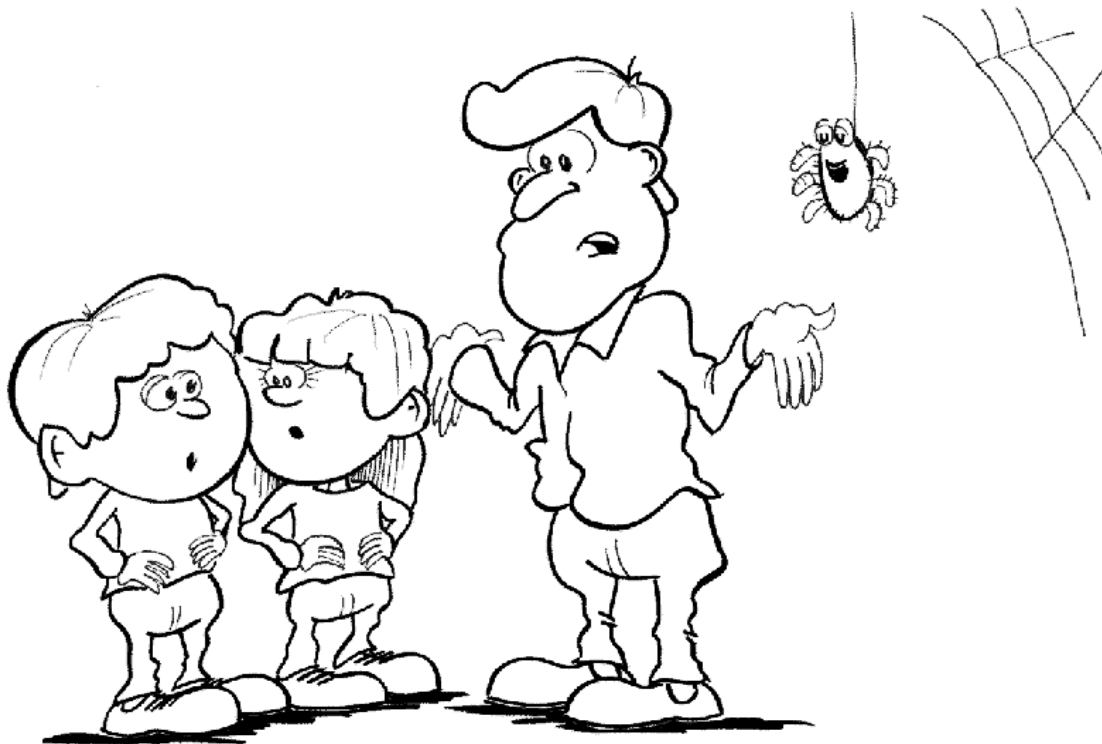
We went to camp with a tent and a lamp ... Dad said he wouldn't stay if it was cold and damp.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 2a



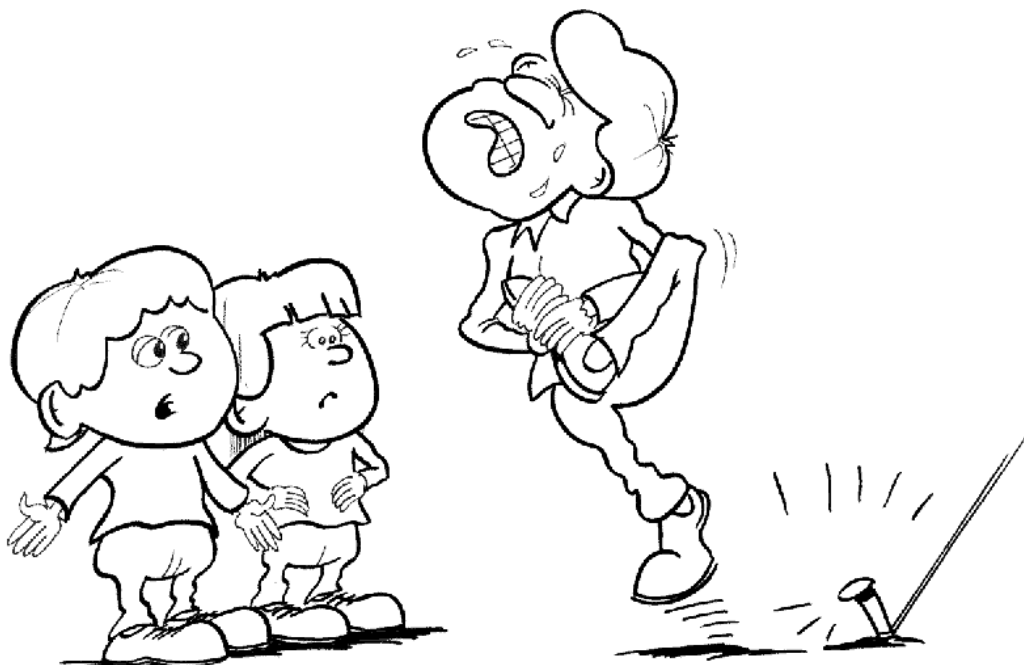
We put up the tent and pegged it to the ground.
"I hope it stays up" said Dad, with a frown.



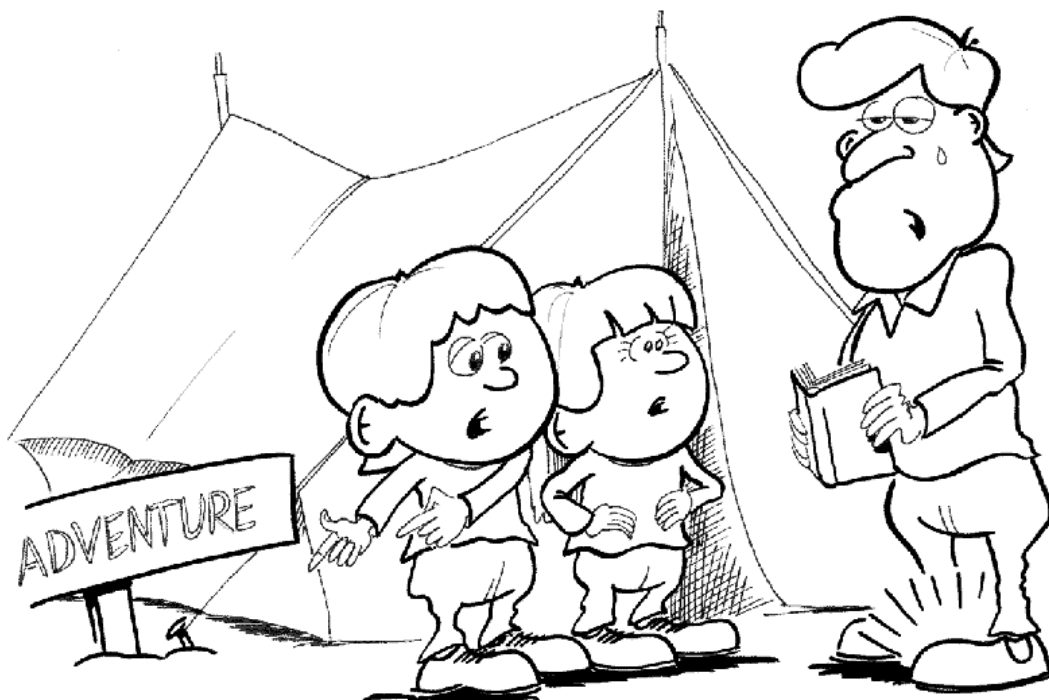
Dad said, "Are you sure there's no big spiders hiding nearby?"

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 3a



We all laughed, "Come on Dad, don't be a wimp". But then he kicked his toe and started to limp.



Dad grumbled, "I'm going to rest
and read my book".

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



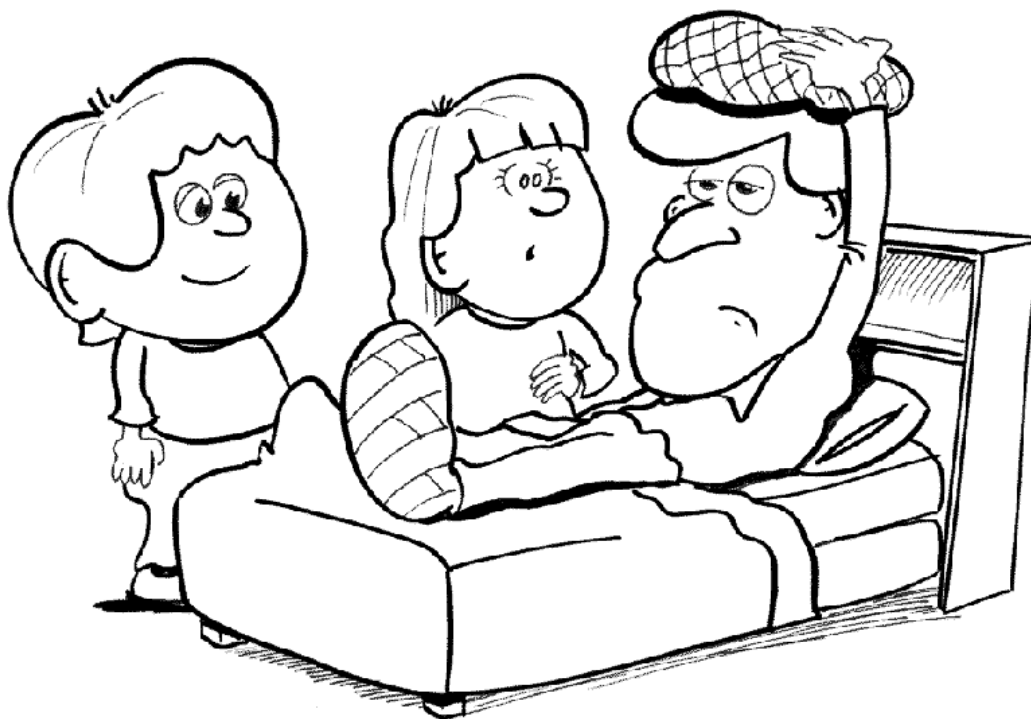
Next we heard a crash, bang and a thump.
Dad was holding his head - Gosh, what a lump!



The tent had collapsed with Dad inside ... the rope had come loose from where it was tied.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



"I know I'm a wimp," said Dad, holding his head.
"But with this limp and this lump,
I'd rather be in bed".

Extra Words

cause because pause scores
cared scared scored

Comprehension

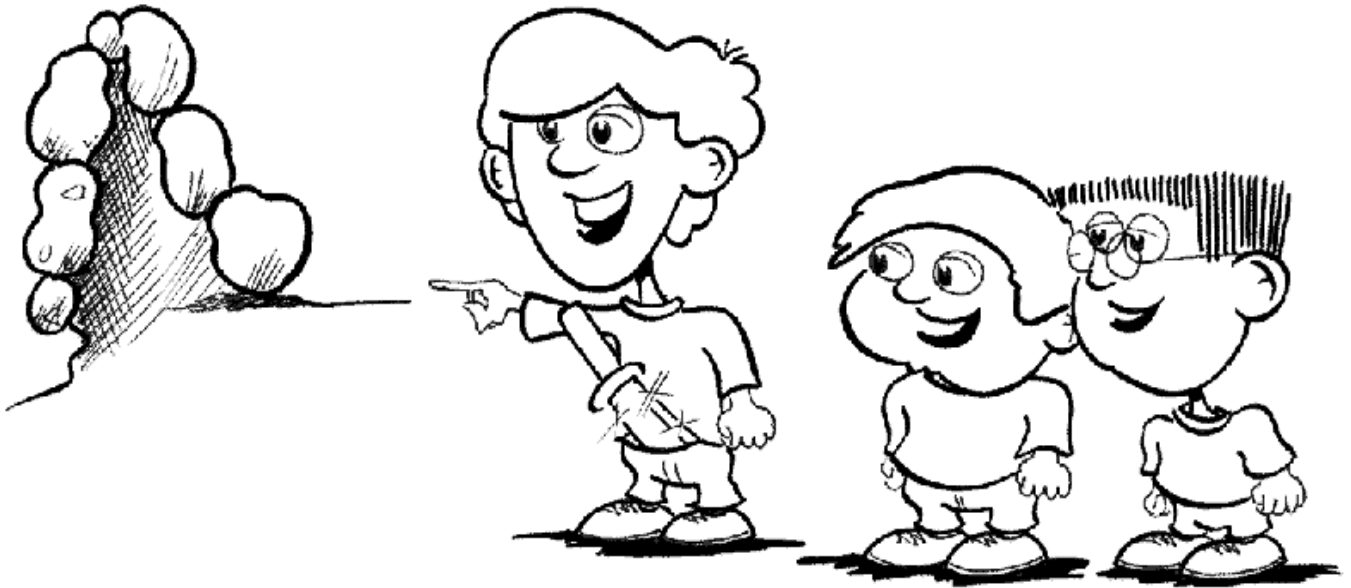
1. What did they take to camp?
2. What was Dad scared of?
3. What did the children want to do?
4. Why did the tent collapse?
5. What happened to Dad?



Complete the sentences with these words.

Dad, wimp, tent, lamp.

We went to camp with a _____
and a _____. We said, "Come
on, _____, don't be a _____".



Our Secret Cave

Early Reader No. 58

Story by Jennifer Cooper-Trent
Illustrations by Anthony Mitchell

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Page 1a

Combinations

Encourage the child to read with expression, rather than simply narrating.
Help the reader use the "speaking marks" to "become the voice" of the other person.

Phonic Decoding

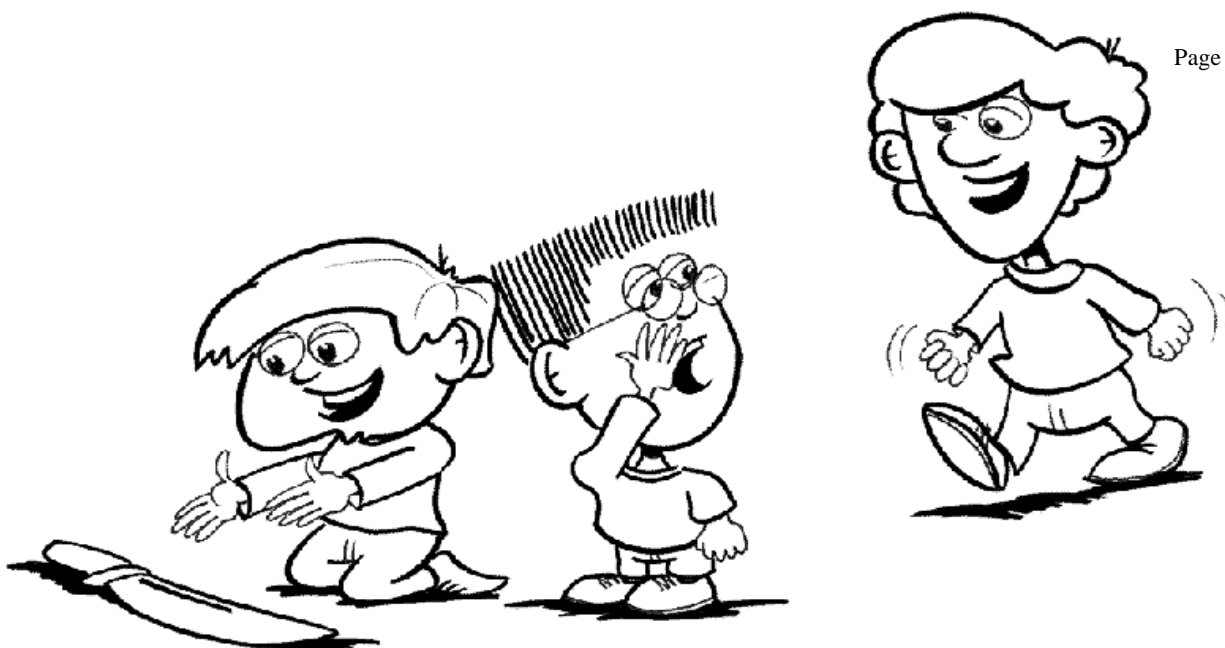
The Sound 'irst' - as in the word 'first'
The Sound 'urst' - as in the word 'burst'

Abbreviation

you'll - as in the phrase 'you will ...'
we'll - as in the phrase 'we will...'

Try These New Words

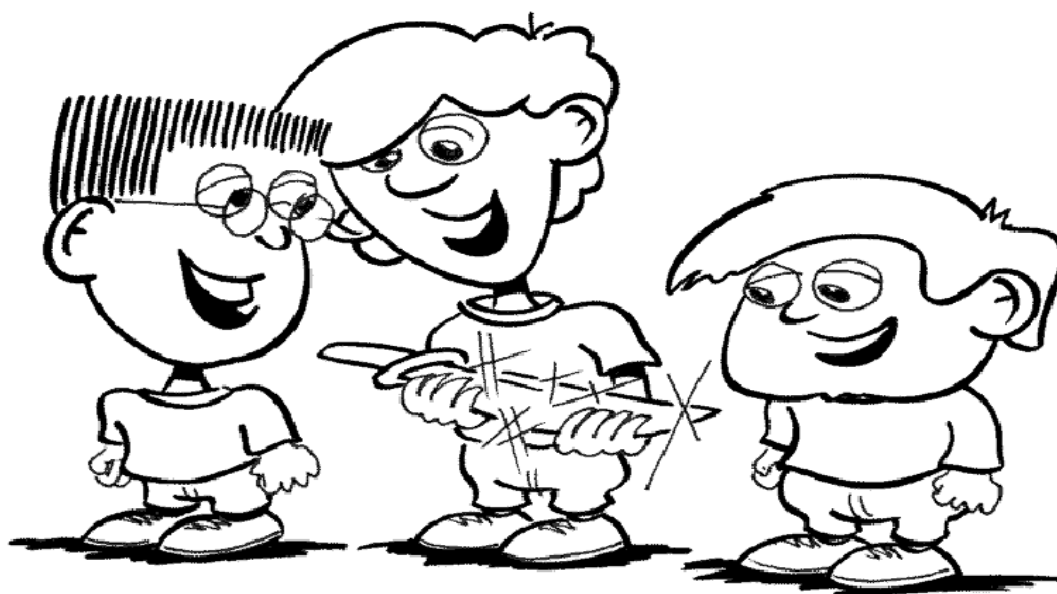
you'll you will we'll we will
I've I have encrusted underground
jewels burst cursed answered really



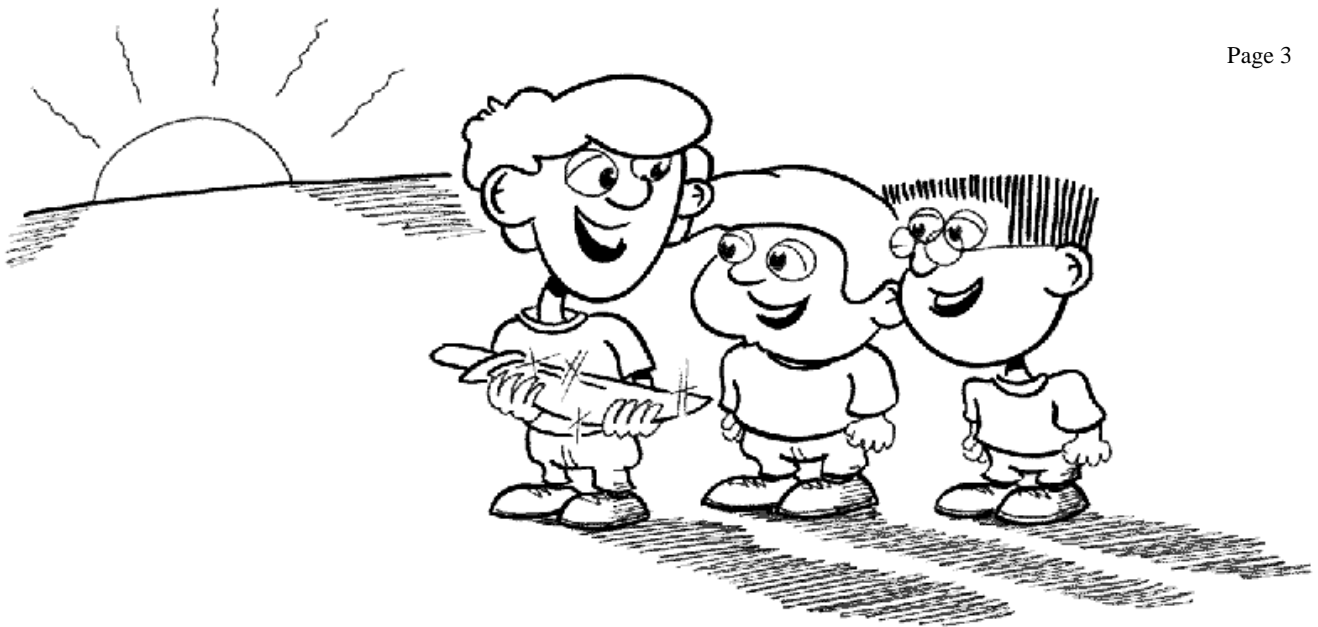
Walking through the forest to our secret cave, we stumbled on a sword - so we called out to Dave ...

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

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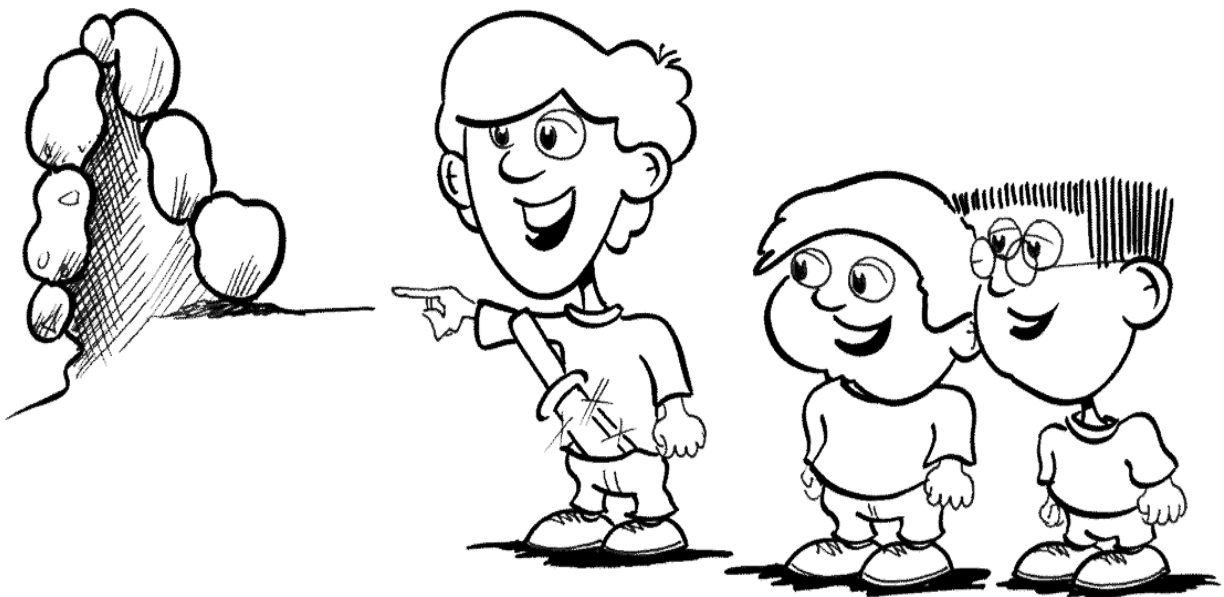
"Dave, over here, there's a sword that's really old! It's encrusted with jewels, and it is made of gold".



The sun was setting, it was getting cold. "Let's keep it our secret", Dave said, looking very bold.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

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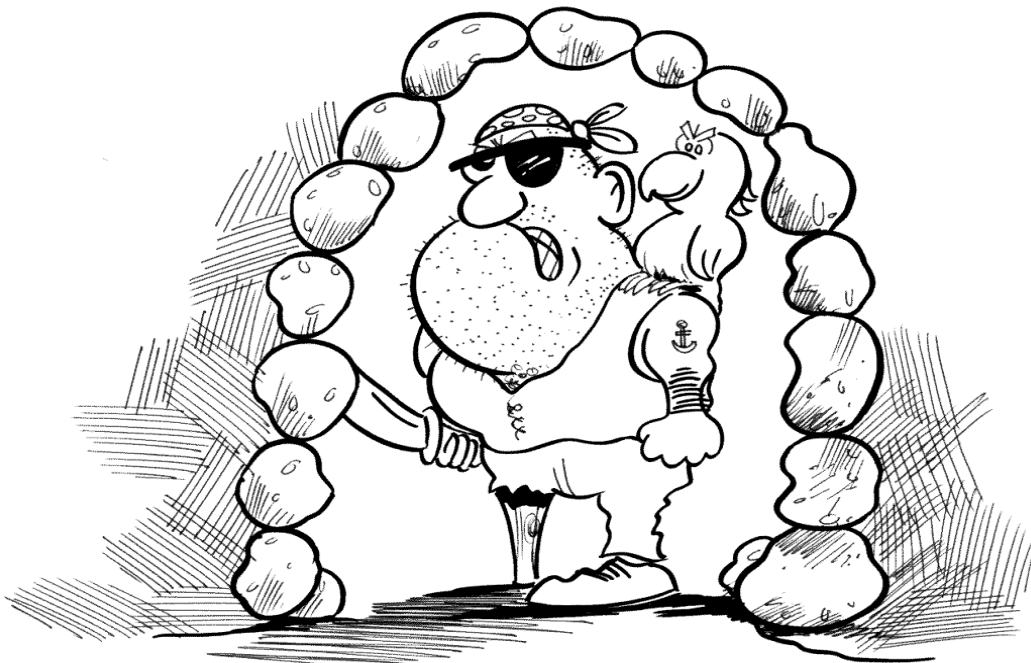
We picked up the sword, and crept to our cave. "We'll hide it underground, it's safe there", said Dave.



We got to the cave and put the sword
out of sight. Then a pirate burst in -
he gave us a fright.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

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"Ahoy, me hearties", said Black Bart, with a
patch. "Look what I've found in this little catch".



But Dave was so brave - he pulled out the sword. He cut off Bart's peg-leg - then the pirate roared.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

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"You'll walk the plank!", Black Bart cursed.

But Dave answered back,
"You'll have to catch us first!"

Extra Words

(all these words have the Sound " ..ord")

lord sword fjord moored board soared
sawed pawed gnawed stored award

Comprehension

1. Where were the boys going?
2. What was the sword made from?
3. What did they do with the sword?
4. What was Black Bart wearing?
5. What did Dave call out to Black Bart?



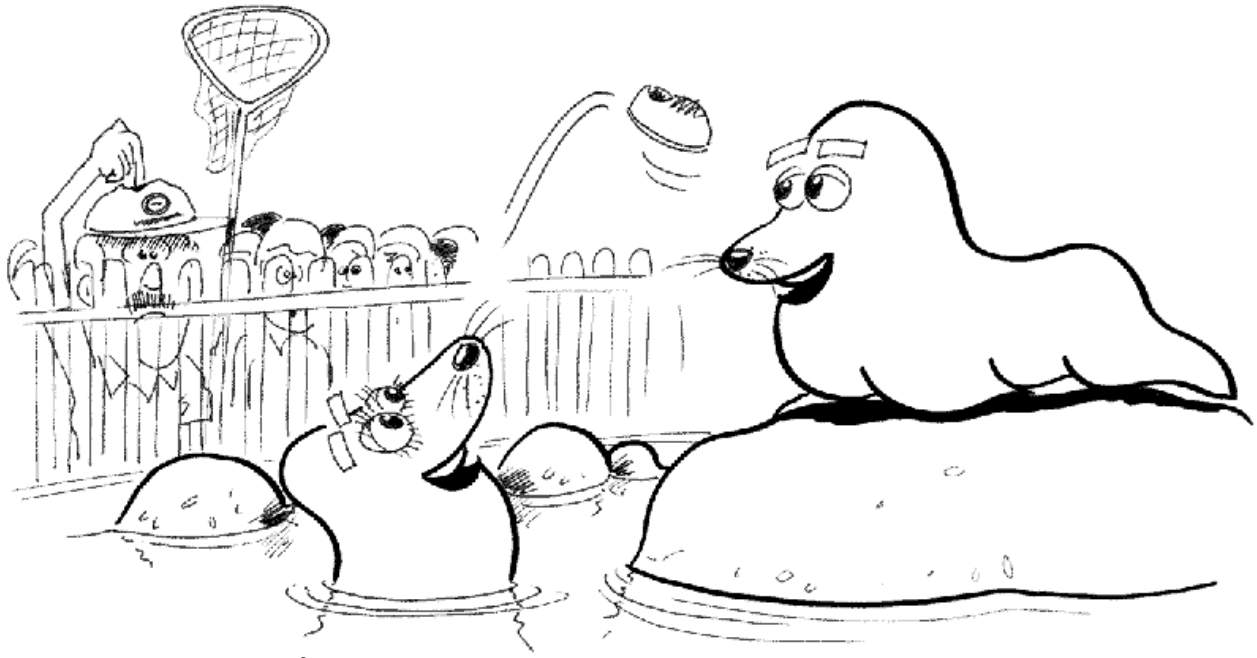
Cut 'n
Staple

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Complete the sentences with these words.

through, secret, sword, Dave

Walking _____ the forest to our
_____ cave, we stumbled on a _____,
so we called to _____.



A Day at the Zoo

Early Reader No. 59

Story by Jennifer Cooper-Trent
Illustrations by Anthony Mitchell

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Page 1a

Complex Combinations

This story compares three different ways of producing the same sound .. " oo ".

Phonic Decoding

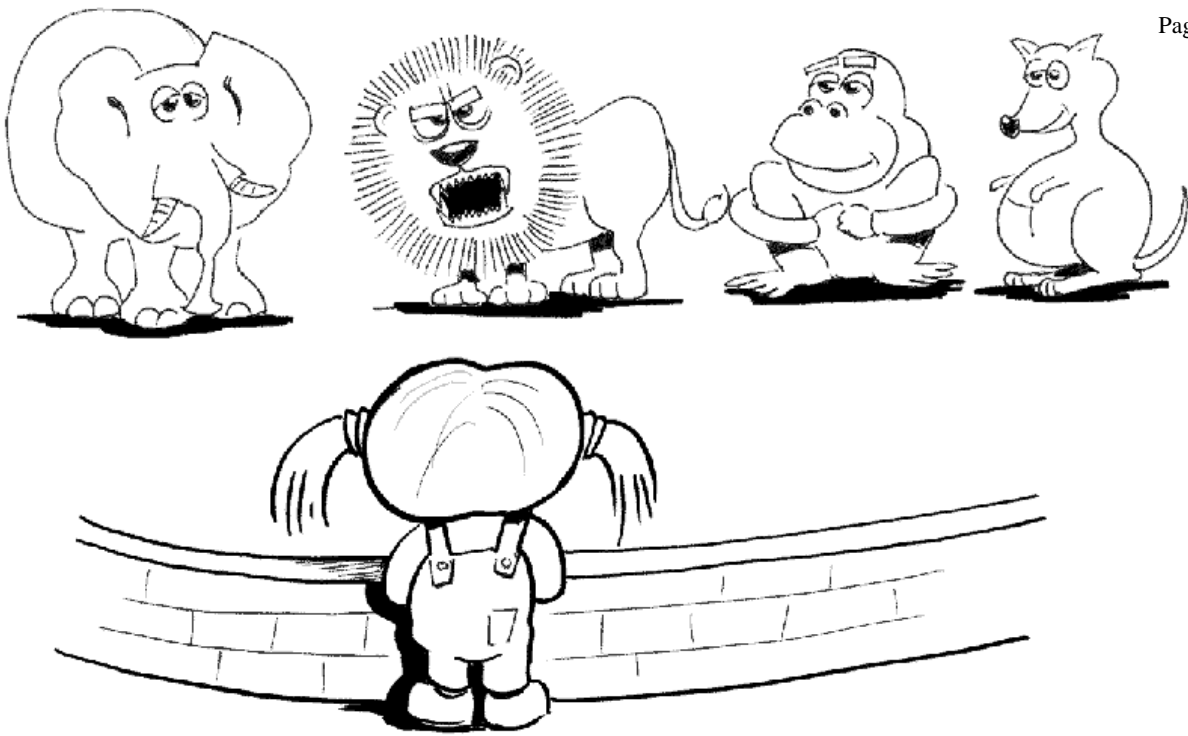
The Sound 'oo' - as in the word 'zoo'
The Sound 'oe' - as in the word 'shoe'
The Sound 'ew' - as in the word 'knew'

Carefully Explain:

The Sound 'aught' - as in the word 'caught' - explain that the /gh/ is silent.

Try These New Words

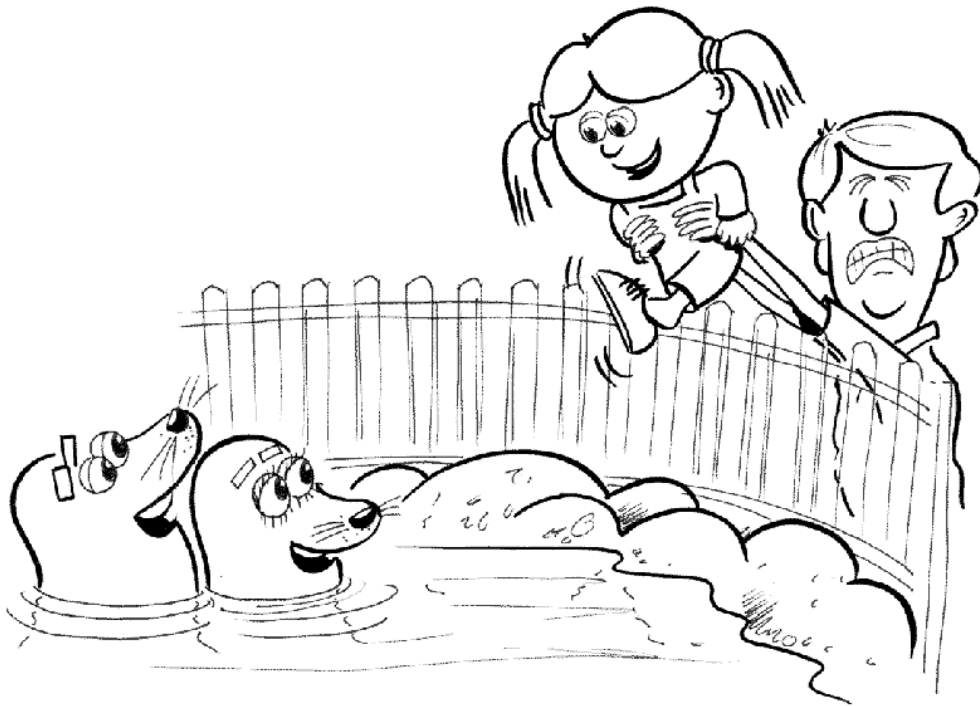
Caitlan hullabaloo caught keeper
reached tossing watching sparkling
started elephants gorillas kangaroo



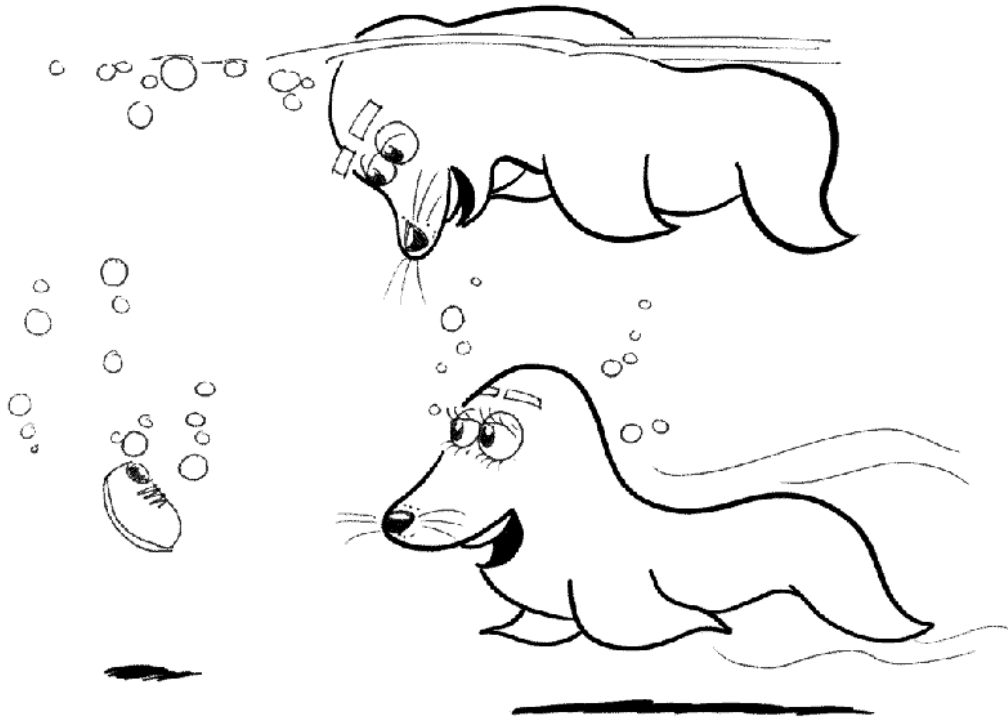
It was a sunny day, so we took Caitlan to the Zoo.
We saw elephants, lions, gorillas, then a kangaroo.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 2a



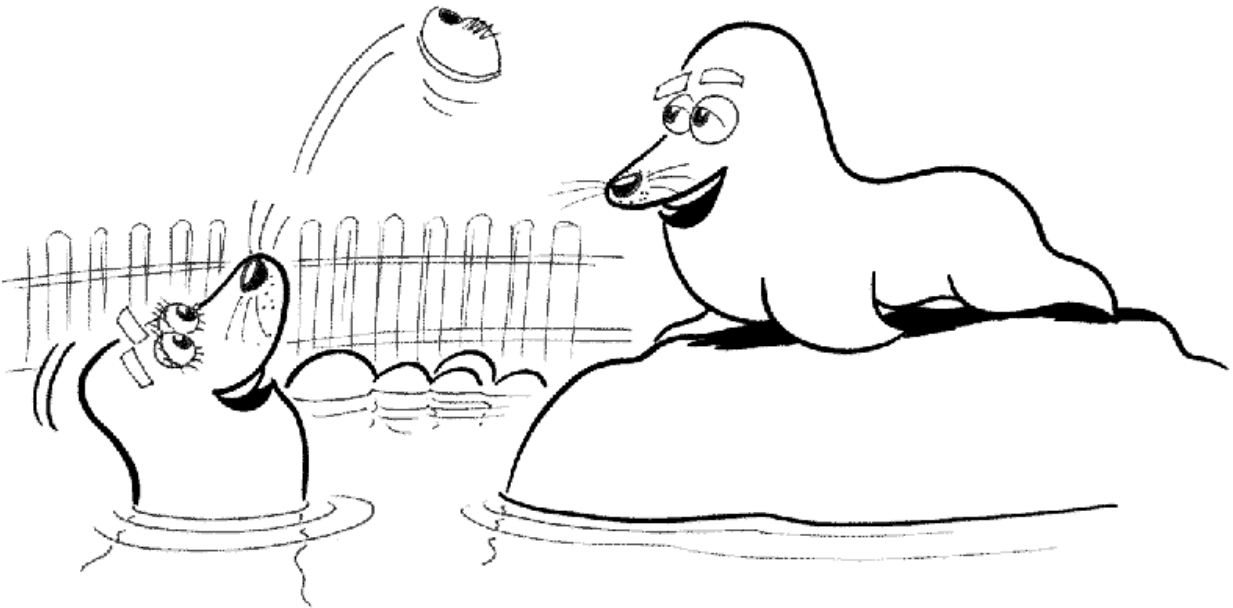
We lifted Caitlan high to see the seals ...
next thing we knew, she had lost her shiny new shoe.



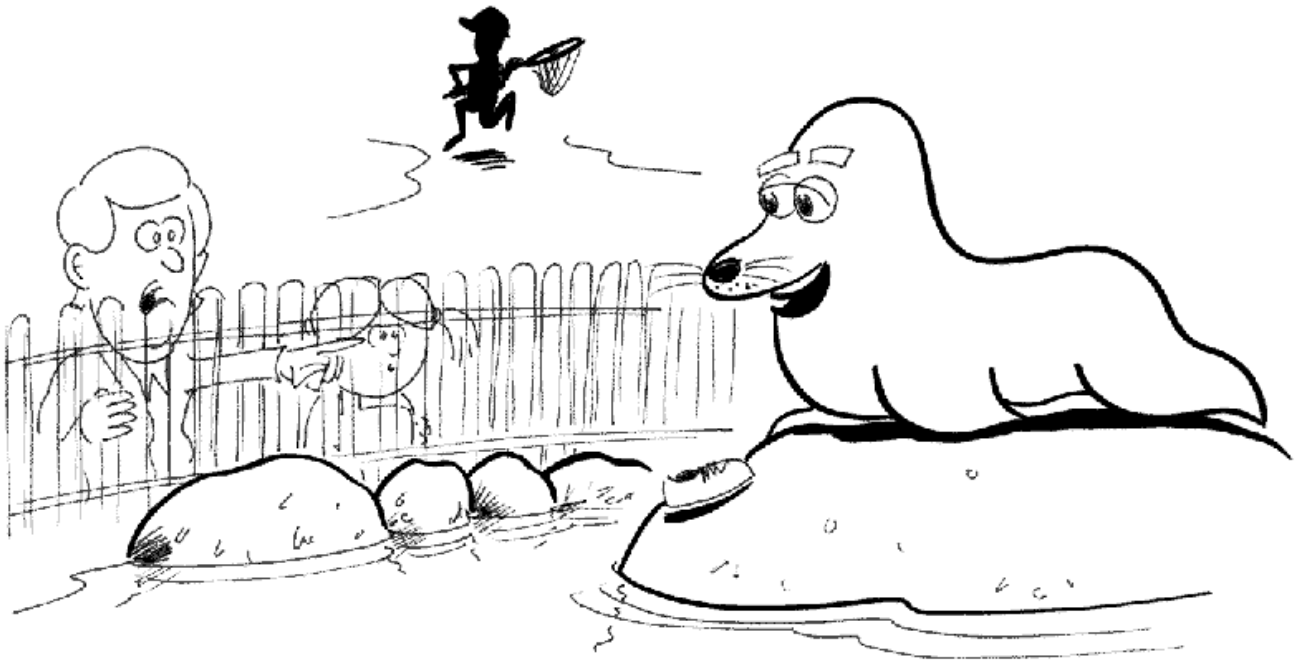
Down, down went Caitlan's new red shoe,
deep down into the pool of sparkling blue.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

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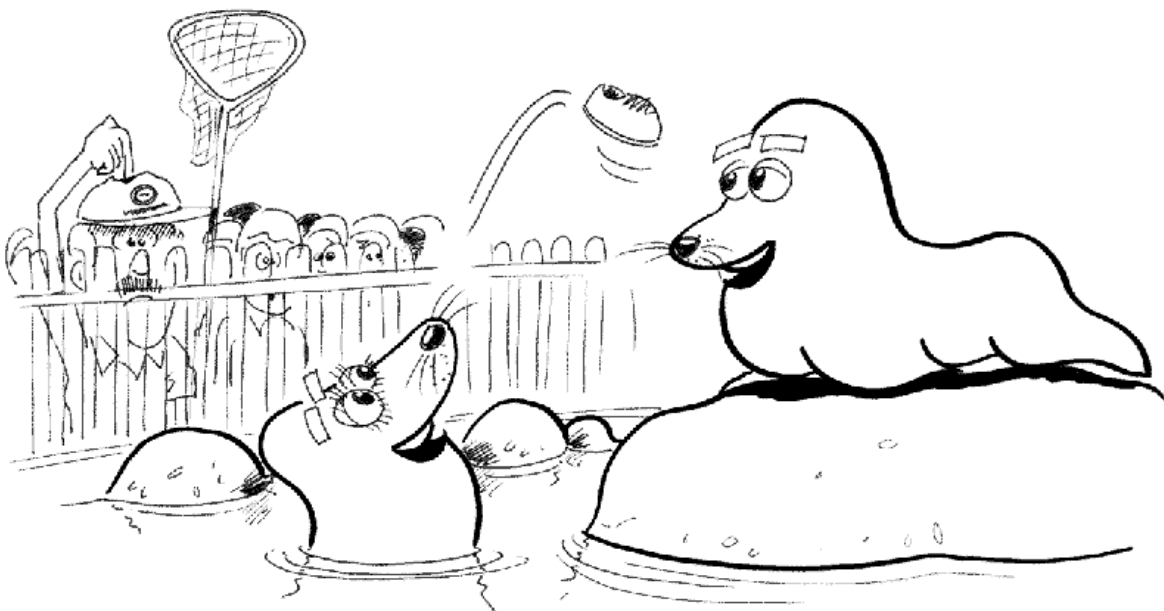
The seals looked up - they knew what to do.
They started to play with Caitlan's new shoe.



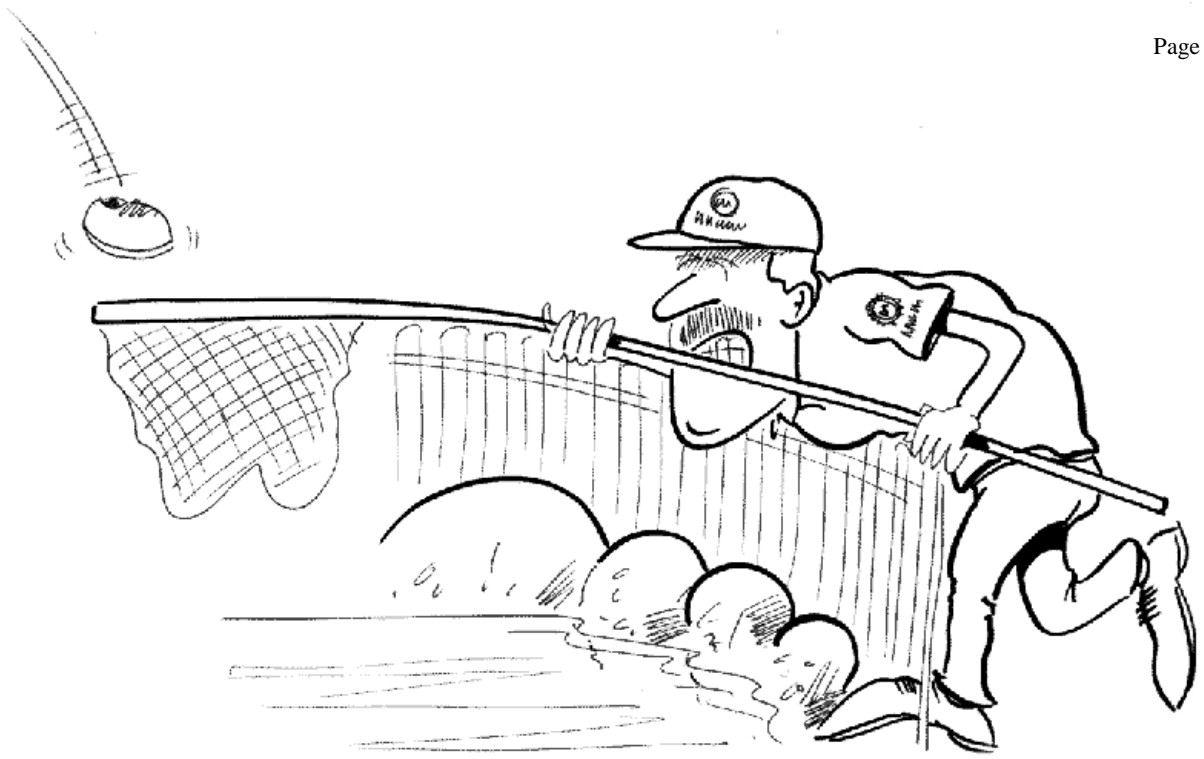
We called out to the Keeper of Seals at the zoo.
He said, "I'll need a long net to fish out your new red shoe".

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



A crowd gathered around - what a hullabaloo!
All this fuss to get Caitlan's new red shoe.



The seal keeper reached over and netted the red shoe, shiny, wet and not so new.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



He said, "Here, now, little girl, you know what to do". "Keep your shoes on when you next visit the zoo".

(And this story is true!)

Extra Words

blue true Sue few
stew threw

Comprehension

1. Where did Caitlan go for the day?
2. What animals did she see at the Zoo?
3. What happened at the seal pool?
4. Who did they call to get her shoe?
5. What colour was Caitlan's new shoe?

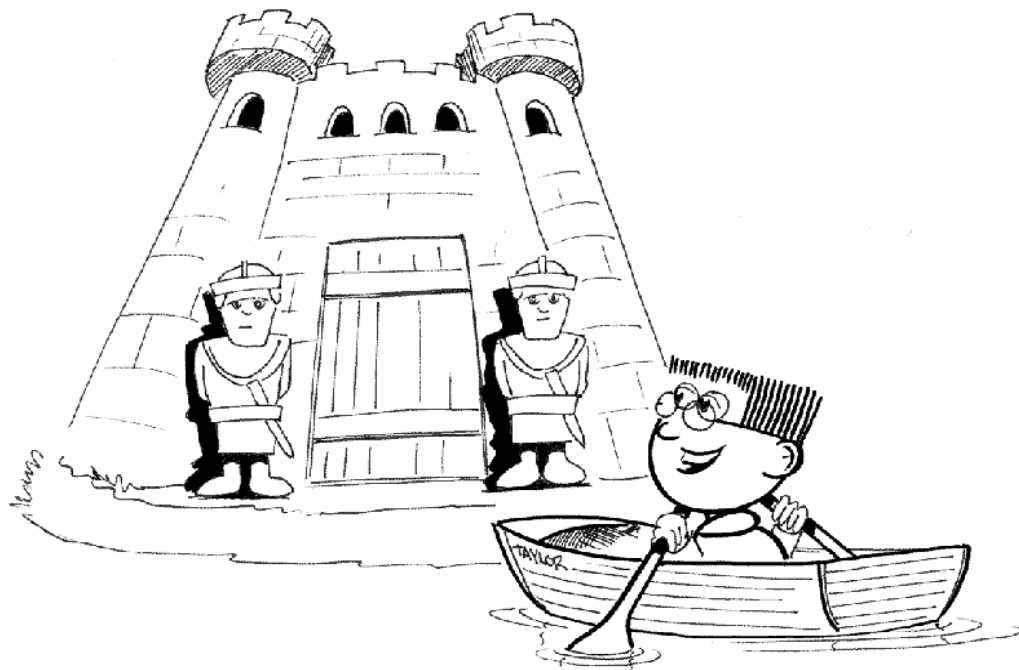


Complete the sentences with these words.

took, elephants, zoo, kangaroo.

We _____ Caitlan to the _____.

We saw _____, lions,
gorillas, then a _____.



The Castle

Early Reader No. 60

Story by Jennifer Cooper-Trent
Illustrations by Anthony Mitchell

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Page 1a

Complex Combinations

This story introduces more complex words, and is designed to teach students how to decode multi-syllable words, and break them into their components

Phonic Decoding

The Sound 'ound' - as in the word 'around'

The Sound 'oat' - as in the word 'boat'

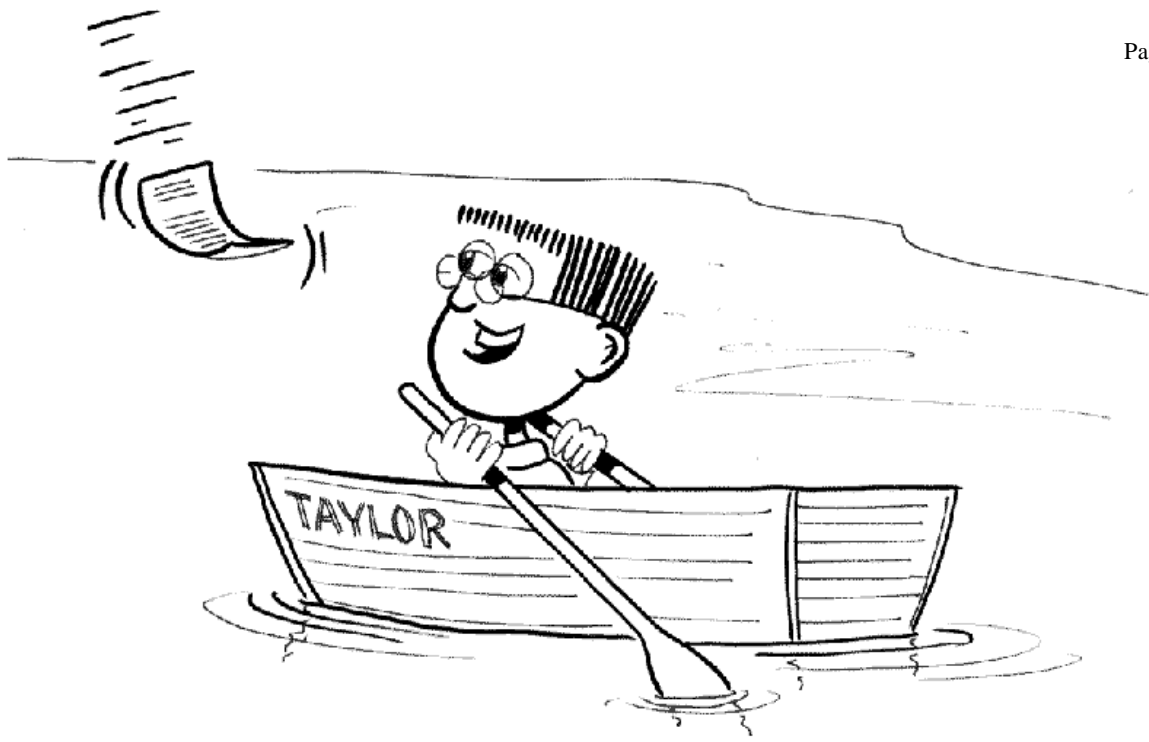
The Sound 'and' - as in the word 'grand'

Carefully Explain:

The Sound 'igh' - as in the word 'sigh' - explain that the /gh/ is silent.

Try These New Words

castle statues wondered imagined
drawbridge armour attention secret
exploring adventure



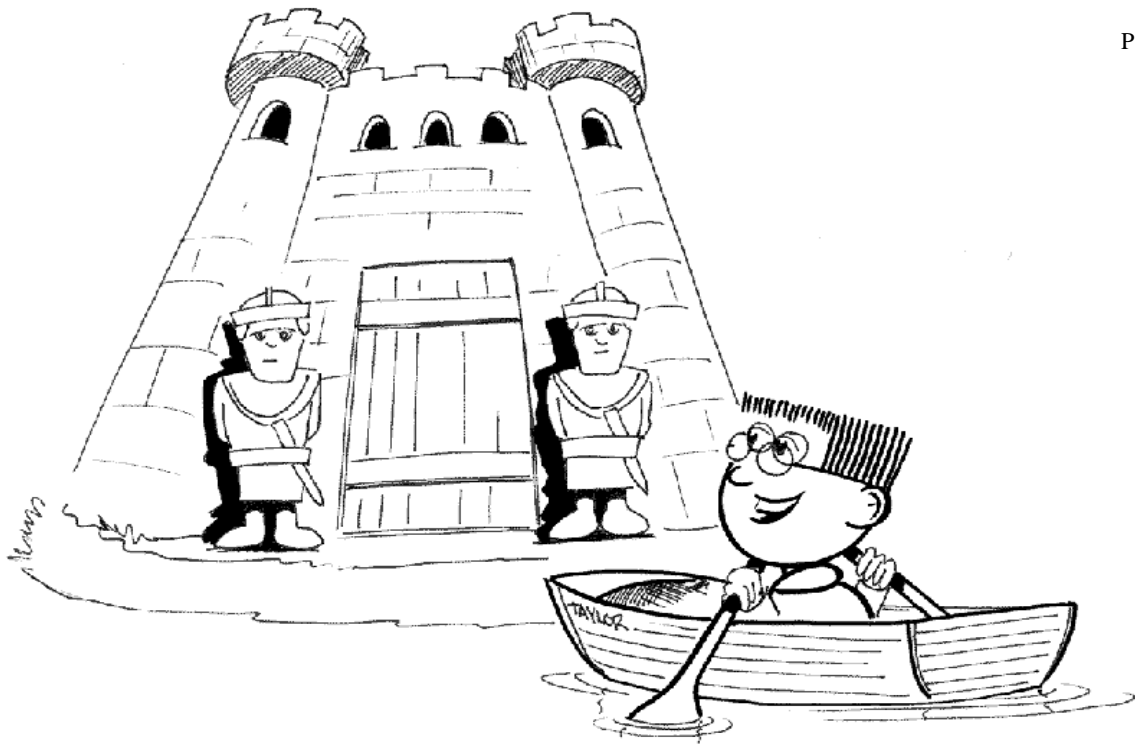
I was exploring the lake in my new boat,
looking for adventure, when in flew a note.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

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A map! It showed the way to a secret moat ...
I went through a cave where waterlilies were afloat.



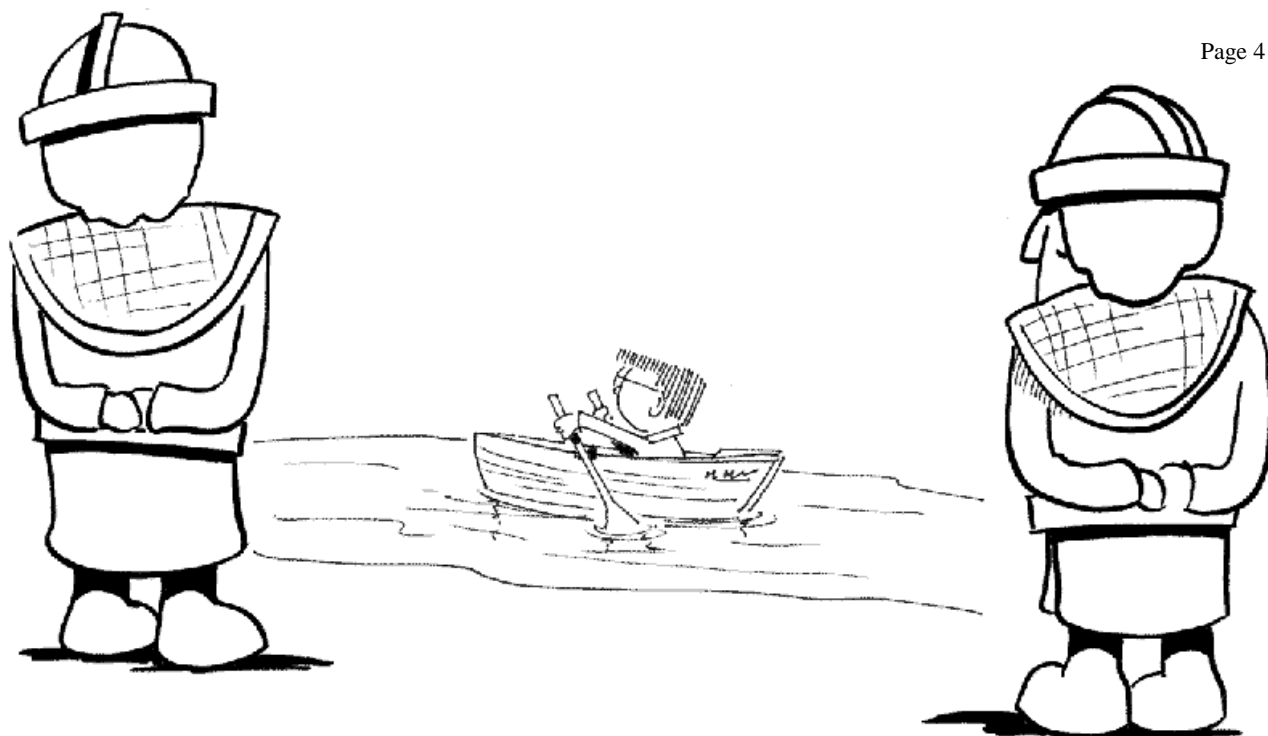
As I look up above me, I see a castle so grand,
stone statues to protect it ... at attention they stand.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 3a



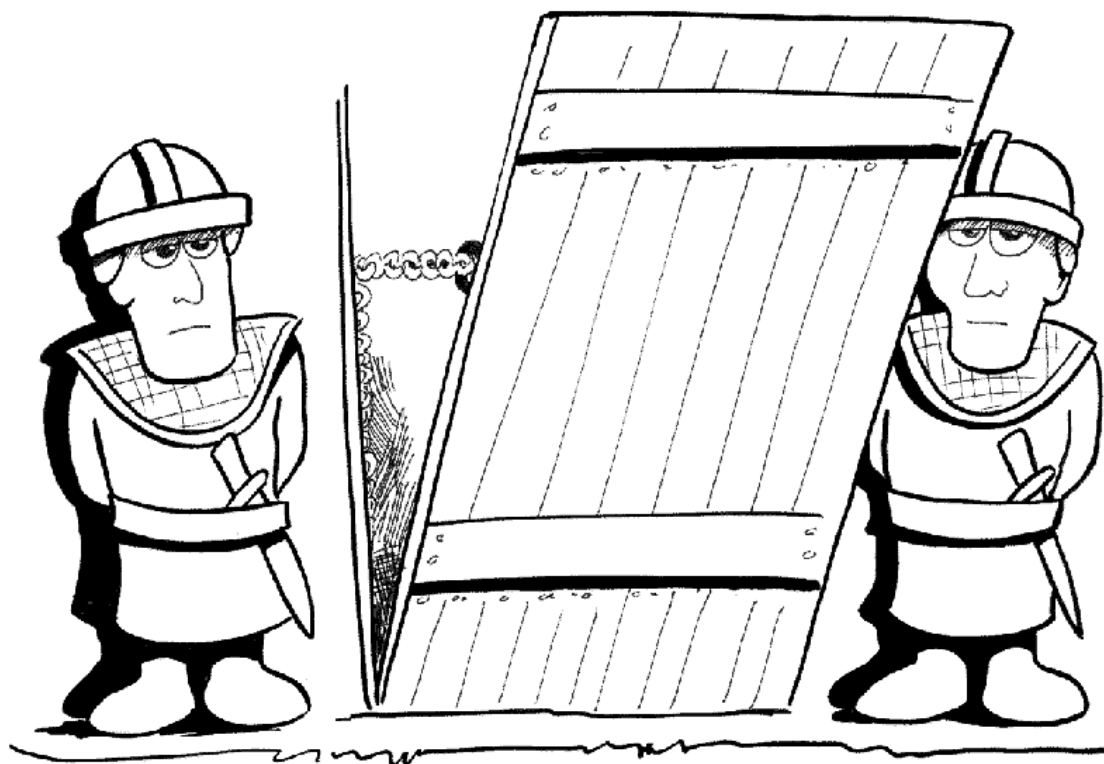
I passed a statue wearing armour, a sword and coat.
The smile on his stone face was more like a gloat.



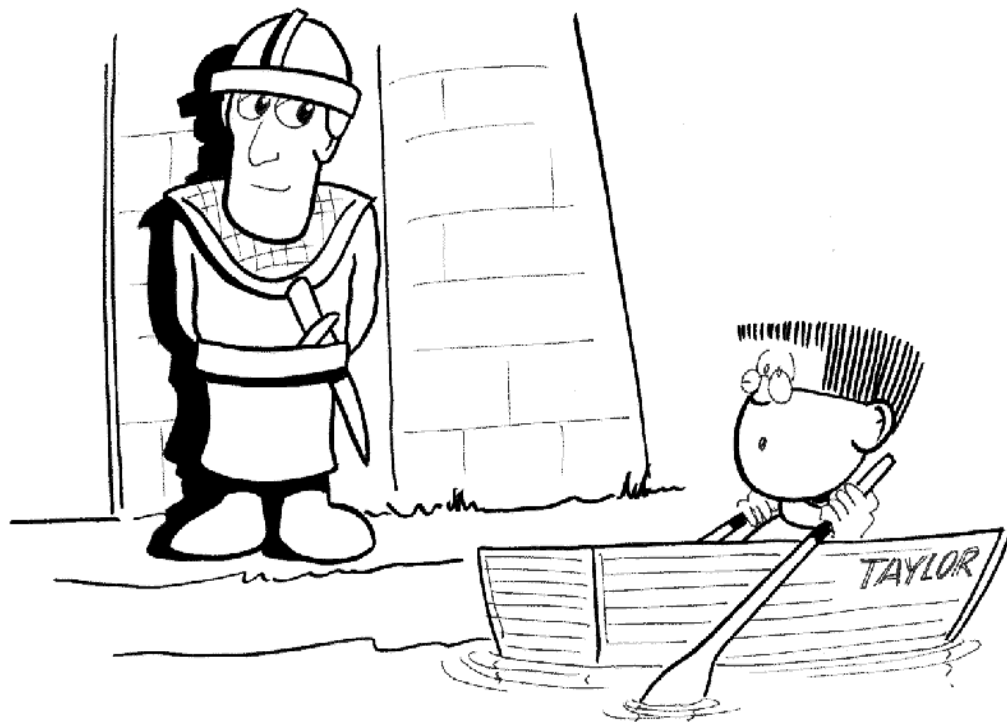
For a long time I rowed as the light seemed to fade.
The statues seemed to be watching my every move.

✂
Cut 'n
Staple

Page 4a



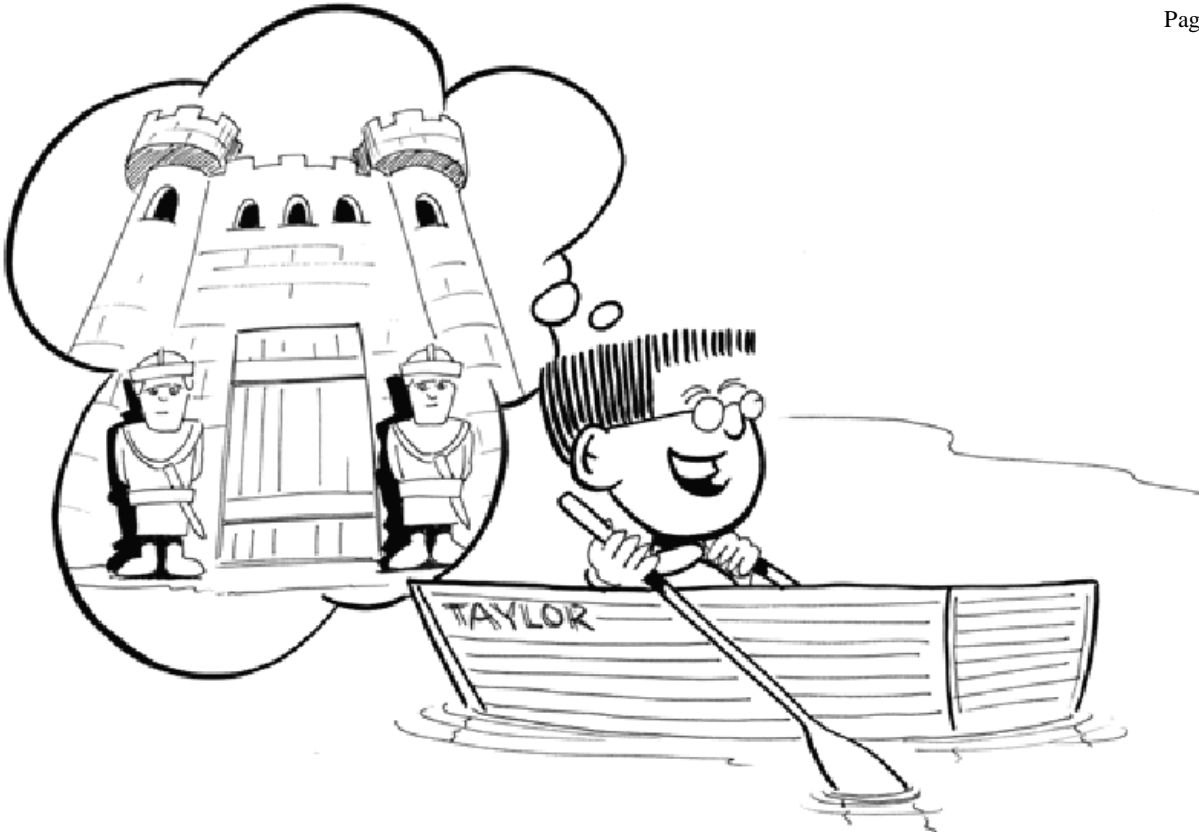
Huge chains held the drawbridge up from the moat.
I knew there was no way in, so I kept rowing my boat.



The statues stood silent as I turned my boat around.
And they wondered if their secret had now been found.

✂ Cut 'n
Staple

Page 5a



I must go, I thought with a sigh,
as I imagined the castle in days gone by.

Extra Words

sound bound found pound
tough rough enough

Comprehension

1. What was the name of the boy's boat?
2. What was on the note?
3. What was the stone statue wearing?
4. What did the boy see above him while rowing?
5. What held the drawbridge up?



Complete the sentences with these words.

drawbridge, boat, moat, rowing.

Chains held the _____ up
from the _____. There was no way
in, so I kept _____ my _____.