

# SERGEANT SPENCER



Written by Bel Richardson

### **Why is phonics important to learn?**

The English language seems like it is full of a lot of crazy pronunciations and spelling. While a small amount of English must be rote learned due to exceptions from rules, much of it can be decoded using phonics. When you know phonics, you are like a detective following clues to solve a mystery. In this series, we use only words that your little reader will be able to break down into standard phonemes. This will build reading confidence while strengthening their phonics foundation.

### **Is this the right level for my little reader?**

If your reader can decode about 90% of the words in this book independently, this will be an appropriate platform to begin their study of phonics. By understanding a majority of the words, a reader can use context to decode new terms. If a reader breezes through, you might need to take them up another level. If this level is still a bit too tricky for them, get your reader to try some of the earlier levels first. Challenges can be good, but too much too quickly could overwhelm your reader. Take things slow and steady. Enjoy the books and the journey together!

### **How can I be a good learning buddy for my reader?**

If you are helping somebody to read this book, there are plenty of ways that you can go about it. Do the initial exercises together before you begin to read so that you have both experienced the isolated sounds and discussed them. If the reader gets stuck, cover up all but the first phoneme in the word so that the sound can be isolated again. Slowly move along and reveal more phonemes. Once they can say each individual part of the word, you can focus on blending. Say the words so that they can hear them, and get them to repeat it out aloud several times. To consolidate knowledge after you finish a page, talk about what happened and what is in the picture. Then, try saying some of the words on the page and see if the reader can identify them. Get the reader doing this as well, saying words which you need to find. Above all, you should be patient. Create a safe place to make mistakes so that the reader is willing to give things a go.

### **Special Words**

This book has some special words that you should take your reader through before you begin. Many special words are those that we use in day-to-day conversation. Unfortunately, a lot of their phonetic structures do not conform to rules that your reader has learned. These words can be frustrating and confusing, but they are also a part of natural reading, writing, and conversation.

**Spencer, would, families, clothes**

Say each word to your reader a few times so that they can get used to its sound. Get them to repeat it back to you. Afterwards, see if your reader can think of any words that rhyme with this sound in order to help lock in how to pronounce it. Finally, think of some basic sentences that use this word. For example, if the word is 'the' you can create basic sentences with a subject, verb, and object: "The hat is on the table."

As a boy, Spencer would march to help remember men that went to war. Crowds would march to remember.

Men went to war in places far away. Spencer felt it was good to remember these men.





Spencer gets older. Spencer will join the army. Even if a country is not at war, an army can help.

Spencer will join an army that helps. These armies can give to those in need.

Spencer will travel to a place where a big wave made houses flat. Spencer and his army mates bring food and water.

He gets in a boat and saves pet cats and pet dogs. Families are happy to see their pets.





Spencer and his army mates travel to a place where families had to leave their houses. There are families in tents and families in old halls.

Spencer looks after the children. He plays with them and makes them smile.

Spencer and his army mates travel to a place where ground split open and houses fell down.

Spencer digs under and hears a voice. Spencer rescues a family trapped underneath wood and bricks.





Spencer and his army mates travel to a place where a big fire burned. These families have lost their clothes and food. The army gives them clothes and food. Spencer also brings books and toys for the children.

Spencer and his army mates travel to a place where a big wind picked up things. There are doors in trees and cars turned upside-down.

Spencer helps make houses again. Now these houses are stronger.





Spencer helped a lot.

Spencer gets a new medal. Now  
Spencer is Sergeant Spencer.

He will lead and teach.



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