

TIME TO MOW!



Written by
Bel Richardson

Illustrated by
Mykyta Harets

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.

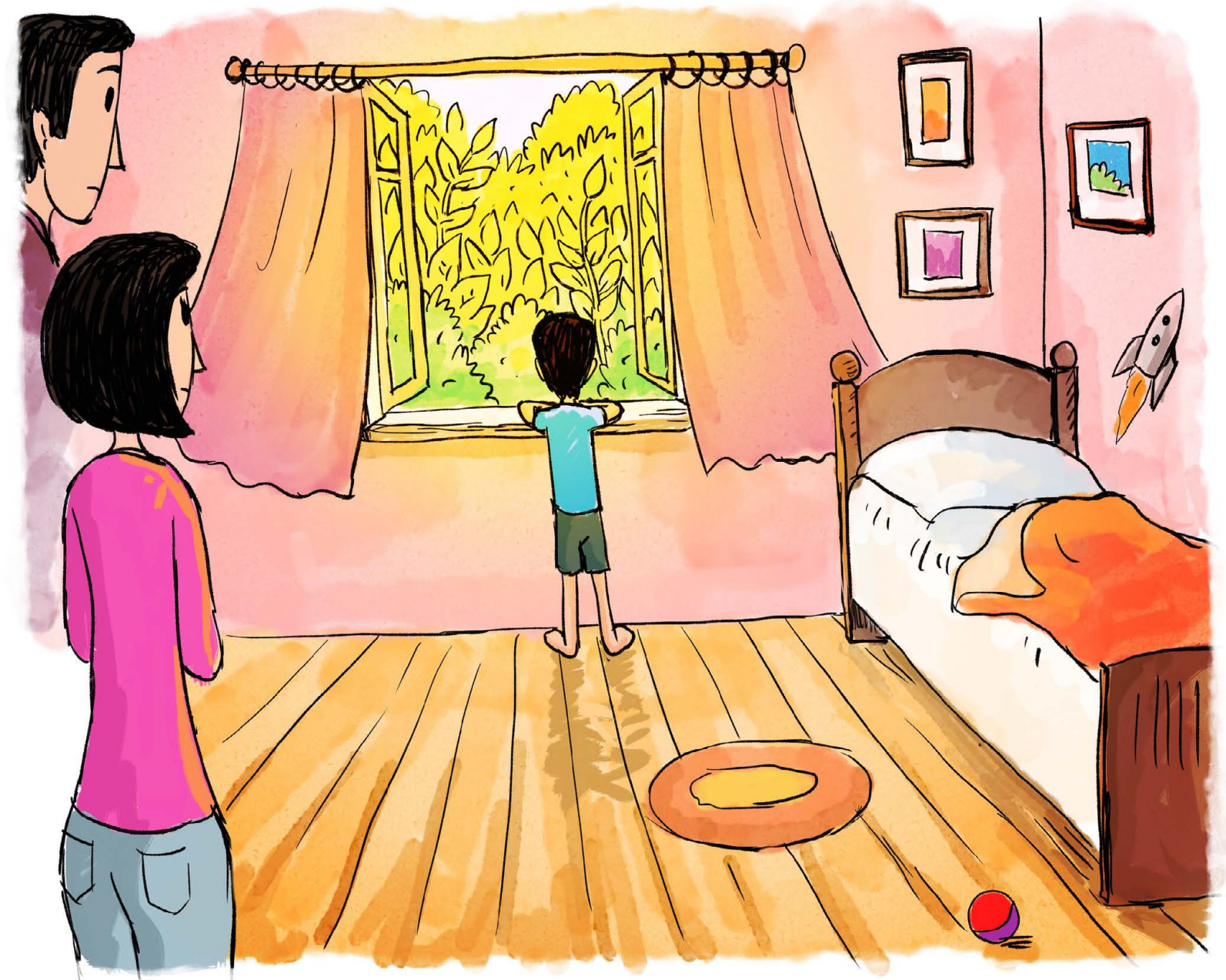
Special Words

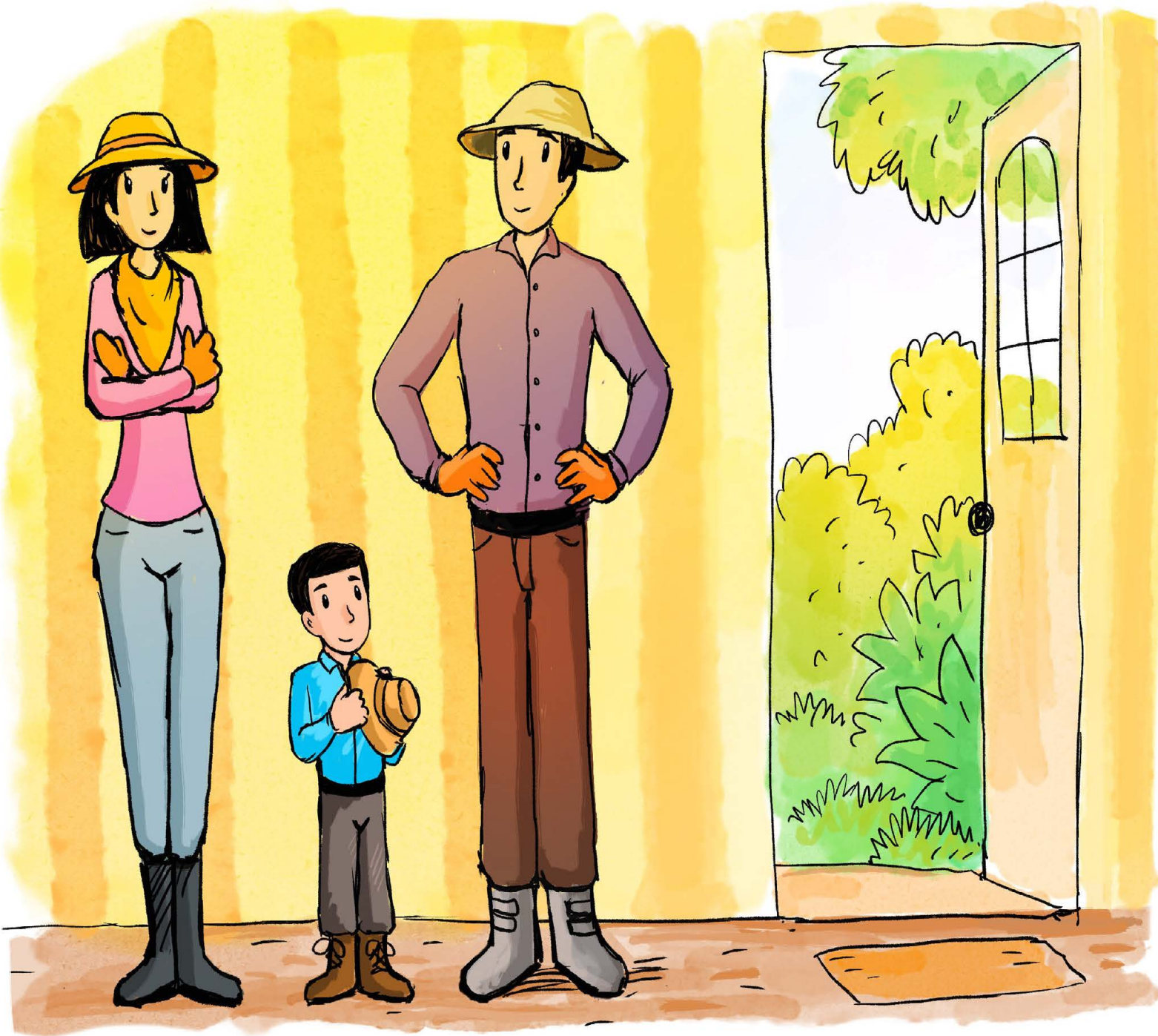
This book has some special words that you should take your reader through before you begin. Many special words are those that we use in day-to-day conversation. Unfortunately, a lot of their phonetic structures do not conform to rules that your reader has learned. These words can be frustrating and confusing,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

**no, today, be, grass, to, the, so, gloves, what, oops, too, OK, you, go, asks,
pizza**

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 we woke up this morning, mommy screamed. "Look at our lawn! It is like a jungle outside. No playing today. We must all mow and weed."





We are not sad. Mowing and weeding can be fun!

We got on long pants and shirts. Grass can give us a rash. We got on hats to keep us safe from the sun.



Mommy starts the lawnmower. It buzzes. Daddy gets out the long clippers and tools. We all got on gloves so that our hands will not get cut.

Mommy starts to mow, and then I hear a big crunch! A dark thing shoots out from the lawnmower and by her leg. It lands back in the grass with a thud.



“What is that?” We look in the grass. Oops! The grass is too high. Mommy did not see the rock. Lucky the lawnmower is OK. Mommy did not get hurt. Mommy had her long pants on.



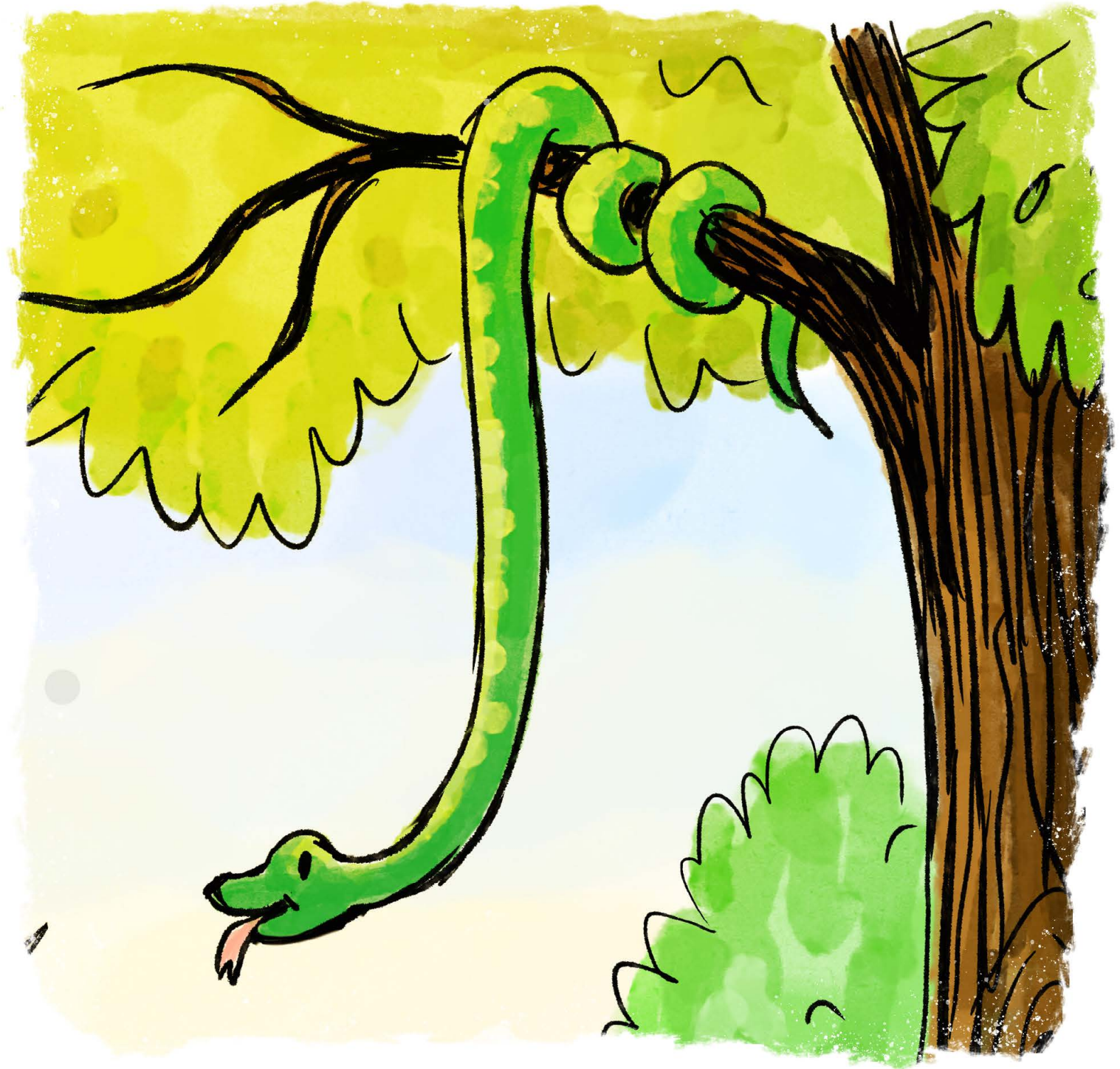


The lawnmower buzzes.
Daddy uses the clippers. He
snips and snips!

“Oh!” daddy screamed. “A
snake!” The little, green snake
is hanging from the tree that
daddy is clipping.

“It’s OK daddy. It is a green tree snake. It will not hurt you.”

Daddy is still glad for gloves.
We all wait as the green tree snake slides away.





I go back to pulling out weeds. Pop! Then it is my turn to scream. I pull out a big weed. A lot of dirt is with it. All over the roots are ants! The ants are mad.

The ants crawl back under the ground. I did not get bitten. I had my long shirt on.

The lawnmower buzzes, the clippers snip, and I pop out weeds.

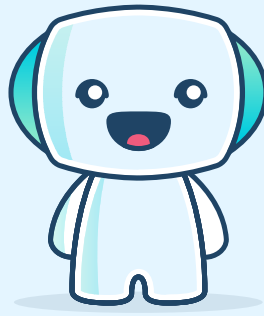
Soon we finish!





The sun sets. Inside for cold drinks.

“What will we have for dinner?” daddy asks. “Well,” mommy says. “After our big day, let’s have pizza!”



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I'M FREE! HERE'S HOW...

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