

# From Sound to Letters

A Synthetic Phonics Approach to Fluent Reading

## THE SHORT VOWEL BOOK

A Long Vowel First, Phonics-First Approach to Teaching  
Fluent Reading, Cursive Handwriting and Accurate Spelling.

The Concepts and Skills of Synthetic Phonics  
Taught in a Orderly and Logical Sequence

Based on Caroline Yale's *Northampton Charts*,  
Mildred McGinnis' *Association Method*,  
and Priscilla McQueen's *Curriculum Design*.

June 6, 2009

# Rational

**Introduction:** We have just completed the children's first reader: *The Long Vowel Book*. In *The Long Vowel Book*, your child learned to read and write words that use the main long vowel and most of the consonant spellings of English. Your child is now ready to begin the second reader, *The Short Vowel Book*, which presents short vowels, "other vowel," and additional consonant spellings.

**Long Vowels First:** Unlike most other phonics programs, *Sounds to Letters* teaches the long vowels first. It does this because the long vowels are easier to discriminate, to hear in words, and to recognize, because the sounds are the same as the letter names. We also teach long vowels first because there are many ways to spell them. The sound /ā/, for example, may be spelled *a* as in *acorn* *a\_e*, as in *tape*, *ai\_* as in *tail*, and *\_ay* as in *day*. The short vowel sound /ă/ is just spelled *a*, as in *hat*. By beginning with long vowels, we are giving the children more time to learn to read and write words that use their various spellings. We want the children to be able to spell and to write as well as they read. We also want them to be able to write as many words they know as possible. The long-vowel-first approach has proven itself highly effective in hundreds of thousands of classrooms across America for many decades in programs that followed Priscilla McQueen's curriculum design.

**Sound Association Picture:** *From Sounds to Letters* helps the children associate each spelling by its sound by using a special picture. Each of these pictures, except the long vowel cards, show a picture of a situation in which a sound is being produced, *not* an object that begins with that sound. It also shows the most common spelling of that sound. I teach the children to associate sounds with *actions*, now with objects, so they can recognize sounds anywhere in a word, not just at the beginning.

**Cursive Handwriting:** Cursive handwriting is taught first because it is a proven aid in preventing problems with reversals. It aids in teaching sounding-out or blending because the letters within words are all connected (threaded together). It eliminates unnecessary and difficult step from manuscript to cursive. Words are perceived as single units composed of individual connected parts.

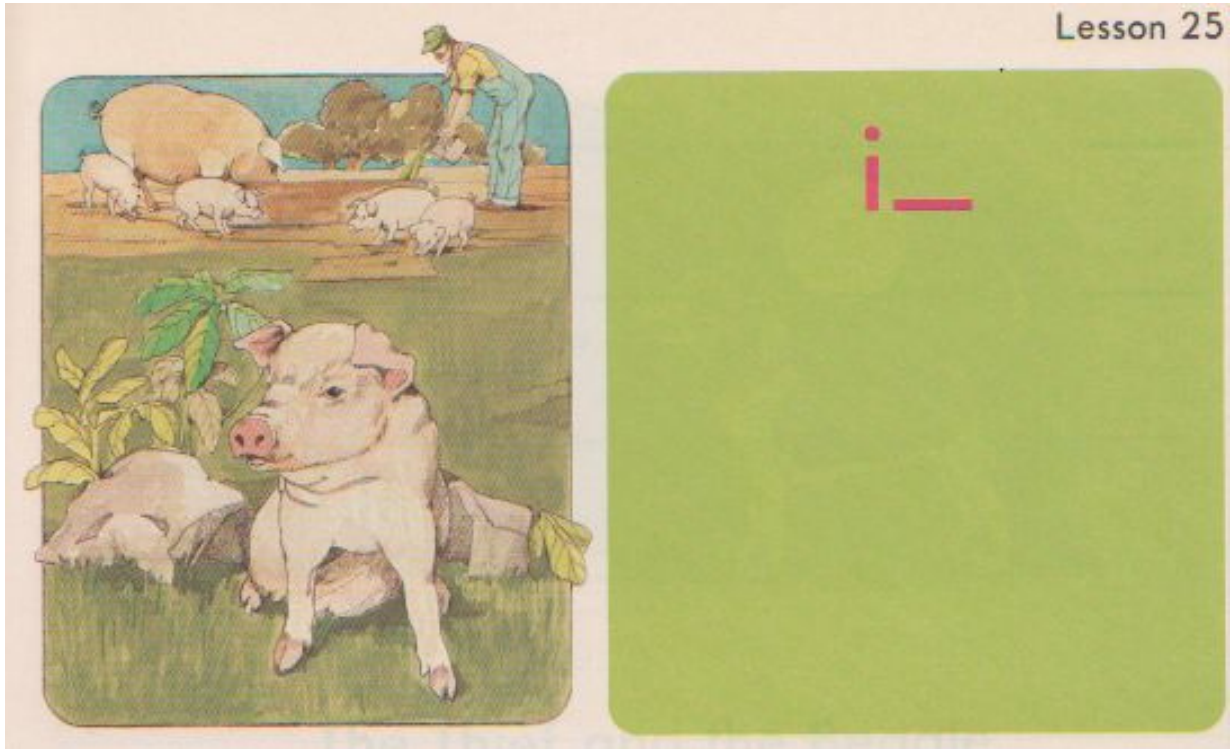
**Spelling:** Oral and written spelling is taught simultaneously with the reading so the children will be able to automatically and accurately write anything they can read. There is no need for separate spelling lessons.

## Vowel and Consonant Sounds and Spellings Taught in *The Short Vowel Book*

### Lesson

25. i\_
26. k, c, \_ck
27. \_ng, \_ñ\_
28. Review
29. Review.
30. a\_
31. ce, ci, cy
32. Review
33. j, \_dge, ge, gi, gy
34. Review
35. o\_
36. x
37. e\_, ěa\_
38. ch, \_tch
39. Review
40. wh\_
41. u\_, à, è, ò
42. qu\_
43. ow, ou\_
44. Review
45. är
46. aw, au\_, a
47. ô
48. Review
49. Review
50. oi\_, oy
51. oo, u\_
52. kn\_, gn\_, wr\_, mb
53. wör
54. \_ti\_, \_ci\_, \_si\_
55. ph, ch

# Lesson 25



i \_ it is this

Did you win?  
No, I didn't.

1. did didn't dig dip

2. with will wish win

3. hit his him hill

4. stiff still print

5. give live said are

6. till tile fill file

7. simple nimble silver glitter



## **The Thief and the Beagle**

One night a thief tried to steal some sheep. A beagle was tied nearby. The owner was asleep.

“Rrr, rrr, rrr!” said the beagle. “Go away!”

“Sh!” said the thief. He threw some meat to the beagle.

The beagle didn’t eat the meat.

“Rrr, rrr, rrr,” he said. “I hope my owner will hear me.”

The owner did. He made the thief go away.

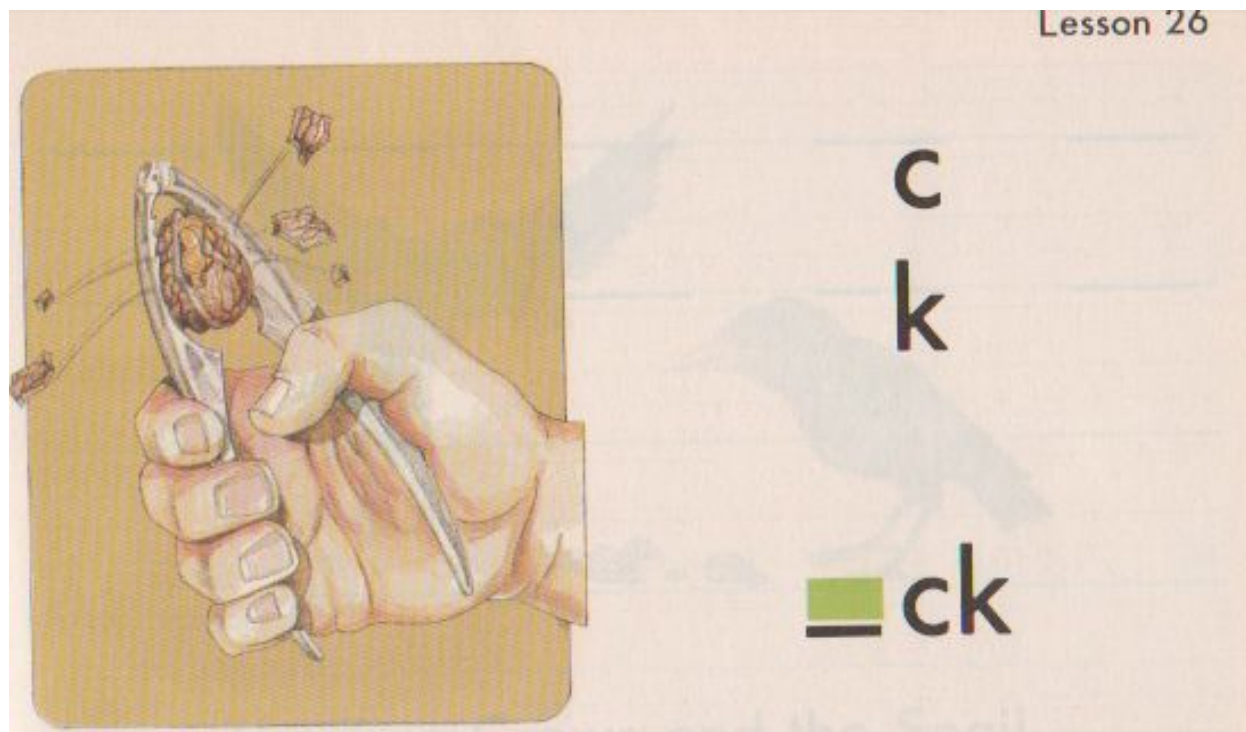
## Questions

### The Thief and The Beagle

Circle the correct answer.

1. The thief tried to steal some \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. meat      b. bones      c. sheep
2. The beagle's owner was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. away      b. asleep      c. a thief
3. The thief gave the beagle some \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. sheep      b. beets      c. meat
4. Did the owner hear the thief?  
a. yes      b. no
5. Did the owner hear the beagle?  
a. yes      b. no
6. The owner made the thief \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. stay      b. go away      c. eat

## Lesson 26.



c crow close

k break bike

\_ck kick

She likes to eat beets.



1. case care came became

2. oak poke soak stroke

3. kick pick stick tick

4. make cake snake take  
bake

5. lift big split thick

6. sly other another come

7. picnic break work



## **The Two Crows and the Snail**

A crow tried to open a snail to eat it. He hit it with his beak. He bit it. He kicked it. It still didn't split.

Another crow came by. She played a sly trick.

“Fly high with the snail,” she said, “and open your beak. If the snail hits the road, it will split. I'll wait to see.”

The first crow flew high and opened his beak. The snail hit the road and split.

The other crow came and ate the snail.

## Questions

### The Two Crows and the Snail

Circle the correct answer.

1. The snail wasn't easy to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. kick    b. open    c. lift
2. The sly crow played a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. game    b. flute    c. trick

Haste makes waste.

Rain, rain, go away.

Come again another day.

like    take    come    cry    keep    some  
lick    taken    came    cries    kid    come  
cliff    mistake    became    cried    kill    another

Lesson 27.



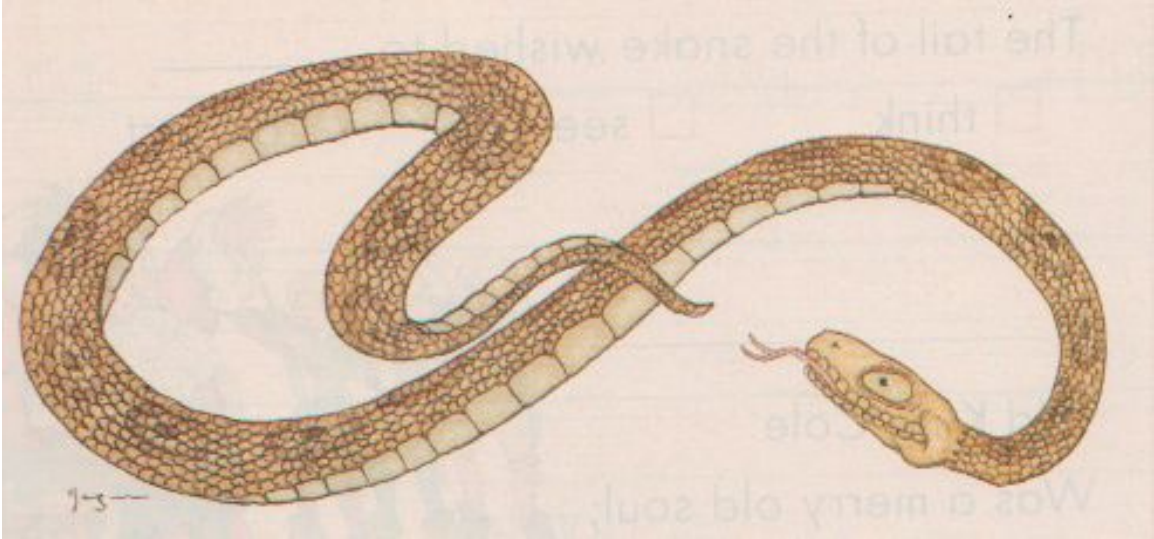
\_ng    sing    ring

\_ñ\_    finger

\_nk    sink    rink

The boat was sinking

1. king wing ring bring
2. sing swing sting string
3. sink wink think drink
4. shine, shining hit hitting
5. all, call called merry
6. middle fiddle fiddler bowl
7. single tingle singer finger
8. spring thing something  
nothing



## The Tail of the Snake

The tail of a snake wished to go first.

“No,” said the snake to its tail.

“You don’t hear. You don’t see. You don’t think. You will hit things, and it will hurt.”

“I don’t care,” said the tail. “I’m going to go first.” And it did.

So the snake glided to the rear.

Soon it slid over a cliff and was nearly killed.

The tail was dizzy.

“I made a mistake,” it said to the snake.

“You go first.”

## Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The tail of the snake wished to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. think    b. see    c. go first
2. The tail of the snake was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. dizzy    b. happy    c. free

## Old King Cole

Was a merry old soul,  
And a merry old soul was he.  
He called for his pipe,  
And he called for his bowl,  
And he called for his fiddles three.

lead	shine	go	glide	dig
leads	shiny	goes	glided	digs
leading	shining	going	gliding	digging

Lesson 28: Review.

\_ng \_nk thinking drinking

\_ck kick lick wick

1. sit sink silly sick

2. win wind window winter

3. find mind kind wind blind

4. old hold cold scold

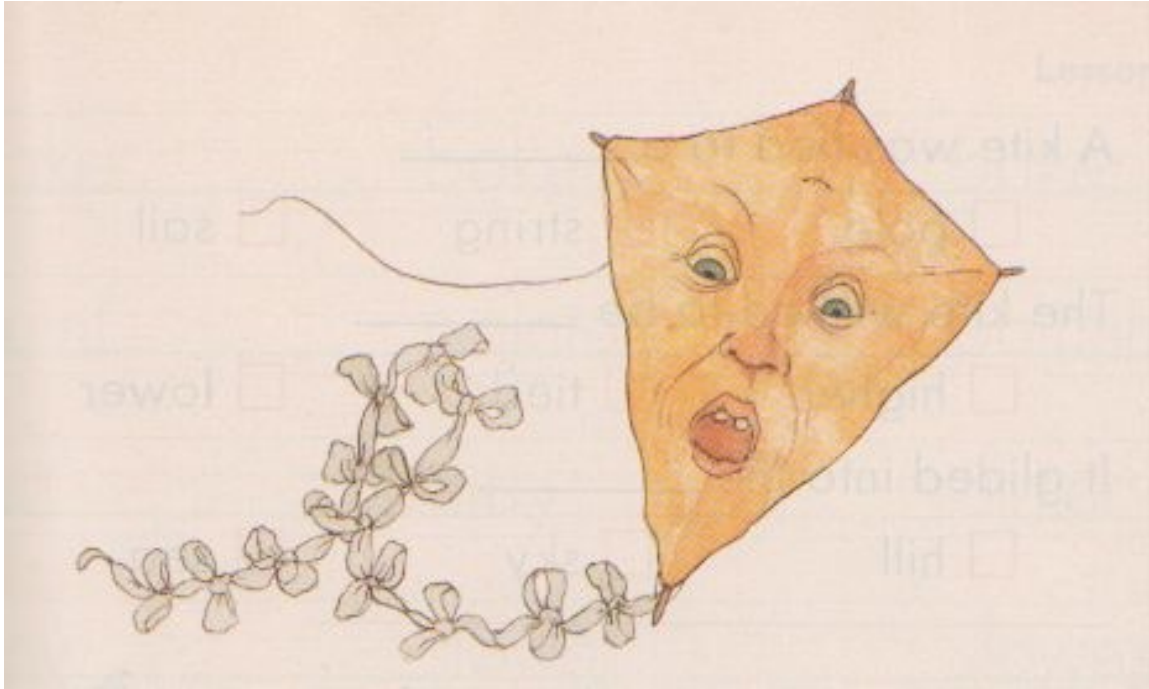
5. off are aren't kite

6. mill milk sill silk

7. skip skin skid sky

8. trim indeed pray





## The Paper Kite

A paper kite was tied to a string. It flew high in the sky. “I’m a fine flier,” it said. If I broke my string, I’d sail even higher.

“No,” said the string. “You aren’t really flying alone. I think you need me.”

“Silly string!” said the kite. “We’ll see.”

It broke its string and tried to sail higher.

It didn’t sail higher. It sailed lower. Soon it was gliding into the sea.

“My string was right,” it said.

## Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. A kite was tied to a \_\_\_\_\_.

a. pole      b. string      c. sail

2. The kite wished to be \_\_\_\_\_.

a. higher      b. tied      c. lower

3. It glided into the \_\_\_\_\_.

a. hill      b. sky      c. sea

A goat was feeling fine.

He ate five shirts right off the line.

kit      speak      colder      clip      slip      I'll

kite      spoke      broke      clipped      slipped      I'm

kittèn      spokèn      broken      clipping      slipping      I'd

## Lesson 29: Review

bake, baked, baker, baking

paint, painter, painting

slow, slower, slowest, slowly

swiftly safely dirt, dirty, dirtier

little, eagle, beagle

1. hair hare fair snare

2. lake shake shaken

3. clear clean

4. miss, missed hiss, hissed

5. hope, hoping vote, voting

6. music twig

7. in to into

8. pick perfect curl



## **The Eagle and the Baker**

A miller laid a snare. A baby eagle flew into it. The miller clipped his wings and tied him to a pole.

The little eagle wished to be free.

A kind baker came by. He paid the miller and gave the eagle a home. He stroked him. He didn't tie him.

In time the eagle's wings grew. He flew safely away.

Later he returned. He gave the baker a fine hare.

## Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The eagle flew into a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. pole      b. hole      c. snare
2. the eagle wished to be \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. big      b. free      c. brave
3. The baker was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. sleepy      b. old      c. kind
4. He gave the eagle a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. home      b. hare      c. bone
5. The eagle liked the \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. miller      b. baker      c. snare

thirsty    river    miller    slowly    big  
dirty    dinner    lighter    fairly    bigger  
curly    leader    later    clearly    biggest

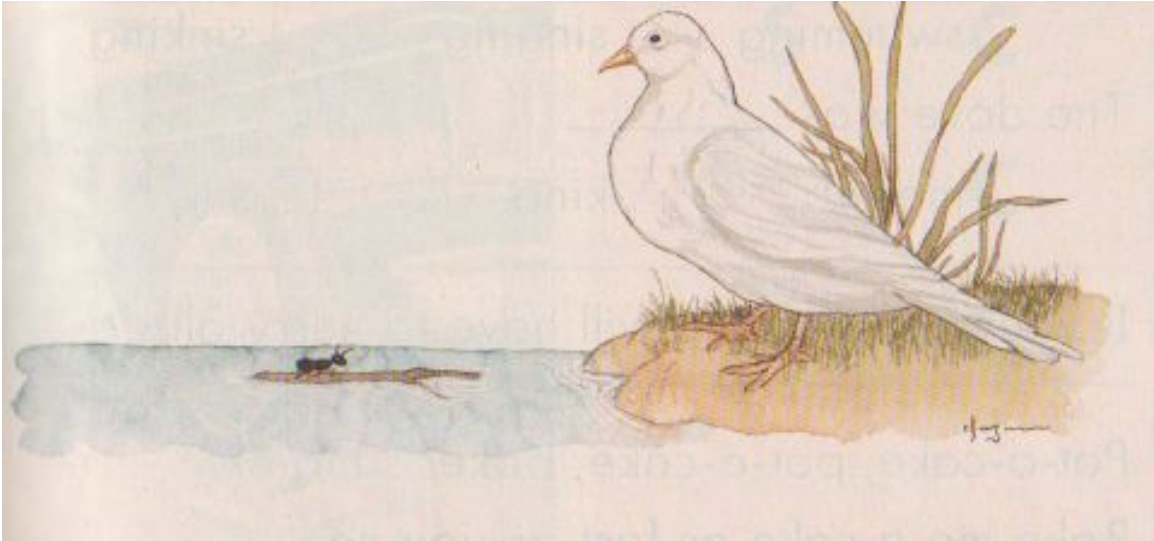
# Lesson 30.



a \_ as an at drank man

We began to fish at noon.

1. an ant antlers animals
2. bad bag bat bath
3. can can't candle candlestick
4. bang back bank blank
5. ask fast pat grab
6. aim, aiming fire fired
7. dove have happen
8. wagon oven woman



## **The Dove and the Ant**

An ant came to a river to drink. As she drank, she slid in and began to sink.

“Save me!” she cried. “Save me!”

A kind dove was nearby. The dove threw a twig into the river.

The ant grabbed hold and floated to the bank.

Later the dove was sitting in a tree. A man was going to shoot her. The dove didn't see him aiming at her. The ant did. As the man fired, the ant bit his heel. The man missed, and the dove flew safely away.



## Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The ant was \_\_\_\_\_.

a. swimming    b. singing    c. sinking

2. The dove was \_\_\_\_\_.

a. mean            b. kind            c. silly.

If you rise late, you will have to hurry all day.



Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man!

Bake me a cake as fast as you can.

Pat it, and pick it, and trim it with B.

And stick it in the oven for baby and me.

# Lesson 31.



ce place lace trace

ci racing tracing

cy fancy Nancy

He has a kind face.

1. ice mice nice rice
2. race face place space
3. dance prance France glance
4. icy fancy Nancy
5. from some come complain
6. too two second
7. peace circle black
8. silent practice accident



## The Tiger and the Kid

A kid strayed away from the other goats to drink. As he drank, a tiger came by. The tiger was going to eat him.

“Wait!” said the kid. “I see you have a fancy flute. Please play your flute first, and I’ll dance for you.”

The tiger liked music. He played his flute. The kid pranced and danced.

The owner of the goats was able to hear the flute. He came with a big stick. The tiger had to race away with no dinner.

“After this,” said the tiger, “I shall eat first and play the flute later.”

## Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. A kid is a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. tiger      b. dance      c. baby goat
2. The tiger played a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. trick      b. flute      c. game
3. The kid \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. raced      b. ate      c. danced
4. The owner came with a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. stick      b. flute      c. dinner.

### **Mr. Potter's Secret of Reading:**

“Look at all the letters the right way,  
and no guessing.”

ice	dance	black	plan
icing	danced	board	planned
icy	dancing	blackboard	planning

Lesson 32: Review

ice

icing

icy

place

placed

placing

happen

happy

happily

stand

that

than

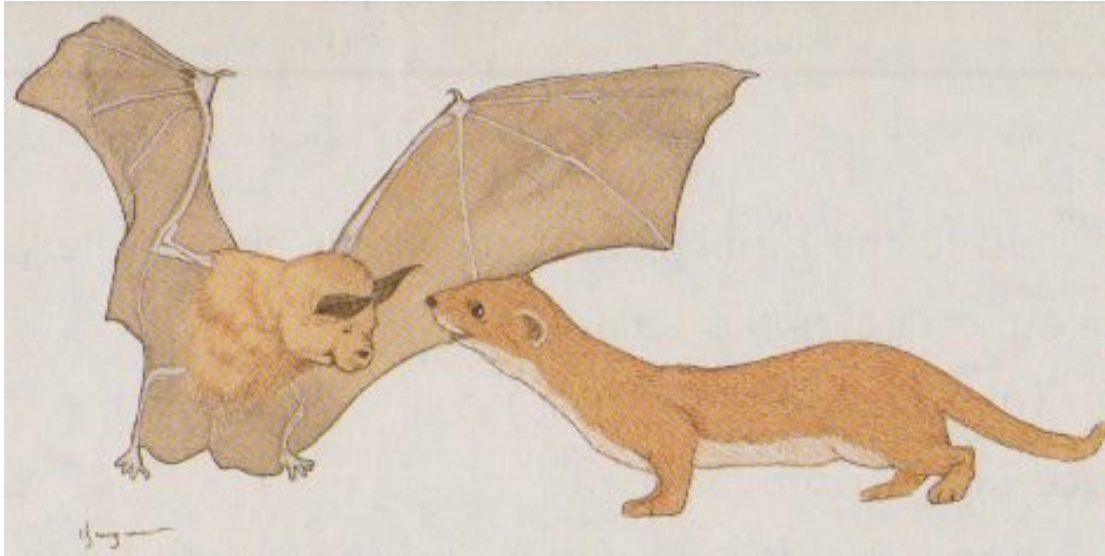
trap

trapping

trapped

Will you mow the grass?

1. rat ran rag rang
2. flat flatter flap flapped
3. pad pass passed past
4. fan fat fast faster
5. damp dampen reason
6. or horn for more roar
  
7. purr turnip drain raise



## **The Two Weasels and the Bat**

A weasel trapped a little bat. The weasel liked to eat birds.

“I think you are a bird,” said the weasel.

“No,” said the bat, hiding his wings. “See my face. I have teeth like the mice.”

“In that case, I will free you,” said the weasel, and he did.

Soon another weasel trapped the little bat. This weasel ate only mice.

“Don’t eat me,” said the bat. “I’m like the bird.” He flapped his wings.

“In that case, you may go,” said the weasel. The bat flew happily away.



## Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The first weasel liked to eat \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. bats      b. birds      c. mice
2. The second weasel liked to eat \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. bats      b. birds      c. mice
3. Bats are like birds because \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. They have wings.    b. They have teeth.
4. Bats are like mice because \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. they have wings.    b. They have teeth.

Silence is golden.

turning	fry	lie	pan	air
wading	fries	lies	cake	care
flapping	frying	lying	pancake	scare

Lesson 33.



j\_ June Jim Jill

\_dge ridge bridge

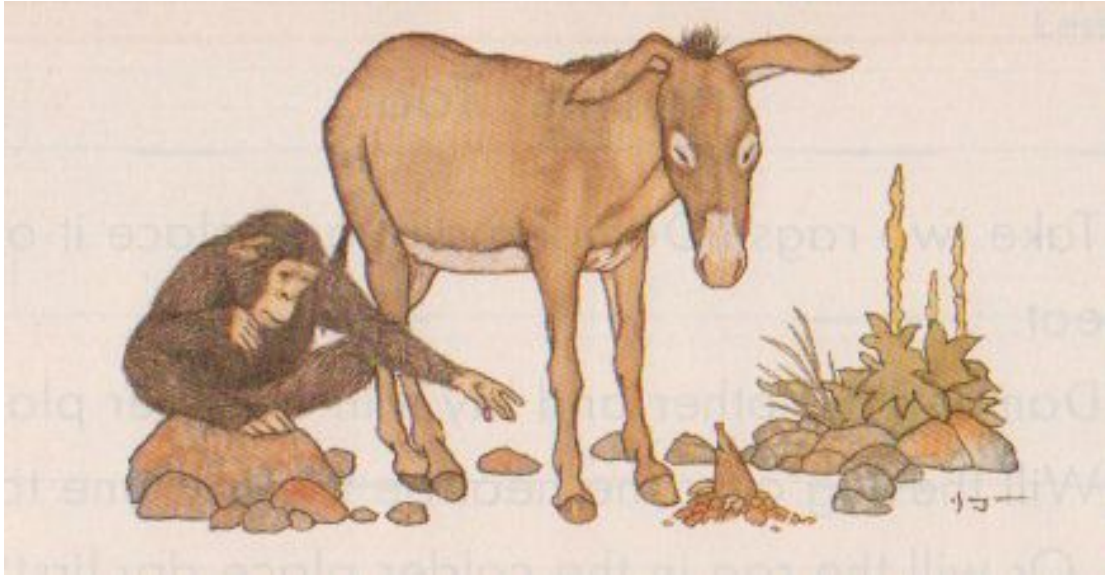
ge germ

gi giant

gy gym

I have huge ears.

1. Joe Joan joke joking
2. jab jam Jack jacket
3. age cage page stage
4. huge giant magic Janet
5. Jim gym
6. sting stingy string
7. germ ginger



## **The Mule, the Ape, and the Mole**

One June day a mule and an ape came to a stream.

“My huge ears are a joke, said the mule. I wish they were antlers.”

“And I wish I had a tail,” said the ape, “a giant tail.”

A mole came from beneath a bridge close by. “Be still, both of you,” he said, “and don’t complain. We moles have no antlers. We have thin tails. And we are nearly blind besides.”

# Questions

Draw a line to the correct words to complete the sentence.

1. The mule had a. no tail.
2. The ape had b. nearly blind.
3. The mole was c. huge ears.
4. The animals came d. to a stream.

Jean	Jill	bad	bridgès	Jane
jeep	Judy	badge	badgès	flame
Joe	giànt	bridge	cagès	James
sòme	òther	sir	peace	
còme	ànother	circle	face	
còmplain	mòther	sister	mice	

Lesson 34: Review

mill

mile

pill

pile

hat

hate

Daddy

lady

tapping

taping

She wore a huge badge.

1. last land lap ladder

2. sat sang sack sank

3. smiled mild wild

4. please sneeze breeze freeze

5. angry moment signal

6. decide decided surprised

7. either neither



## **The Wild Pig Fights the Mule**

A wild pig and an old mule became angry. They decided to fight.

“This mule has bad teeth,” said the wild pig. “His teeth can’t hurt me, so I shall win.”

He ran at the mule. At the last moment, the old mule turned away. As he did, he threw back his heels and hit the wild pig in the face. The pig was surprised. He turned and ran away.

“After this I shall think of both the bite and the kick,” he said.



## Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The mule used his \_\_\_\_\_ to fight the pig.  
a. teeth            b. tail            c. heels
2. Pig thought mule had bad \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. feet            b. teeth            c. heels
3. Pig was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. surprised      b. happy      c. sick



Jack Sprat can eat no fat,  
His wife can eat no lean.  
And so, you see, between the two,  
They lick the platter clean.

tap	tape	pie	carry
tapped	taped	man	carries
tapping	taping	pieman	carried

# Lesson 35.



o \_ not lock stopped

He dropped the clock

1. pot spot got lot lots

2. drop, dropped stop, stopped

3. trot, trotted nod, nodded

4. sock rock lock clock

5. song strong long along

6. wolf wolves or door floor

7. nimble simple glitter flood



## The Wolf and the Kids

A mother goat had to find food. She had to leave her kids at home. “Stay inside and lock the door,” she said to her kids. “The wolf may be near. He likes to eat kids. If he comes here, he’ll try to eat you. Do not open the door till you hear me tap.”

One of the kids said. “The wolf might tap”

“Dear me! said the mother goat. “We will have to have a signal. I will say, “The wolf is bad.” Do not open the door till you hear me say that.

She trotted away.

The wolf was hiding nearby. He was able to hear this. Soon he came near the home and tapped.

The kid said, “Is it my mother or is it the wolf.”

“Your mother,” said the wolf.

“Give me the signal,” said the kid.

The wolf smiled in a sly way. He gave the signal. “The wolf is bad,” he said.

The kid stopped to think.

At last he said, “Are you really my mother? Go to the window and show me your beard.

The wolf had no beard. He trotted sadly away.

## Questions

Circle the correct answer.

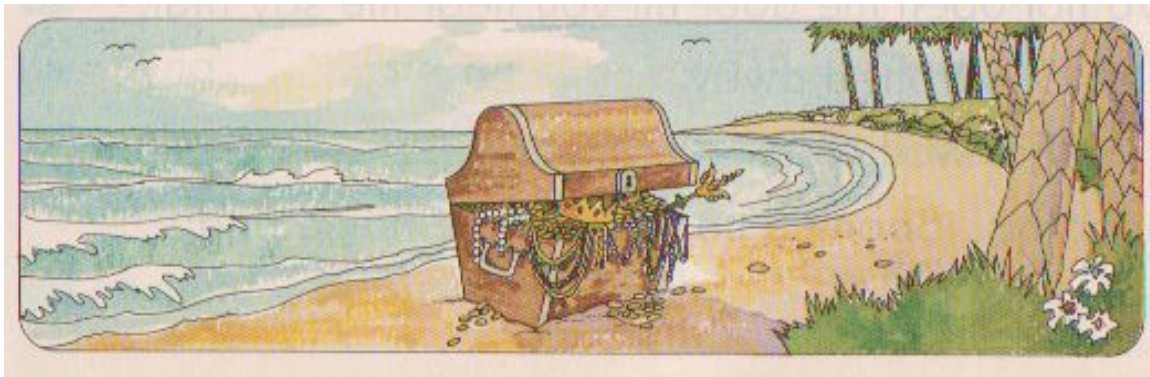
1. The wolf hoped to \_\_\_\_\_ the kid.

a. see      b. hide      c. eat

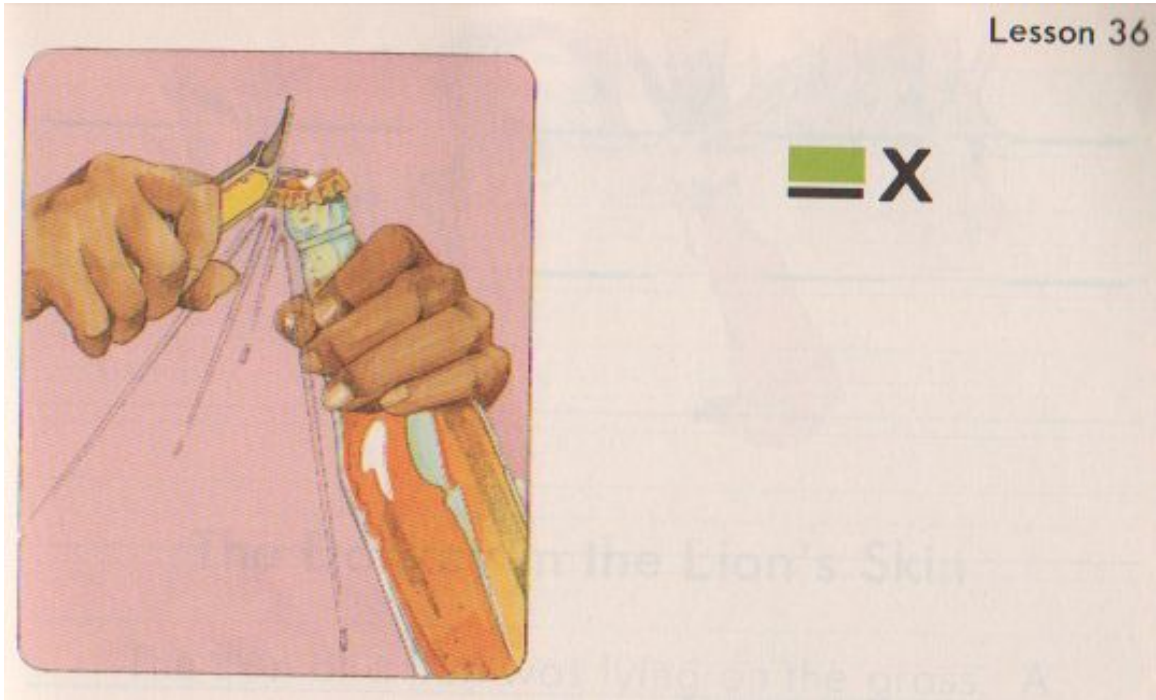
2. The kid was \_\_\_\_\_.

a. silly      b. wise      b. big

All that glitters is not gold.



# Lesson 36.



\_\_x ox fox fix mix

I see six oxen in the field.

1. ox socks fox locks box
2. six tricks fix picks mix
3. ax packs wax tax jacks
4. lion bray hog fog frog
5. hot hop top mop pop
6. key turkey monkey donkey

7. porridge horrid stocking

8. doctor Dr. mister Mr.



## The Donkey and the Lion's Skin

The skin of a lion was lying on the grass. A silly donkey got into it and tried to scare the other animals.

He ran at an ox, and the ox trotted away.

He ran at a deer, and the deer raced away.

He ran at a tiger, and the tiger backed away.

“I’m a fine lion,” said the donkey. “I think I can roar like a lion, too.”

He came to a fox and ran at him, braying. The fox did not race away.



“Aren’t you scared of me?” asked the donkey.

No.” said the fox. “Real lions roar. They don’t bray.”

Pease porridge hot,  
Pease porridge cold,  
Pease porridge in the pot  
Nine days old.

Some like it hot,  
Some like it cold,  
Some like it in the pot  
Nine days old.



on	it	can	long	rod	still
to	is	cannot	longer	God	spill
onto	it's	can't	longest	nod	fill

# Lesson 37.



e\_\_ sent never

\_ěa\_ head bread

I'll go ahead instead.

1. tell      test      ten      tent
2. leg      let      let's      left
3. red      rěady      rest      rent
4. hěad      help      hěavy      held
5. egg      edge      else      end
6. wasp      drone      hōnēy      mōnēy
7. extrá      èxpect      èxcept      èxcite
8. plěasant      penny      any many      ōcean



## The Bees and the Drones

Some bees made honey in a hive, and some drones tried to steal it.

A wasp came by.

“Help!” cried the bees. “Please tell these drones not to steal this honey.”

“We aren’t stealing it,” said the drones.  
“We made it.”

“I will test you,” said the wasp. “Let me see you both make honey.”

The bees were ready. They made honey.

The lazy drones sat still. They had never made honey. They had played instead.

The wasp nodded his head and sent the drones away.

## Questions.

Circle the correct answer.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ had made the honey.  
a. drones      b. bees.      c. wasp
2. The drones were trying to \_\_\_\_\_ it.  
a. make      b. test.      c. steal
3. The wasp sent the \_\_\_\_\_ away.  
a. bees      b. honey      c. drones

Little drops of water, little grains of sand.

Make the mighty ocean and the pleasant land.

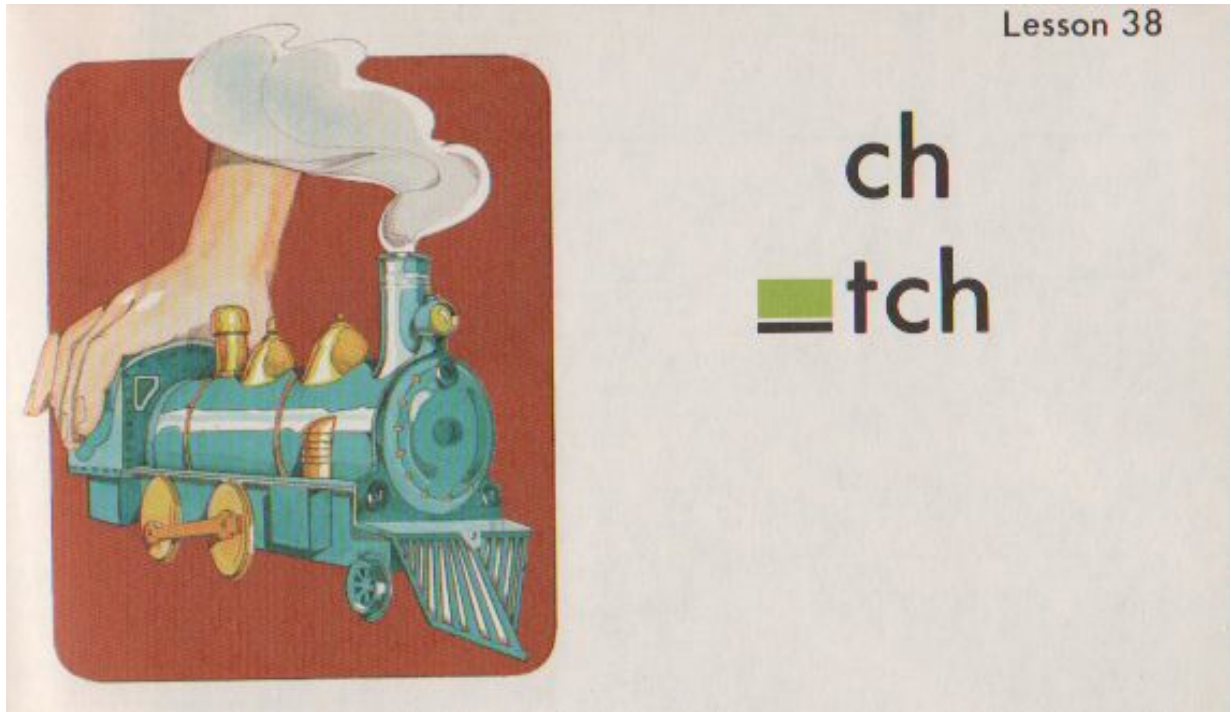
Julia F. Carney

meet      hold      go      send      bend

met      held      went      sent      bent

meeting      holding      going      sending      bending

# Lesson 38

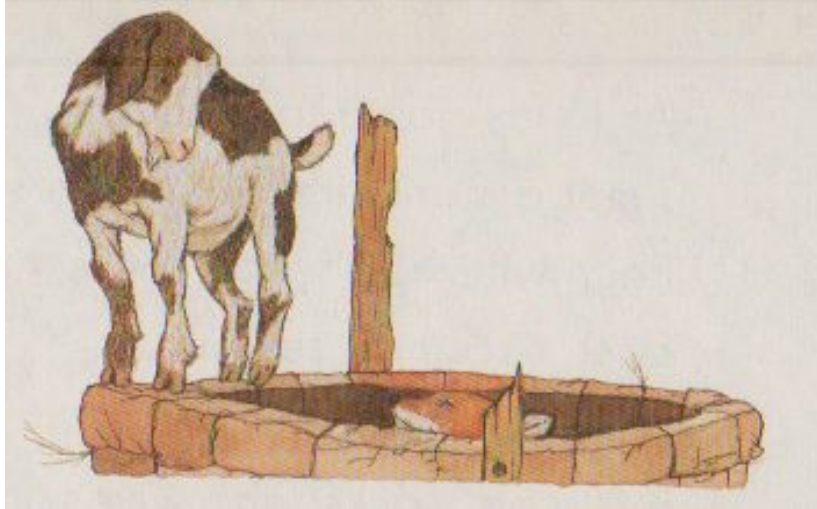


ch each chat

\_tch catch match

I can't teach it. Can you?

1. chase cheer change chief  
2. catch, catches match batch hatch  
3. fell then set seven  
4. neck nest next net  
5. well wet web west  
6. ever never every everyone  
7. merry merrier how toss  
8. Saint Ives St. Ives



## The Fox and the Goat

One day a fox fell into a well. She leaped and leaped, trying to reach the top. Each time she leaped, she slipped back.

Soon a goat came by.

“I’m catching a fine batch of fish,” said the fox. “Leap in and help me!”

“By my beard,” said the goat, “I will.”

He leaped in.

The sly fox leaped onto his back and then to the top of the well.

“I don’t see your fish,” said the goat, “so I’ll leave too. Help me reach the top!”

“Not I,” said the fox. “You will have to find another goat.”



As I was going to Saint Ives,  
I met a man with seven wives.  
Each wife had seven sacks,  
Each sack had seven cats,  
Each cat had seven kits.  
Kits, cats, sacks, and wives,  
How many were going to Saint Ives?

## The Pancake



Mix a pancake,  
Stir a pancake,  
Pop it in the pan!  
Fry the pancake,  
Toss the pancake,  
Catch it if you can!

-Christina G. Rossetti

## Lesson 39. Review

end

pitcher

pebble

child

feather

Each child gets some cheese.

children chicken chief

age edge egg

1. bed bell best better
2. ditch pitch rich hitch
3. doll pond shop robin
4. pet pebble men women
5. person people child children
6. champ tramp chance branch
7. alley valley chicken water



## **The Crow and the Pitcher**

A thirsty crow came to a pitcher of water. She was sad to find that she wasn't able to drink. The water was too low. Her beak did not reach it. She sat on some pebbles in a ditch to think.

At last she lifted the pebble in her beak and dropped it into the pitcher. Then she dropped another and another. The water rose higher and higher. At last it reached the top, and the thirsty crow drank her fill.

## Questions

Circle the correct answers.

1. The water in the pitcher was too \_\_\_\_\_  
a. high      b. low
2. At the end, the crow was \_\_\_\_\_  
a. sad      b. happy

Simple Simon met a pieman

Going to the fair.

Says Simple Simon to the pieman,  
“Let me taste your ware.”

Says the pieman to Simple Simon,  
“Show me first your penny.”

Says Simple Simon to the pieman,  
“Indeed I have not any.”

The more the merrier.

## Lesson 40.



wh\_ why when which

Why did you go alone?

1. why while white whine
2. which whisper whip whisker
3. wheel whale wheat whoop
4. crash crack blast reed
5. air where there very
6. in been



## The Oak and the Reeds

A huge oak tree grew by a river. One day there were very high winds, and the tree was shaken by each blast of the wind.

At last it broke and fell with a crash. It hit the riverbank below. It lay between some reeds, which were bending with the wind.

When the wind stopped, the tree spoke to the reeds.

“I am bigger than you are,” said the tree. “Why was I broken by the wind while you weren’t.”

“We bent till the wind went by,” said the reeds. “You stayed stiff.”



## Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The oak tree was too still to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. crack                      b. bend
2. The reeds were able to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. bend                      b. be stiff
3. Which was bigger? \_\_\_\_\_  
a. the oak tree    b. the reed



I see the moon,  
And the moon sees me.  
God bless the moon  
And God bless me.

Three wise men of Gotham  
Went to sea in a bowl.  
If the bowl had been stronger.  
My song had been longer.

Better late than never.

# Lesson 41.



u\_\_ cut but cup

à along signàl

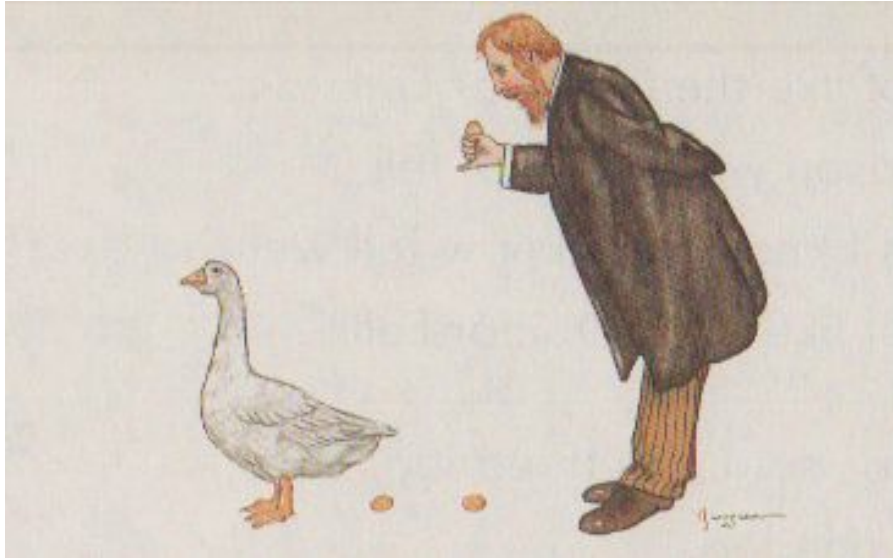
è seven catchès

ò button persòn

Where is my yellow cup?

1. stuff stuffed stuck study  
2. much must mud muddy  
3. bun but buzz buzzed  
4. just jump judge junk  
5. who ever whoever

6. up on upon bus  
7. run ran runner running  
8. sun shine sunshine sunny  
9. for fōur forty stork



## **The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs**

One day a goose laid a golden egg. The man who owned the goose was very happy.”

Each day it laid another golden egg.

“I shall be rich,” said the man.

But he was greedy.

“This goose must be stuffed with gold,” he said. “I shall cut it open to see.

And he did. But there was no gold inside. The goose was just like other geese.

“What a fool I am!” said the man. “I have killed the goose that laid the golden egg.”

## Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. At the end the man felt \_\_\_\_\_.

a. rich            b. sad

2. The man was \_\_\_\_\_.

a. greedy        b. giving

I do not like thee, Doctor Fell.

The reason why I cannot tell.

But this I know, and know full well.

I do not like thee, Doctor Fell.

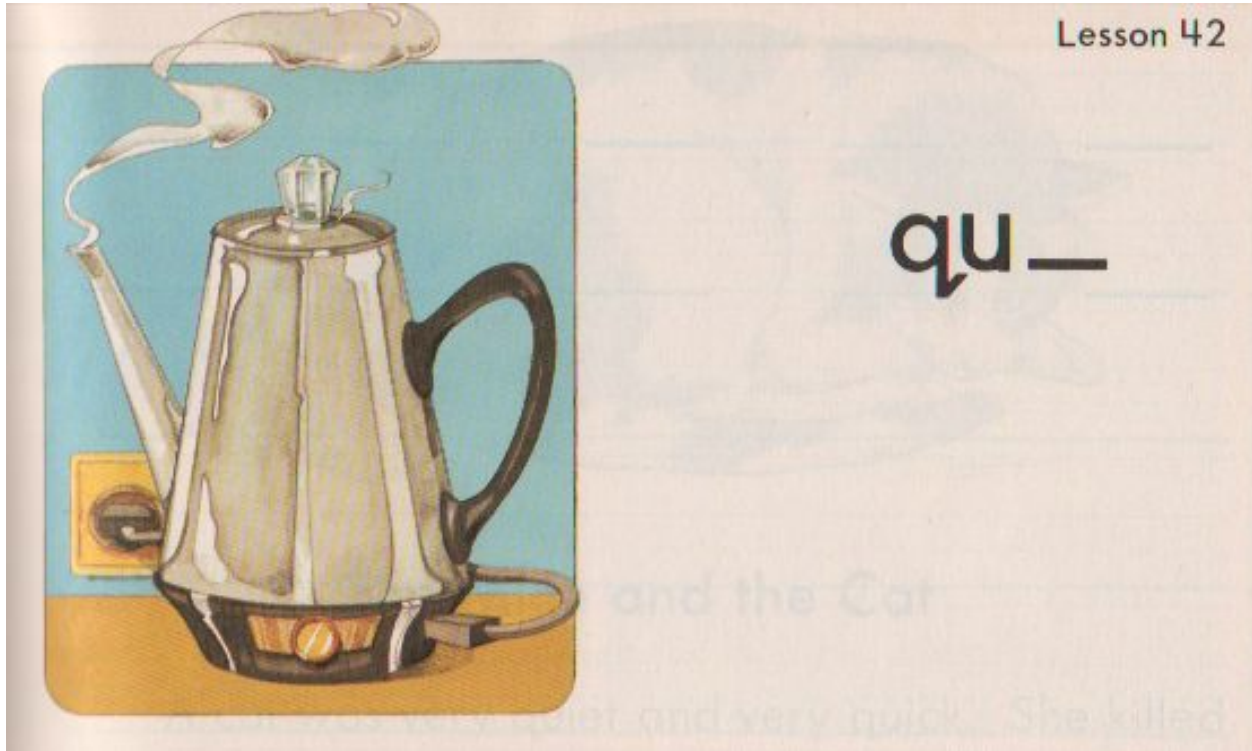
After rain comes sunshine.

sup            drum   scrub   today        hung

supper        duck   brush   tonight    hunger

suppose      dug    dust        together   hungry

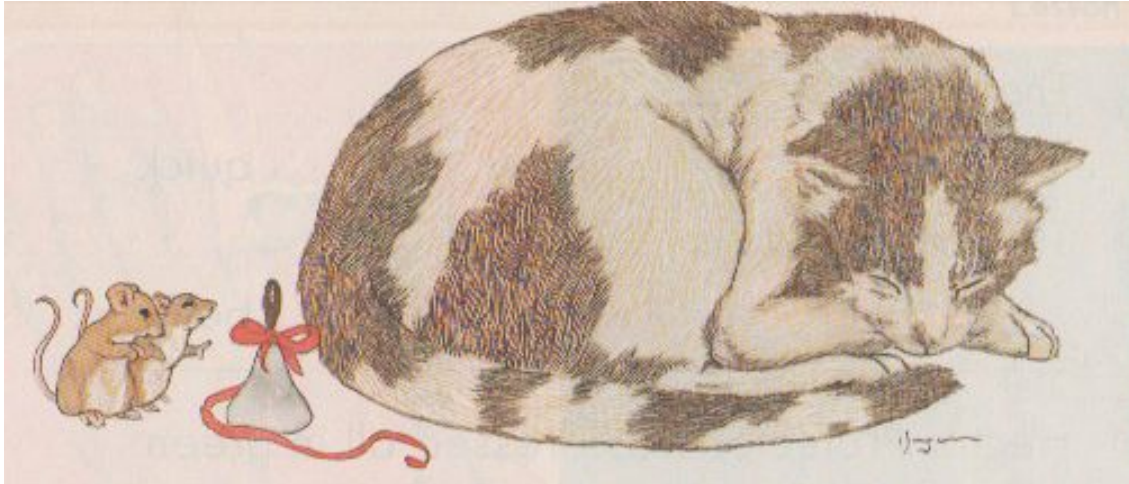
## Lesson 42



qu\_\_ queen quack

Please be quiet. Thanks.

1. quick quickly quit quilt
2. quiet quite
3. such suck sunk summer
4. under until unless uncle
5. rub bug bump nut
6. weather whether
  
7. cents centipede
8. consider distracted protector



## The Mice and the Cat

A cat was very quiet and very quick. She killed lots of mice.

One day the mice got together. “What can we do?” asked the leader. “Each of us must think of a plan. The one with the best plan wins some cheese.”

One of the mice spoke up. “Let’s tie a bell to the cat’s neck,” he said. “If we hear her coming, we can get away.”

His plan was cheered by most of the mice.

“Do I get the cheese?” he asked.

“No,” said the leader. “While we are trying to tie on the bell, the cat will eat us.”



## Questions

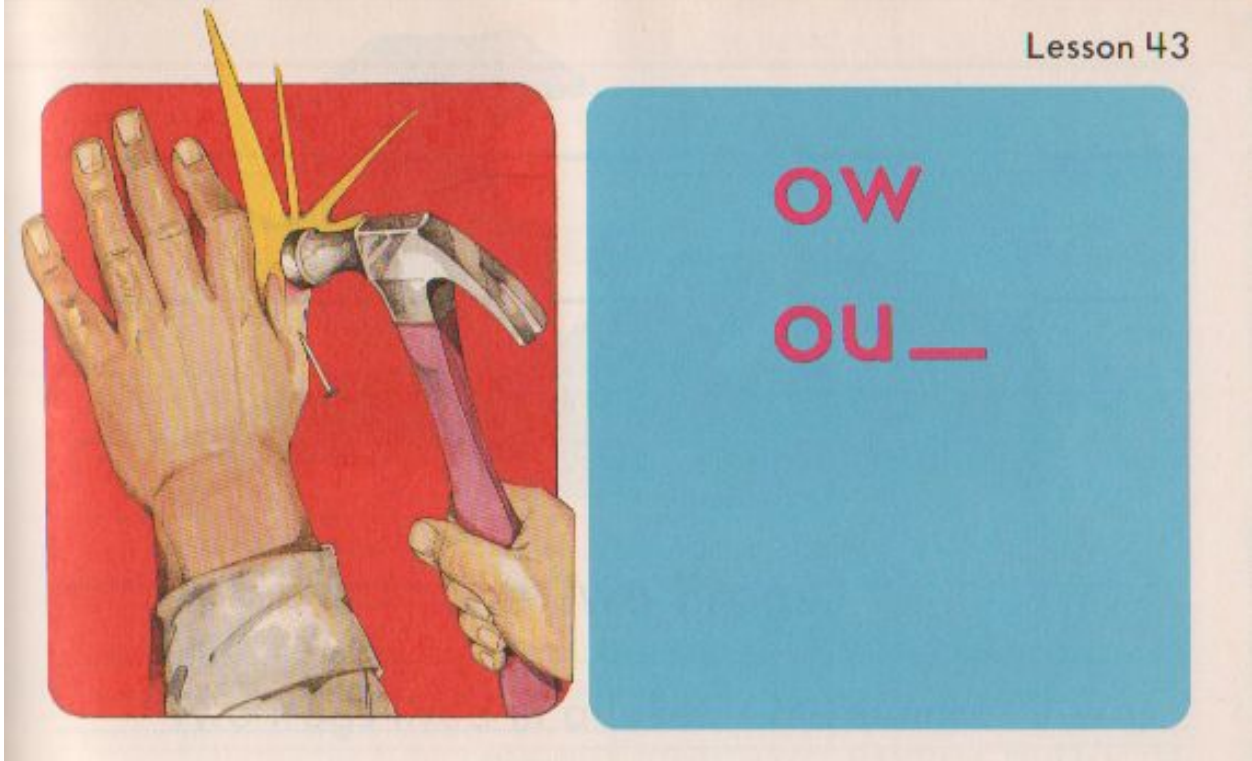
Circle the correct answer.

1. The cat was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. lazy    b. slow    c. quick
2. The mice made a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. pan    b. plan    c. bell

Hector Protector was dressed all in green.  
Hector Protector was sent to the Queen.  
The Queen did not like him,  
No more did the king  
So Hector Protector was sent back again.

Jack, be nimble. Jack, be quick.  
Jack, jump over the candlestick.

The centipede was happy quite  
Until a toad in fun  
Said, “Pray which leg goes after which?”  
Which raised her mind to such a pitch,  
She lay distracted in a ditch,  
Considering how to run.      – Mrs Edward Craster



OW now WOW

OU\_ cloud loud

Count to a thousand one.

1. how hound house howl
2. found sound round ground
3. out outside mouse mouth
4. crown town down brown
5. grow blow show throw
6. around about mountain
  
7. puddle shower flower tower
8. or unicorn sixpence April
9. plenty empty shelf shell



## The Two Frogs

Two frogs lived in a lake. One summer it was very, very hot. The lake dried up. The thirsty frogs hopped away to find water.

At last they found a deep well with a little water at the bottom.

“Let’s jump in,” said one.

“Now wait!” cried the other. “This well may dry up too. It is easy to jump down into a well, but it is not easy to jump out.”

## Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The lake was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. deep      b. dry      c. thirsty
2. The frogs were \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. thirsty    b. dry      c. deep
3. The well was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. deep      b. dry      c. thirsty

Dr. Foster went to Glo'ster,  
In a shower of rain.  
He stepped in a puddle, up to his middle.  
And never went there again.

The lion and the unicorn were fighting for the crown.  
The lion beat the unicorn all around the town.

Some gave them white bread,  
and some gave them brown.  
Some gave them plum cake,  
and drummed them out of town.

April showers bring May flowers.

Lesson 44. Review Lesson

like

lick

soak

sock

cute

cut

hound

house

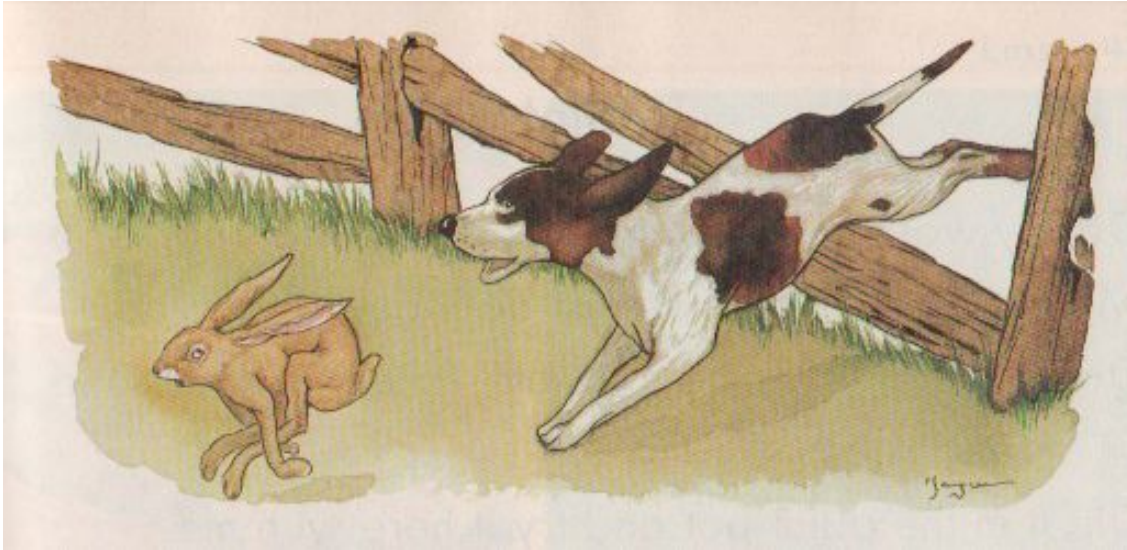
hose

mouth

mows

mouse

1. in bin thin spin
2. huge hug tack take
3. hide hiding hidden hid
4. our hour staff half
5. bread breath spread instead
6. today yesterday tomorrow
7. want oh hole whole
8. energy maybe O.K. okay



## **The Hare and the Hound**

A hound chased a hare up and down. After half an hour, the hound was out of breath. He gave up the chase.

“What a poor runner you are!” said his mistress. “Why didn’t you run faster than the hare?”

“It wasn’t a real race,” said the hound. “The hare was running to save his life. I was only running to catch my dinner.”



## Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The hound was out of breath from \_\_\_\_\_  
a. eating      b. singing      c. running
2. The hare was running \_\_\_\_\_  
a. for fun      b. for his life      c. for his dinner

## I Painted

Daddy was painting things. I wanted to, too.  
Mother said, "Painters must be bigger than you."  
Dad said. "Oh, maybe not. Take this brush and see.  
Dip it in the paint pot and try it here with me.

Daddy went in the house to get another shelf.  
I had an accident, all by myself.  
"Daddy, I spilled some! I spilled a lot!"  
Daddy said, "I'll say you did, the whole big pot."

Daddy cleaned up the paint. He didn't scold a bit.  
Mother helped. They wiped and wiped as if they'd never quit.  
I said, "Where do I paint next? Is over here okay?"  
Daddy said, "I think you have painted plenty today.

– Isabel Myers

Tomorrow is another day.

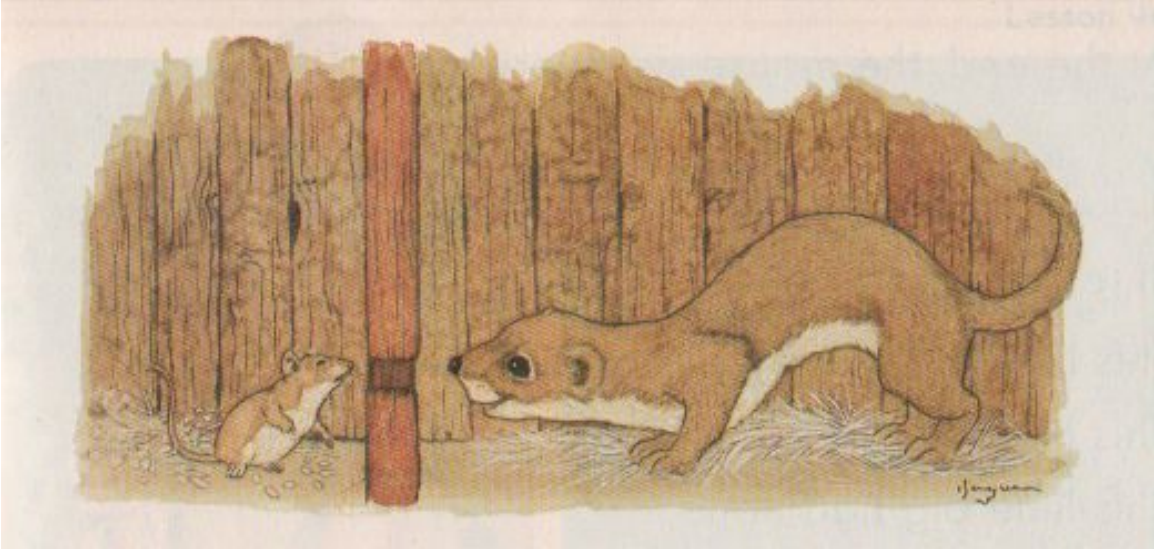
# Lesson 45



är    large    dark  
      barley    bark

Start the car.  
It's in the park.

1. stär stärt stärted stärtning
2. fär färm färmer färing
3. härd härder härdést härdly
4. bite bitten biting bit
5. bottöm done none sön
  
6. pärk bärk by buy
7. märk märket bärnyärd



## **The Mouse in the Barley Bin**

A farmer kept his barley in a large bin. The bin had a tiny hole in it

One day a hungry mouse found the hole. He was so thin that he was able to slip in.

The mouse ate and ate until he was fat and happy. Then he tried to leave. But the hole was tiny, and he was too fat.

A weasel was outside.

“How shall I get out,” the mouse asked.

“You must stop eating,” said the weasel. “You were thin when you got in. When you are thin again, you can get out”

## Questions

1. At the end, the mouse was very \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. thin      b. hungry      c. fat
2. What did the mouse need to do to get out?  
a. stop eating      b. eat more
3. The weasel was very \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. smart      b. confused.

This little pig went to market,  
This little pig stayed at home,  
This little pig had roast beef,  
This little pig had none,  
And this little pig cried, Wee-wee-wee  
All the way home.

To market, to market, to buy a fat pig.  
Home again, home again, jiggety jig.

To market, to market, but buy a fat hog,  
Home again, home again, jiggety job.

To market, to market, to buy a plum bun,  
Home again, home again, market is done.

Hitch your wagon to a star.

# Lesson 46



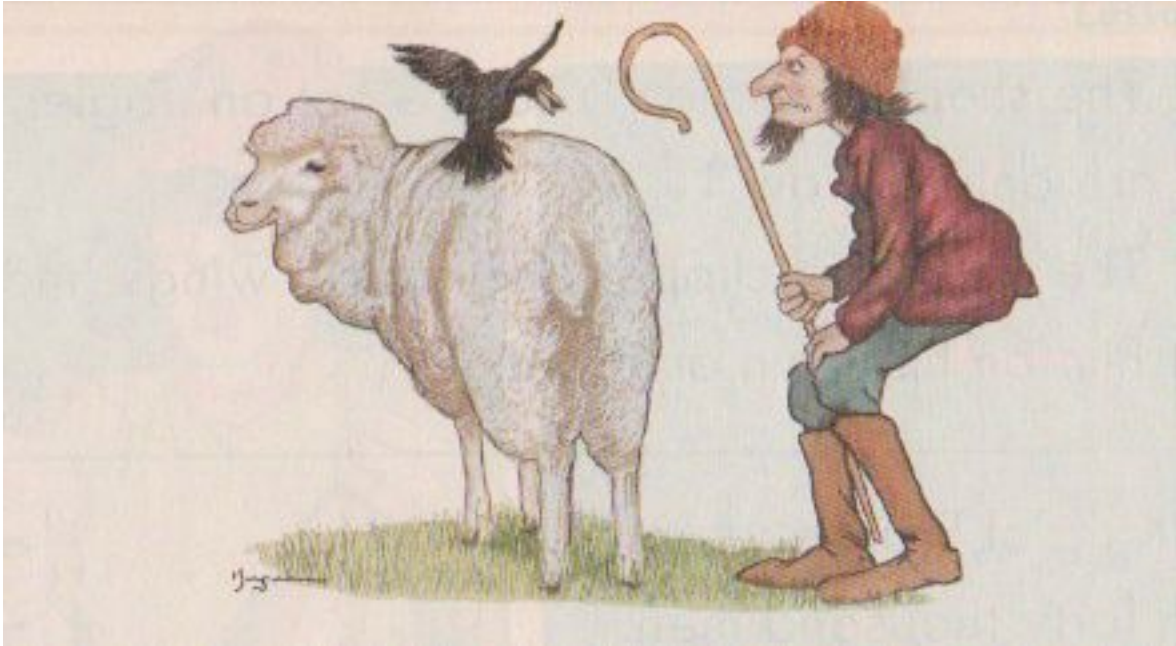
aw jaw law paw

au\_ haul maul

a tall call fall

I saw Paul fall in the hall.

1. saw raw draw straw
2. paw claw jaw jackdaw
3. paws pause caws cause
4. tall call stall small
5. dawn fawn yawn lawn
6. cause caught Paul Maud
7. caught taught naughty daughter
8. saw sauce hundred



## The Eagle and the Crow

A large eagle was flying high in the sky. On the ground below she saw a baby sheep. She swooped down and grabbed it in her claws and carried it away to her nest.

A small crow saw her do it.

“How easy that was,” said the crow. I shall try the same thing.

The crow saw a large sheep. He flew down and sank his claw into its coat. He flapped his wings, but the sheep was too heavy to lift. Then the crow tried to let go, but his claws were caught.



The shepherd caught him.  
The crow said, "It was easy for the eagle."  
The shepherd said, "You are not an eagle.  
You are only a crow."  
The shepherd clipped the crow's wings and  
kept him on his lawn as a pet.

The King of France went up the hill,  
With forty thousand men.  
The King of France came down the hill,  
And never went up again.

When angry, count to ten before you speak; if  
very angry, a hundred.

- Thomas Jefferson

spider	neat	for	draw	dark	décide
spinner	near	four	dawn	park	béfore
spinning	hear	forty	down	bark	béside

# Lesson 47



ô toss cross loss  
across lost cost

The soft cloth cost a dime.

1. t**o**ss      l**o**ss      b**o**ss      cr**o**ss

2. t**o**ssed    l**o**st      c**o**st      fr**o**st

3. **o**ff      **o**ffer    office    oft**en**

4. m**a**lt      s**a**lt      h**a**lt      f**a**ult

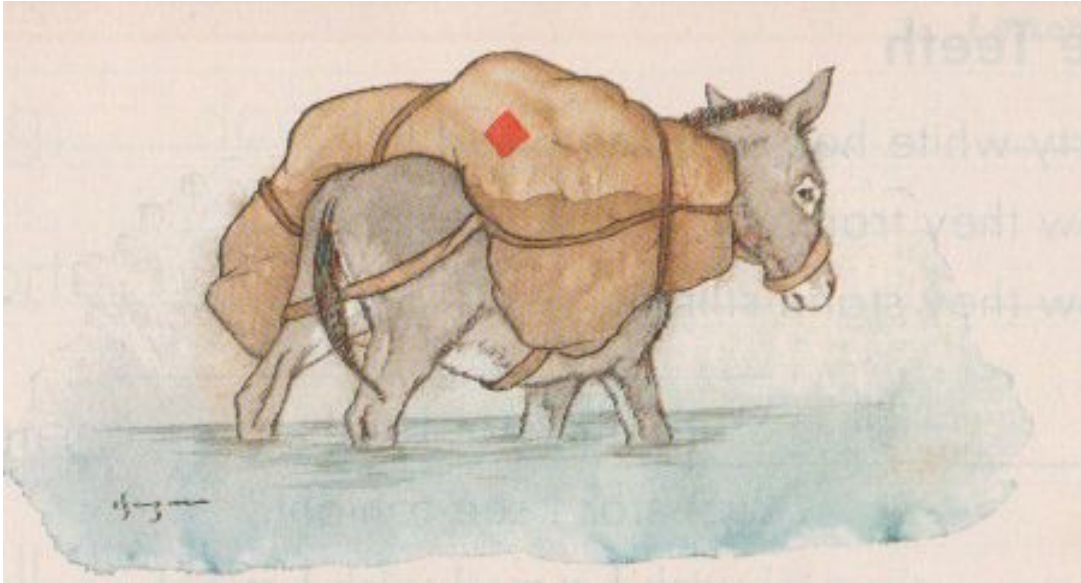
5. b**a**ll      f**a**ll      w**a**ll      w**a**ter

6. w**a**sh      w**a**sp      w**a**tch    w**a**nt

7. s**o**ft      cl**o**th      **a**cross    g**o**ne

8. sh**a**re      **a**shore    sh**o**rt      h**o**rse

9. h**e**ad    fore**h**ead    sp**o**nge    sp**o**ng**e**s



## **The Donkey and the Salt**

A donkey was loaded with heavy bags of salt. As he crossed a bridge, he slipped and fell into the stream below. The salt got wet and washed away. The donkey's load became lighter, and this pleased him.

The next day, he was loaded with bags of sponges. He came to the same stream.

He fell in, but his load did not get lighter. The sponges soaked up water and held it. His load became too heavy to carry.

## Questions

1. The donkey was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. wise      b. fast      c. surprised
2. The wet sponges made the Donkey \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. heavier    b. lighter    c. invisible

## The Teeth

Thirty white horses upon a red hill,  
Now they tramp, now they champ,  
Now they stand still.

Star light, star bright,  
First star I see tonight,  
I wish I may, I wish I might  
Have the wish I wish tonight.

áway	stay	splash	kite	start
álong	stars	snap	kitten	stair
álong	stairs	snapped	mitten	star

Lesson 48. Review

dog

short

water

walk

caught

bought

dock duck dog

stick fix six

1. stair stairs stare stared

2. auk walk talk chalk

3. or for four pour

4. caught thought bought along belong

5. dog log song strong gong

6. cause because

7. taught ought fought brought

8. her earn learn early



## The Greedy Dog

A dog stole a bone and ran away with it in his jaws.

Soon he came to a stream. He started to cross it on a fallen log. As he walked, he stared down into the water. There he saw another dog with another bone.

He paused.

“His bone is bigger than mine,” he thought. He snapped at it.

As he did, his own bone fell into the water.

“My bone is gone,” said the dog, “because I was too greedy.”



Auk, auk, why don't you walk?  
Why don't you walk or fly?  
How can it be nice  
to sit on the ice  
And watch the gray sea go by?

Live and learn.

A penny saved is a penny earned.

Don't count your chickens before they  
hatch.

June	sleep	beagle	hop	out	odd
Joan	sleet	equal	hope	now	hold
Jack	sheep	eagle	hoop	up	old

Lesson 49. Review

dinner

diner

able

middle

tiger

bigger

lone

line

lion

loin

jacks

joker

jacket

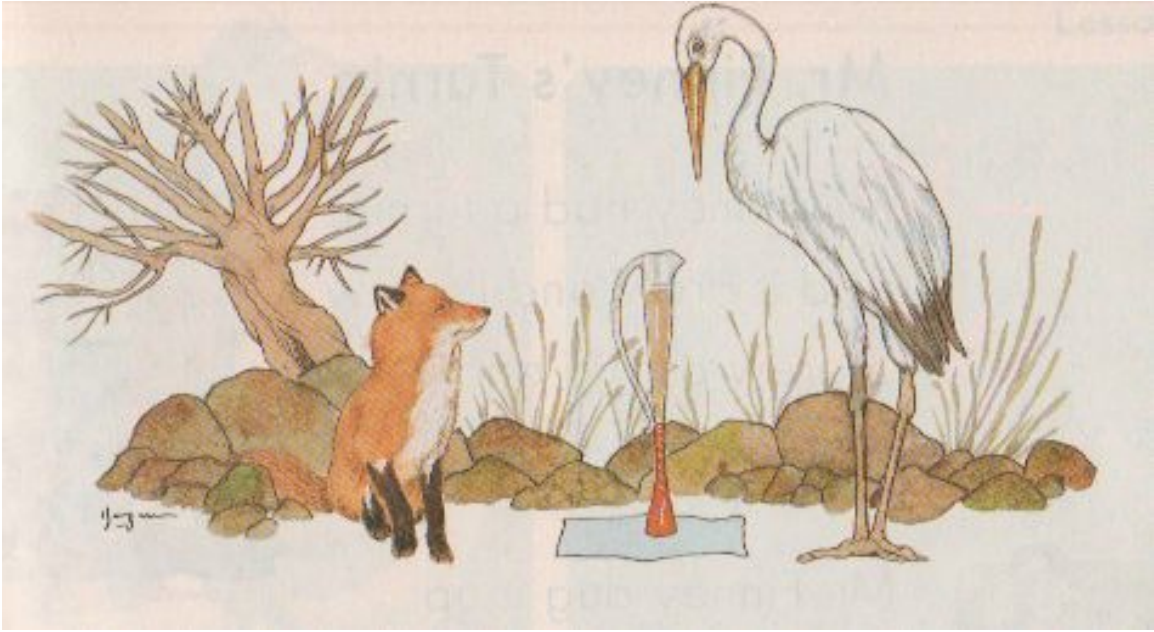
jet

1. off soft cloth broth
2. little ripple riddle middle
3. apple circle table bugle
4. tip lap act after
5. born corn corner morning

6. war warn warm warmth

7. thought fought bought brought

8. give live have move



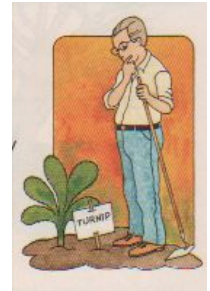
## **The Fox and the Stork**

One day a fox invited a stork for dinner. He decided to play a joke on the stork. He served the broth in a large, flat dish. The fox was able to lap up the broth very well. But the stork's bill was too long. Only the tip went in. The unhappy stork was not able to suck up the broth. She had to go home hungry.

The next day the stork invited the fox for dinner. The stork served the food in a tall, thin pitcher. Her long bill went into it very well, but the jaw of the fox was too short. This time, the fox had to go home hungry.

# Mr. Finney's Turnip

Mr. Finney had a turnip,  
And it grew and it grew.  
It grew as big and heavy  
As turnips ever do.



Mr. Finney dug it up  
And scrubbed away each spot.  
Mrs. Finney cut it up  
And dropped it in the pot.



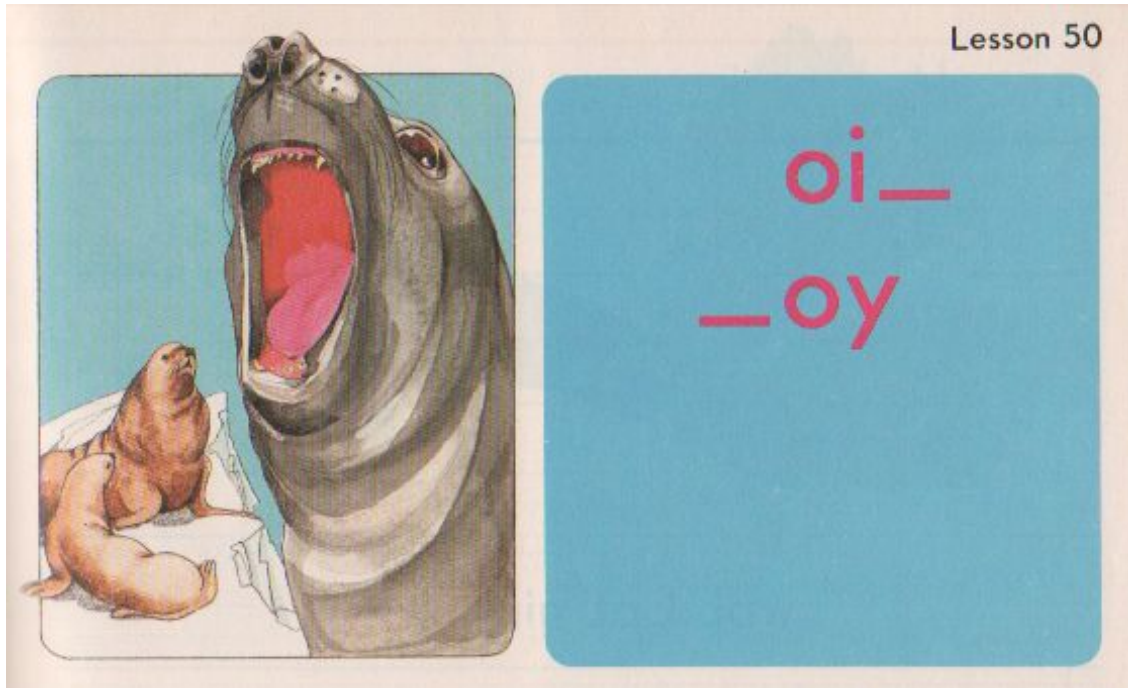
They stewed it and stewed it  
As long as they were able.  
They drained away the water  
And set it on the table.



Mr. Finney and his wife  
They began to sup.  
And they ate and they ate  
And they ate that turnip up.



## Lesson 50



oi\_\_ boil spoil toil

\_oy boy toy coy

What a noisy boy!

1. joy join joined joyful
2. boy boys noise noisy
3. soil spoil point pointer
4. sea pea peacock
5. pair spare fair chair
6. they they're their there where
7. ever everyone everything everywhere
8. ate great greatly break



## The Vain Jackdaw

A noisy jackdaw found some peacock feathers. He jumped with joy. “These are just right for a fine bird like me,” he said.

Quickly he tied them to his own tail. Then he joined the peacocks and pretended to be one of them. The real peacocks spoiled his plan.

“You have only a few peacock feathers,” they said. “You are not one of us.”

They plucked out the peacock feathers. Then they plucked out his real feathers too. They sent him back to the other jackdaws.



The other jackdaws stared at him.  
“You have no jackdaw feathers,” they said.  
“You are not one of us.”  
They drove him away too.

Three little kittens they lost their mittens,  
And they began to cry,  
“Oh, mother dear, we sadly fear  
That we have lost our mittens.”  
“What! lost your mittens, you naughty kittens.  
Then you shall have no pie.”  
“Mee-ow, mee-ow, mee-ow.”  
“No, you shall have no pie.”

The three little kittens they found their mittens,  
And they began to cry,  
“Oh, mother dear, see here, see here,  
For we have found our mittens.”  
“Put on your mittens, you silly kittens,  
And you shall have some pie.”  
“Purr-r, purr-r, purr-r.  
Oh, let us have some pie.”

# Lesson 51



oo good wood foot

u pull full put bull

would could should

1. good    wood    hood    stood
2. book    brook    crook    crooked
3. took    look    hook    shook
4. pull    push    bull    bush
5. wood    would    could    should
  
6. cook    cookie    wooden    good-bye
7. some    someone    something    somewhere
8. London    master    stile    pussycat



## **The Wolves and the Sheep**

The wolves liked to eat sheep, but the sheep dogs kept them away. One day a wolf came to the brook where the sheep drank. The sheep stood back.

“We are now good wolves,” said the wolf. “You can trust us. Let’s all live in peace.”

“Good,” said the sheep.

“Send away your dogs,” said the wolves.

“No” said the sheep. “If we send our dogs away, you could eat us.”

The wolf shook his head. “We have changed. Don’t we look like good wolves now? We will let you keep our babies.”

“All right,” said the sheep.

So the silly sheep sent away their dogs. They kept the baby wolves instead. But soon the baby wolves became hungry. They cried for their mothers. The big wolves came.

“You have made our babies cry,” they said. “You have broken the peace. Now we must eat you.”

The wolves ate the sheep. They took their babies and went home.

Baa, baa, black sheep,  
Have you any wool?  
Yes, sir, yes, sir,  
Three bags full,  
One for my master,  
And one for my dame,  
And one for the little boy  
Who lives down the lane.



Look before you leap.

Lesson 52

kn\_\_ knot know

gn\_\_ gnat gnaw

wr\_\_ write wring

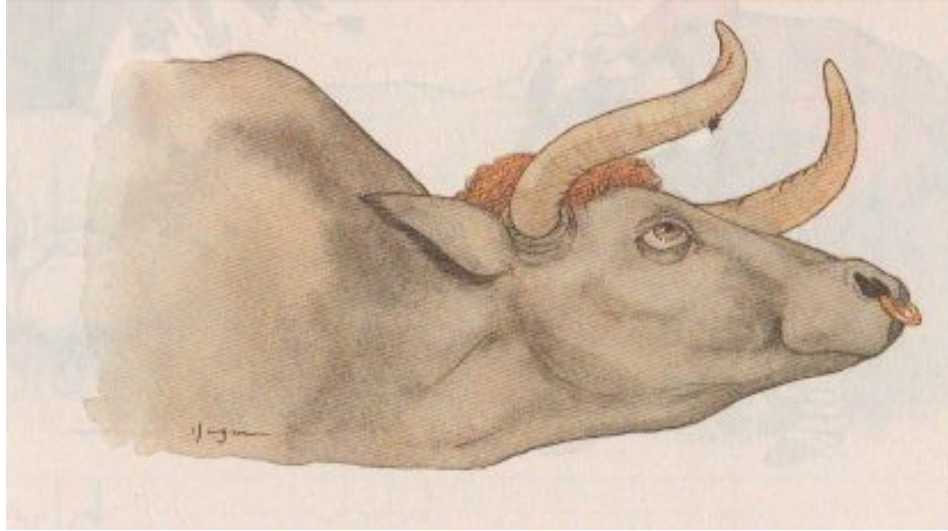
\_\_mb lamb thumb

c<sup>o</sup>me c<sup>o</sup>mb cone

l<sup>a</sup>me l<sup>a</sup>mp l<sup>a</sup>mb

1. no know nose knows
2. nod knock not knob
3. rap wrap wrapped wrapper
4. wreck wring wrote wrung
5. long wrong strong song
6. Nat gnat gnaw gnome
7. lamb limb lime climb
8. stairs stare pair wear





## The Gnat and the Bull

One day a bull was wading in a stream. A gnat flew over to him and sat on his horn.

“Am I too heavy for you?” buzzed the gnat. “It is wrong to make you carry someone as heavy as I. Shall I fly away?”

“Fly or stay as you like,” said the bull. “I really did not know you were there.”

Matching – Write the correct letter on the line.

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| __1. The bull was wading | a. on his horns. |
| __2. The gnat sat        | b. light.        |
| __3. The gnat was very   | c. heavy         |
| __4. The bull was very   | d. in a stream.  |



## **The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing**

A wolf wrapped himself in the skin of a sheep and got into a sheep pen. He ate a lamb, but at last the sheep found him.

“Don't throw me out,” said the wolf. “I'm one of your sheep.”

“No” said the sheep. “You're only pretending to be a sheep. I know you are really a wolf.”

“How do you know?” asked the wolf. “I look like a sheep.”

“Yes,” said the sheep. “But you act like a wolf.” He beat the wolf with a stick and drove him away.

Lesson 53

wör

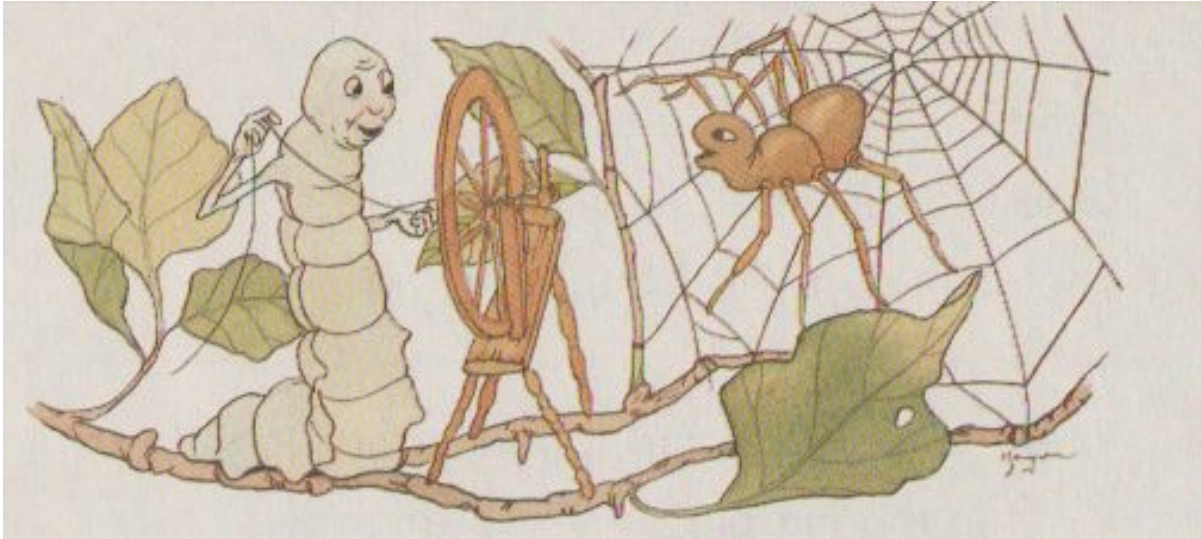
wörm wörk wörld

knee know knew

knife night knight

root roof woof

1. wòrd wòrld wòrth wòrry
2. wòrk wòrked wòrker wòrshop
3. pòor bad wòrse wòrst
4. dòve lòve glòve àbòve
5. nòne dònè sòme còme
6. gum thumb dumb crumb
7. night knight knife knives
8. knee kneel new knew



## **The Silkworm and the Spider**

A silkworm and a spider were working side by side. The silkworm was spinning silk very slowly. The spider was spinning her web very fast.

“See how quickly I spin,” said the spider. “You must be the slowest worker in the world.”

“Your words are true,” said the silkworm, “but my work is worth more than yours. People love my silk, but they brush your cobwebs away.”

Matching – Put the correct letter on the line.

- |                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| ___ 1. The spider worked | a. cobwebs. |
| ___ 2. People like       | b. faster.  |
| ___ 3. People brush away | c. silk.    |

See-Saw Sacradown,  
Which is the way to London town?  
One foot up, the other foot down,  
That is the way to London town.

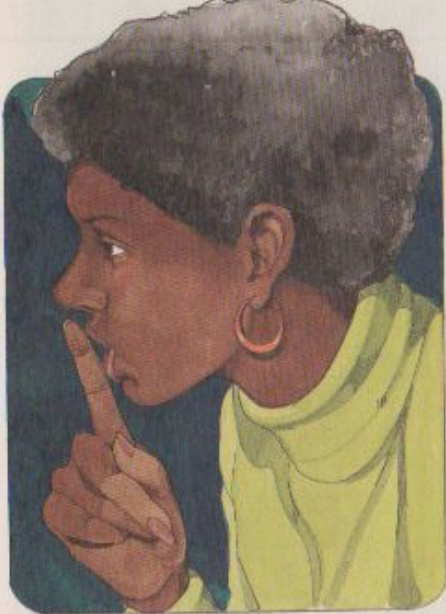
There was a little girl, and she had a little curl,  
Right in the middle of her forehead.  
When she was good, she was very, very good.  
But when she was bad, she was horrid.

What's worth doing is worth doing well.


write	leads	wrapper	diner	brave
writing	leaf	writer	dinner	behaved
right	least	written	thinner	behave

# Lesson 54

Lesson 54



sh  
-ti-  
-ci-



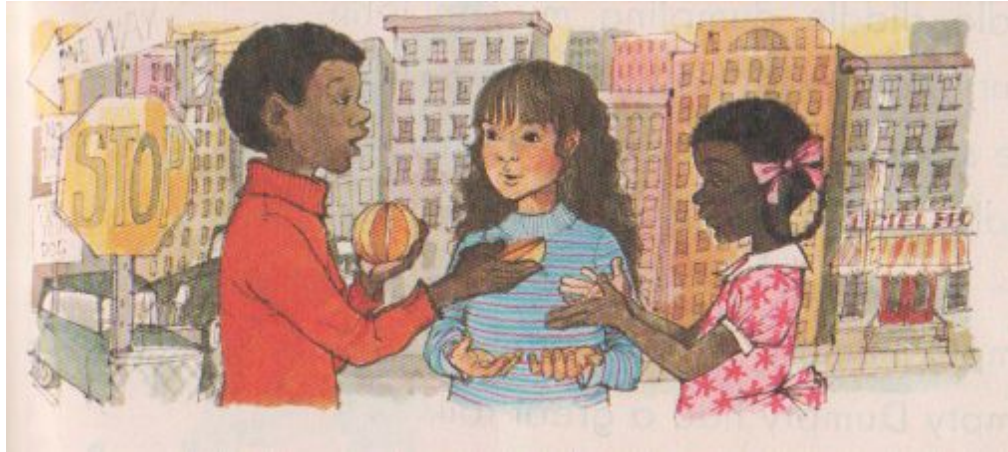
-s-

-ti- -ti- -ci- -ci-

patient special pleasure

1. nātiòn      stātiòn  
    questiòn    àtteniòn
2. add            àdditiòn  
    subtract    subtractiòn
3. divide      divisiòn    télévisiòn
4. speciàl    pātiènt    pātiènce
  
5. use            ūṣūàl      ūṣūàlly
6. plěaṣure    měaṣure    trěaṣure
7. voice        choice
8. womàn      womèn      John





## **Special Things to Learn**

Addition means to add,  
Subtraction take away,  
Division means divide it up  
As fairly as you may.

## **The Whole Duty of Children**

A child should always say what's true  
And speak when he is spoken to,  
And behave mannerly at table,  
At least as far as he is able.

-Robert Louis Stevenson

Diddle, diddle, dumpling, my son John  
Went to bed with his breeches on,  
One stocking off, and one stocking on,  
Diddle, diddle, dumpling, my son John.

## Humpty Dumpty

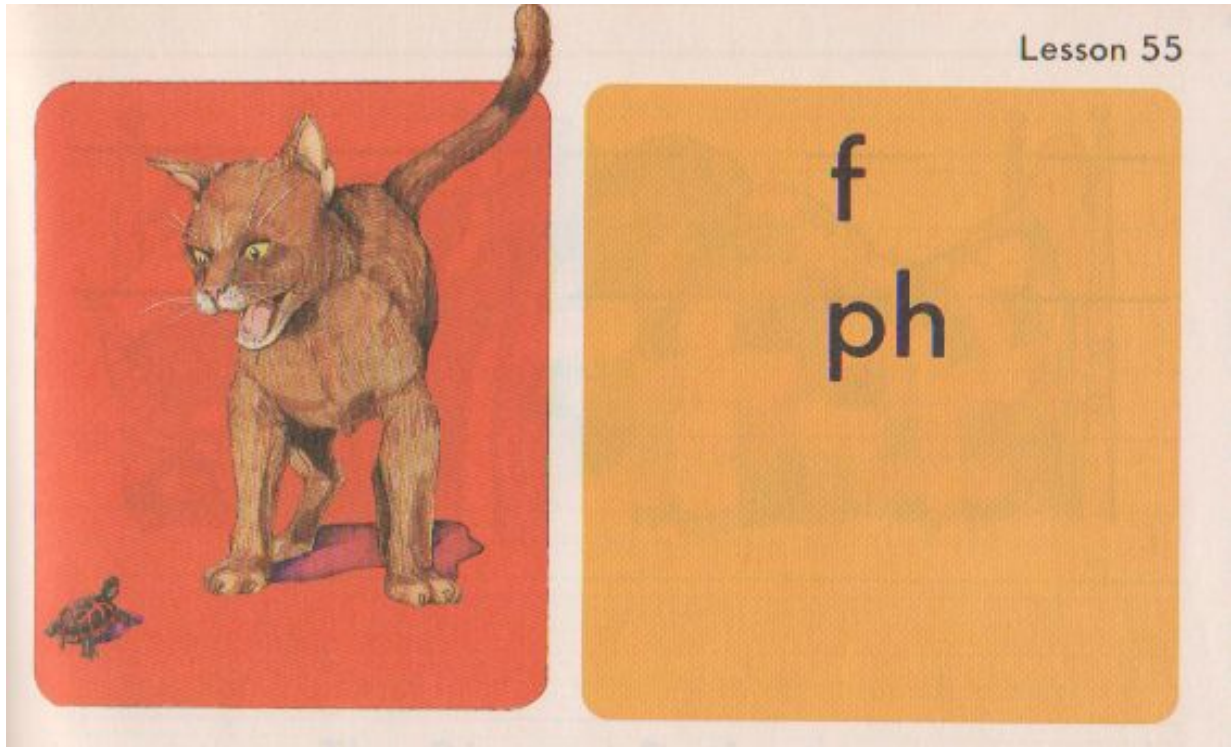


Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.  
All the King's horses, and all the king's men  
Couldn't put Humpty together again.

The early bird catches the worm.

ice	race	dance
eyes	raise	prance
is	rays	France

# Lesson 55

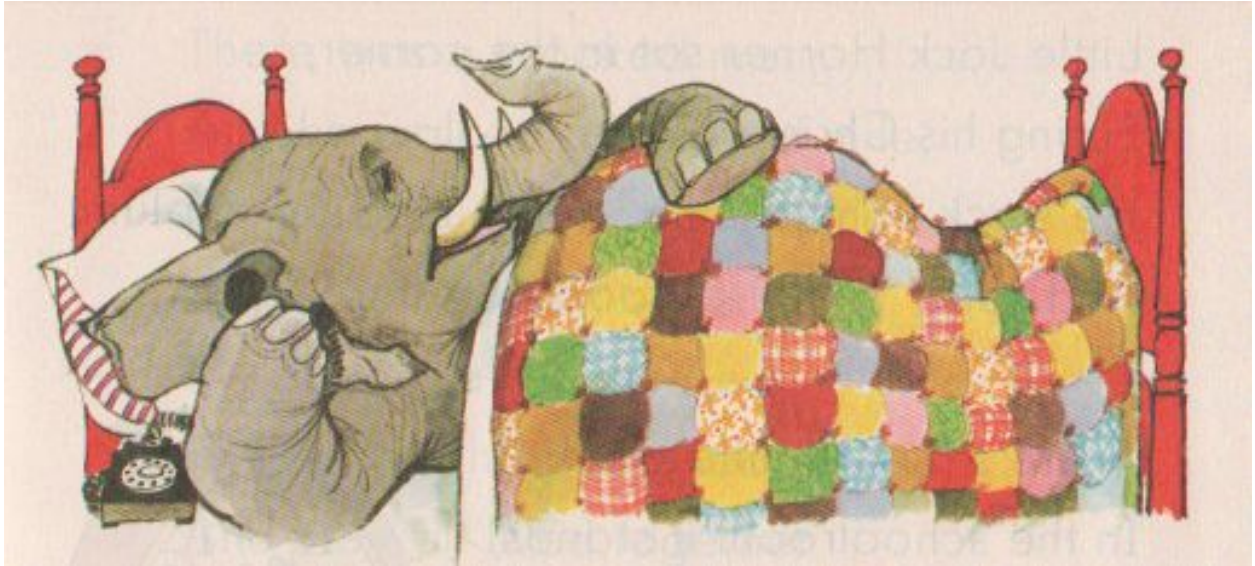


ph phone Philip

ch Christmas

He has a stomachache.

1. Philip            éléphánt
2. mūsic            mūsián
3. physics          physicián
4. take āche    make    āching
  
5. alphábet        Ralph    graph
4. phōtō            phōtograph
6. autograph      télégraph
8. echō    s̄chōol    s̄chōolrōom



## The Biggest Patient

Philip was an elephant.  
He had a stomachache.  
He phoned for a physician,  
Who gave him pills to take.

fix            eight          service

five          ache          circus

phone       ace          circle

Little Jack Horner sat in the corner.  
Eating his Christmas pie.  
He stuck in his thumb, and pulled out a plum,  
And said, "What a good boy am I!"

There's a neat little clock,  
In the schoolroom it stands,  
And it points to the time  
With its two little hands.

And may we, like the clock,  
Keep a face clean and bright,  
With hands ever ready  
To do what is right.



A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

"Pussycat, pussycat, where have you been?"

"I've been to London to look at the queen."

"Pussycat, pussycat, what did you there?"

"I frightened a little mouse under her chair."

There was a crooked man,  
And he walked a crooked mile,  
He found a crooked sixpence  
    against a crooked stile.  
He bought a crooked cat,  
Which caught a crooked mouse,  
And they all lived together  
    in a crooked little house.

“I went up one pair of stairs.”

    “Just like me.”

“I went up two pairs of stairs”

    “Just like me.”

“I went into a room.”

    “Just like me.”

“I looked out a window.”

    “Just like me.”

“And there I saw a monkey.”

    “Just like me.”

## **The Pessimist**

Nothing to eat but food,  
Nothing to breathe but air,  
Nothing to wear but clothes,  
Nothing to comb but hair.

Nowhere to go but out,  
Nowhere to come but back,  
Nothing to sing but songs,  
Ah, well, alas! alack!



## Word List for Lessons 25 – 28

it	cake	king
is	hit	wish
case	this	kick
die	came	stick
with	will	trick
make	oak	still
snake	poke	think
thing	call	drink
cold	kind	bring
care	pick	finger

## Word List for Lessons 29 – 32

lake	bath	bank
ice	can	ant
can't	mice	antlers
nice	animal	race
bad	face	place
damp	ran	rang
rat	fancy	fat
prance	icy	clear
flap	dance	clean
space	fast	flat

## Word List for Lessons 33 – 36

joke	last	sneeze
Jack	giant	huge
land	jacket	jam
age	bridge	cage
lots	please	wild
clock	sack	got
fox	lock	sank
not	socks	ax
ox	trot	mix
drop	angry	stop

## Word List for Lessons 37 – 40

tell	head	catch
ten	help	change
leg	heavy	chance
left	sent	never
read	ready	each
reach	better	yet
white	people	which
why	rich	while
ditch	when	wheel
next	pitch	wet

## Word List for Lessons 41 – 44

stuff	just	quiet
stuck	jump	quite
such	much	judge
what	cut	must
quick	but	cup
buzz	until	out
how	queen	open
ground	down	house
quack	now	summer
found	around	mouse

## Word List for Lessons 45 – 48

large

farm

hall

dark

across

saw

star

claw

soft

lawn

start

small

jaw

far

haul

draw

cost

hard

pause

lost

fall

walk

water

or

wash

for

want

caught

thought

salt

## Word List for Lessons 49 – 52

strong	pointer	wood
toy	good	little
boil	middle	full
noisy	joy	boy
foot	pull	join
spoil	comb	know
stood	lamb	look
wrapper	write	should
wrong	took	could
would	gnat	knock

## Word List for Lessons 53 - 55

addition	word	put
world	knee	subtraction
worth	patience	knife
division	worm	thumb
usually	elephant	work
brook	dumb	special
patient	bull	phone
question	voice	Christmas
stomach	ache	musician
Philip	pleasure	joyful



Notes on this Document  
by a Previous Teacher and Ardent Admirer  
of the Original Open Court Phonics Reading Program  
June 12, 2009

I prepared this document of excerpts from the original Long-Vowel-First Phonics Reading Program as it left the hands of Priscila McQueen and was subsequently revised by Ann Hughes and others for publication by the Open Court Publishing Company owned by Brouke Carus and his family. There were two distinguishing marks of this program. 1. Long vowels were taught first with most of the consonants. 2. All the sentences and stories were totally decodable without the need of any sight-word instruction.

Several controlled studies over the years, as well as high levels of student success in classrooms of diverse populations across the nation, confirm the overwhelming superiority of the program to produce superb literacy levels. I recommend especially Miss Geraldine Rodgers' 1977-78 oral reading research *Why Jacques, Johann and Jan Can Read*.

It is my sincere hope that curriculum developers will consider the unique properties of this **type of long-vowel-first program** in developing superior readers among ALL students. It has proven particularly valuable in preventing artificially induced whole-word dyslexia in young children. Older students who are victims of sight-words instruction (whole-language, guided-reading, balanced-literacy) will be able to improve their fluency and comprehension by switching from whole-word guessing to accurate phonetic decoding with the use of this long-vowel-first approach.

I should add that one reason for my personal passion for this program is the fact that two of my children learned to read with it. They are both superior readers. I actually taught the entire program to my son in the evenings after school so I am intimately acquainted with the program. I also use it in my daily tutoring because it assures fast and sure progress with every student.

Although the program is - unfortunately - not in publication anymore, all the superior benefits can be achieved with another program which is based on the same underlying linguistic theory and pedagogical processes: *School Phonics* published by Didax.

I will be publishing more information on vowel-first approaches to teaching beginning reading on my web site, [www.donpotter.net](http://www.donpotter.net), as I expand my research into this methodology.

Thanks to Miss Kayla Westfall, a fourth grade student, for helping me edit this document. She is the first student to finish reading all of Sounds to Letters with me.

This document was last edited on 7/28/09.