



Write-in Reader Book 3

Treachery in the Timber

Build words with
ey, oo, oi, oy,
tch, ou and ow!



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A Noise in the Woods

The sun shone and smiled on the deep snow in Pine Hollow. The snow sparkled and glittered like a blanket of diamonds. Dash and Scoot were sure they'd find treasure chests beneath the snow.



The wind blew through Pine Hollow, but no longer did the critters need to wear scarves and hats. The wind did not bite and freeze their whiskers any more!

The three aunts knew spring would be coming soon. The critters would have many chores to do once spring came. Chirp was glad the snow hadn't melted yet. She wanted more free time to have fun! Chirp didn't want to do any spring chores!

This was Sir Finch's favorite time of year. He loved flying over the woods covered in sparkly snow.

Chirp knew this and invited Sir Finch to join her in visiting her family. Sir Finch was glad to come. The two friends flew to visit her family and cousins, Dirk and Kirk. Chirp couldn't wait to see her cousins. They were circus critters. The last time Chirp saw her cousins, they asked her to join the circus. Sir Finch hoped Chirp's cousins wouldn't ask her to leave Pine Hollow again. He didn't want Chirp to be a circus critter!



The two birds flew; Chirp sang and Sir Finch listened and watched the scenery below him. The sea of snow-capped pine trees slowly changed to bare branches of birch trees.

"We're almost there!" Chirp whistled.

Chirp sang louder. The coming enjoyment and pleasure of seeing her family was too much! She sang even louder. Sir Finch smiled at Chirp. Then a loud echoing howl filled the woods. Sir Finch stopped smiling. Chirp stopped singing. The two birds gulped.

"Did you hear that?" Chirp asked.

"I wish I hadn't!" Sir Finch exclaimed.

"What should we do?" Chirp whispered.

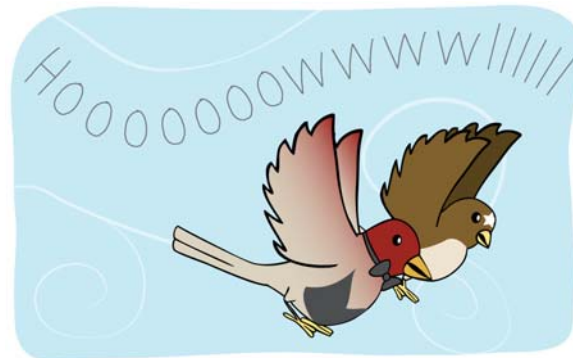
"We must be -- " Sir Finch began.

Awww -- Howl! Awwooo!

"We must be sure that what we heard is. . . well, we have to be sure we guessed right!" Sir Finch said. Chirp nodded.

The two friends flew toward the terrible noise. The birds had heard the terribly scary story about the wolf pack in Pine Hollow. The birds were glad that they were safely hidden high in the branches of the trees; the wolves couldn't catch them!

Chirp imagined the wolf pack running through the woods. Chirp hoped that the wolves hadn't returned.



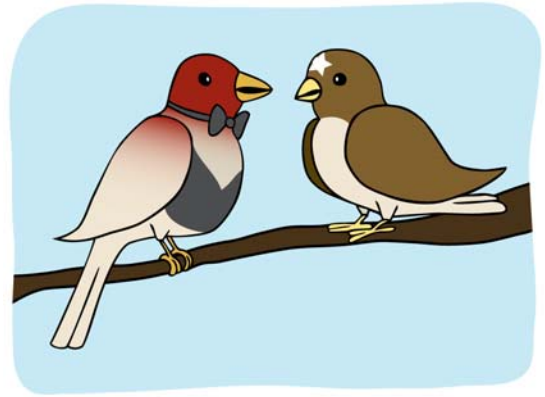
Chirp and Sir Finch landed on a large tree branch. They waited for the noise to return. They didn't know if they were closer to the sound or not. They waited. Chirp and Sir Finch held their breath -- waiting.

Chirp and Sir Finch then heard a sad bark. It sounded like the creature was hurt! The two birds stared at each other. The creature sounded small and helpless.

"Sir Finch, we have to help," Chirp whispered.

"What if it is a wolf?" Sir Finch asked.

"Well," Chirp began. "I just know we have to help. We cannot leave without trying."



"All right," Sir Finch said. "I'll lead the way."

Chirp and Sir Finch were sure the creature was hidden behind a pile of rocks and boulders. Sir Finch led the way.

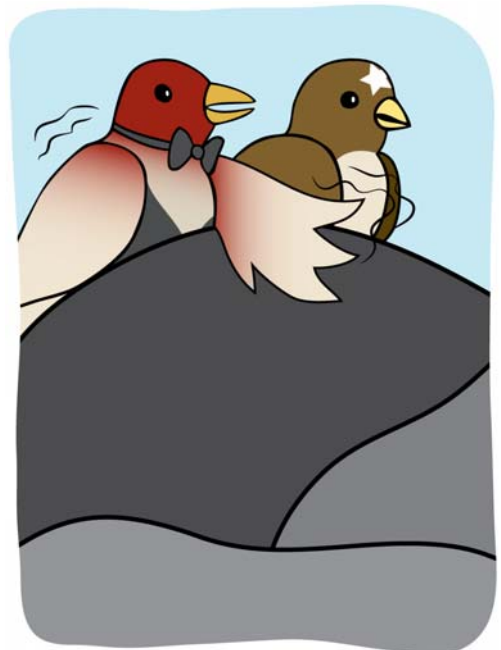
The two birds landed on top of the pile of boulders. At the base of the pile was a small gray bundle of fur and ears. It was curled up into a small ball.

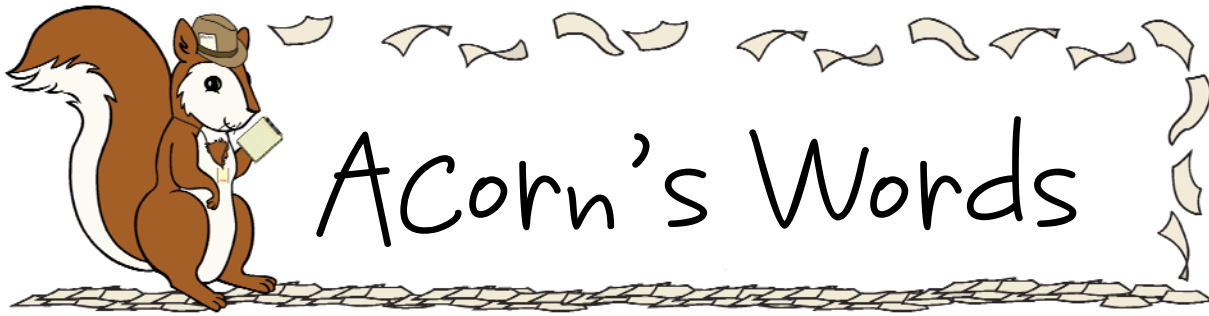
"Oh, look -- !" Chirp began.

The furry gray critter looked up. The critter had pointed ears with white fur on each tip. They looked like small mountains with snow on top. The critter also had a white furry belly. The critter began to wag its tail and whined a bit.

"Chirp!" Sir Finch pointed. "That's a wolf! That's a wolf!" Sir Finch said. Sir Finch shook all over.

Have wolves returned to Pine Hollow?





Sound it Out

Sound out the letters to read these "ture," "sure," and "zure" words below. Some of these words will be in your reading this week.

feature	seizure	venture	future	adventure
picture	structure	pressure	nature	sculpture
closure	pleasure	mature	culture	signature
sure	moisture	torture	measure	furniture

The Articles "A" and "An"

The words "a" and "an" are articles. These articles are used before a noun that is singular. The word "singular" means means only one of something. The "a" article is used in front of nouns beginning with a consonant sound.

The article "an" is used in front of nouns beginning or making a vowel sound. Sometimes a word will start with a consonant but the consonant isn't said and a vowel sound is said first. The word "hour" is one of those words. The article "an" would be used before this noun even though it begins with the letter "h."

Here are some samples of what you've just learned:

Scout found a leaf.

Dash saw an egg. Dash was hungry an hour before lunch.

For today's exercise read each word and fill in the correct article before each word, either "a" or "an."

1. _____ pasture

2. _____ honor

3. _____ elevator

4. _____ mixture

5. _____ otter



6. _____ sculpture

7. _____ wolf

8. _____ squirrel

9. _____ eye

10. _____ alligator



Secret Spelling Words

Sound out the letters to read the spelling words below.

future mixture nature pasture treasure
 fracture capture vulture creature adventure

Vocabulary Words

Sound out the letters to read these vocabulary words below. You will practice reading and using these words all week.

torture pasture pressure fracture dangerous

Add & Write.

Add the correct word ending: either TURE or SURE and then write the word on the handwriting line below.

mix _____

trea _____

pas _____

fu _____

pres _____

cap _____

na _____

pas _____



Remember the Story.

Think about the story.

Mark the answer that is shown in the picture.



1. Is Chrip . . .
- chasing Sir Finch?
 - flying and singing?
 - searching for Sir Finch?



2. Are Sir Finch and Chrip . . .
- looking for twigs?
 - lost in the woods?
 - hearing a howl?



3. Is Chrip imagining . . .
- a wolf pack running?
 - being chased by wolves?
 - a pack of wolves sleeping?



4. Sir Finch and Chrip see . . .
- a wolf.
 - a gray badger.
 - a bear covered in mud.

A Helpless Wolf Pup

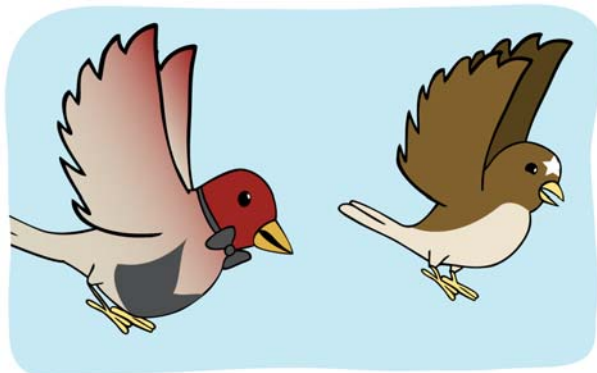
Sir Finch jumped into the air. "We're leaving, Chirp!"

Chirp didn't move. She looked at the cheerful wolf pup. The wolf pup tried to stand but he fell down again and again. Sir Finch was getting very impatient!

"Hurry up, Chirp," Sir Finch said. "I didn't go on this trip to have an adventure with a hungry wolf!"

"He's not hungry," Chirp said.

"Not hungry," Sir Finch said. "Wolves are always hungry. How do you know he isn't hungry?" He imagined a wolf licking his lips.



"He looks alone and scared," Chirp said.

"A wolf can be scared, alone, and hungry, Chirp." Sir Finch sighed. "We are not close enough to know if he's hungry anyway!"

Chirp flew down from the tree straight toward the wolf pup. Sir Finch flew after her. He asked Chirp to stop but she wouldn't listen.

Chirp landed on top of a large boulder just above the wolf pup's mouth. Chirp smiled at the wolf pup. The wolf pup's eyes were bright and watery. Chirp was sure the wolf pup had been crying.

"Are you hurt?" Chirp asked between gulps. "Do you need help?"



Sir Finch didn't see that the critters near the lake had gathered around him. They heard him say *wolf* and they had to know what was going on. They all wanted to know if wolves were now part of Pine Hollow's future.



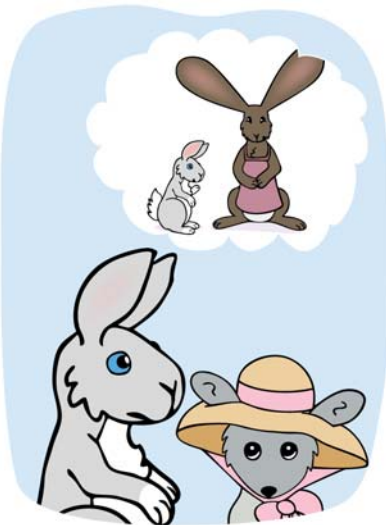
"Help a wolf," Tatty said. She imagined a wolf howling.

"Chirp found the wolf pup. She asked me to get help. The wolf pup's paw is caught under a rock," Sir Finch said. "I wasn't sure if I could trust the wolf pup, but Chirp was sure the wolf pup could be trusted."

"Well, if the wolf pup is hurt, I have to help."
Doctor Derby rubbed his chin.

"But if we help the wolf he might -- he might --"
Tatty was worried.

"Chirp trusts the wolf pup;
I think we should, too,"
Acorn said.



"We have to hurry. Chirp and the wolf pup are far from Pine Hollow," Sir Finch said.

Doctor Derby, the three raccoons, Acorn, Dash, and Scoot joined Sir Finch in returning to Chirp and the hurt wolf pup. Tatty and Button Bunny stayed in Pine Hollow. Tatty was terrified of wolves. She didn't want to be anywhere near the wolf! Button Bunny was scared, too. Her mother had taught her to

stay away from wolves. Wolves were dangerous!

Chirp and the wolf pup waited and waited, and it was getting dark. The wolf pup had fallen asleep. Chirp could hardly feel her beak. The night air was cold even though the snow was melting.

"I hope they come soon," Chirp said.

The wolf pup yawned and stretched his paws. He yipped and licked his stuck paw.



"I'm sorry, wolf pup, I didn't mean to wake you up," Chirp said. "Does it hurt?"

The wolf pup nodded. "Oh, my name is Howl," he said.

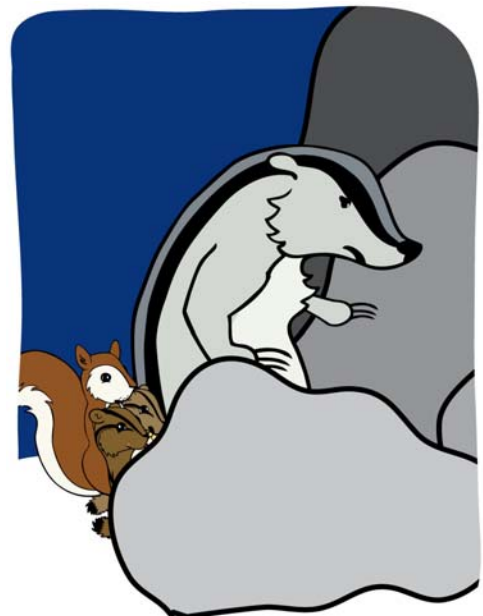
Chirp smiled. "I'm Chirp," she said. "What are you going to do once we get your paw out?"

Howl looked at his stuck paw. "I don't know. My wolf pack is far away by now. I don't know if I could -- "

Doctor Derby, Acorn, the three raccoons, Dash, and Scoot looked out from behind the tall pile of rocks. They saw Chirp and the wolf pup. The wolf pup was smaller than they all thought.

"The wolf pup doesn't look scary," Dash said.

"I don't think that wolf pup could hurt any of us," Buster said.



"He's quite small for a wolf," Swindle said.

"Well, I don't think he'd hurt or torture any one of us," Doctor Derby said. "Wolf pups must look big to birds. Come on, don't be scared," Doctor Derby said.



"Hello, Chirp," Acorn said.

"Hello, everyone!" Chirp said. "This is Howl," Chirp gestured toward Howl. Howl smiled.

"I'm Doctor Derby, Howl," he said. "I'm here to help you out."

The critters began to push and pull at the loose rocks in the rock pile. They had to be careful to not hurt Howl.

Howl watched the critters move the rocks. He could not wait to be free! Howl just wasn't sure what to do once he was free. His wolf pack thought he was lost in the snow. Now he didn't have a wolf pack. "A wolf isn't a wolf unless he's in a wolf pack," Howl said aloud.

"What did you say, Howl?" Chirp asked.

"Oh, nothing," Howl said. "Owww!" Howl yelled. He then howled loudly.

The critters jumped up. Howl could howl very loudly! Doctor Derby wasn't scared. He hoped the wolf pup's injury wasn't too bad.



Plurals

So far you've learned that to make words plural you add "s." If a word ends with the letters "s," "x," "z," "sh," or "ch" add the letters "es" to make it plural. This week you will learn how to make words that end with "o," "f," "fe," and "y" plural. Listed below are the rules for making words plural. Read them and complete the exercise below.

Words that End with "y"

When a word ends with the letter "y" and has a consonant before it, we change the "y" to an "i" and add an "es." If the word ends in a "y" but a vowel letter is before the "y", simply add the letter "s" to the word.

Words that End with "f" or "fe"

To make a word that ends with either an "f" or "fe" plural, remove the "f" or "fe" and insert the letter "v" and add "es." Some words disobey this rule: belief and chief. These words only need to add an "s" to make them plural.

Words that End with "o"

To make a word that ends with an "o" plural, add the letter "s." Some words disobey this rule: hero, potato, tomato, buffalo, and tornado. These words need "es" added to make them plural.

For the exercise below, write each word in its plural form.

1. shelf _____
2. patch _____
3. key _____
4. photo _____
5. loaf _____
6. scarf _____
7. store _____





Secret Spelling Words

Sound out the letters to read the spelling words below.

wolves daisies donkeys oxen deer
 moose knives children piano thieves

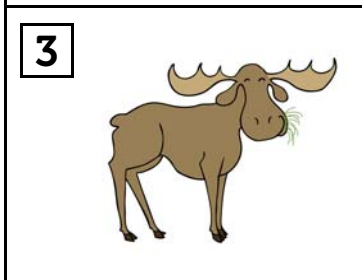
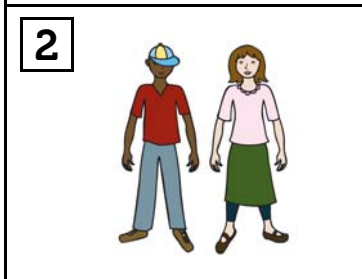
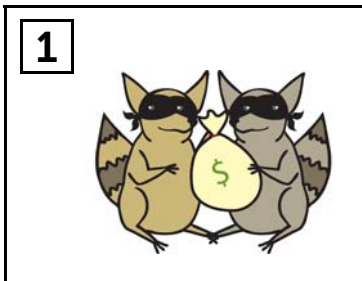
Vocabulary Words

Sound out the letters to read these vocabulary words below. You will practice reading and using these words all week.

disappear hobby scruffy task exchange

Pick a Box.

Look at each question. Pick the box whose picture correctly answers each question. Write the number of the box on the line.



1. ___ Which picture shows one of something?
2. ___ Which picture has more than one thief?
3. ___ Which picture is spelled with CH?
4. ___ Which picture is spelled with TH?
5. ___ Which picture lives in the woods?
6. ___ Which picture has four legs?
7. ___ Which picture is an unusual plural?
8. ___ Which picture is spelled with OO?
9. ___ Which picture would steal from a bank?

A Ransom

Buster, Bandit, Dash, and Scoot were now trapped with Swindle and Tatty in the second hole. They could hear the noise Rascal Dickens was making above their heads. He was having fun! He was laughing and cheering; this made the critters very unhappy.

"Rascal Dickens, let us out of this terrible trap!" Scoot ordered.

"Our friends will find us; you can't keep us trapped in here forever!" Dash yelled.

It was no use, Rascal Dickens kept on skipping and singing. Rascal Dickens poked his head over the hole and stuck his tongue out! He was being a very annoying critter.



"When will we ever get out?" Tatty asked. "Buster, Bandit, Scoot, and Dash, you came to rescue us but you were trapped too!" Tatty had many worries but she tried not to show it. She wished she had never imagined being a detective.



"I don't see any way to get out of this hole," Buster said and pointed up at Rascal Dickens. "That fox has gotten us trapped. I don't know how he made such a great trap but he did!"

"I wish that fox had some other hobbies," Acorn said. "His only hobby is to trick and trap deer, sheep, moose, or any other critter!"

"Enough talking critters!" Rascal Dickens yelled into the hole.

All the critters in the hole stayed quiet except Dash. Dash was very angry with Rascal Dickens. Rascal Dickens was going to keep them here forever! "We'll have to wait to be rescued, Scoot," Dash said.

"Shhhh!" Rascal Dickens spoke so loudly spit fell on top of the critters.

"Yuck!" Tatty squealed.

The raccoons and chipmunks laughed and giggled. Rascal Dickens looked very silly!



Rascal Dickens wiped his mouth. "Now I want a ransom for you critters!" Rascal Dickens began. The critters looked at each other. They didn't know what a ransom was. The fox smiled. "I've trapped you critters, and in exchange for setting you critters free, you must give me something," he finished.



"What do you want, thief?" Bandit asked.

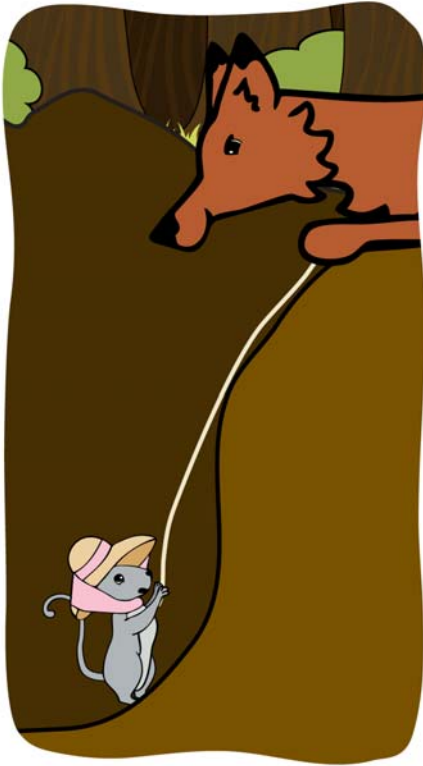
Rascal Dickens thought of many things. He thought of bouncy balls, a wooden monkey, popcorn, a wool scarf, candy, toys, and treats. "I am hungry for sweet treats," he said.

Scoot's stomach growled. He was very hungry now. "Tatty, you make the best pies. Can you make one for us after we're free? I would do --"

Dash covered Scoot's mouth. Dash saw Rascal Dickens lick his lips. He wanted Tatty's pies, too! "Tatty Mouse!" Rascal Dickens yelled. "You will return to Pine Hollow and make me three pies. Once you've given me the three pies I will let your friends go."



The three raccoons didn't trust Rascal Dickens. They were sure the fox would try to trick them in some way. "We can't let you do it, Tatty," Swindle said.



"I just know that fox is up to no good!" Buster pounded his fist.

"The ransom of three pies won't be enough!" Bandit added.

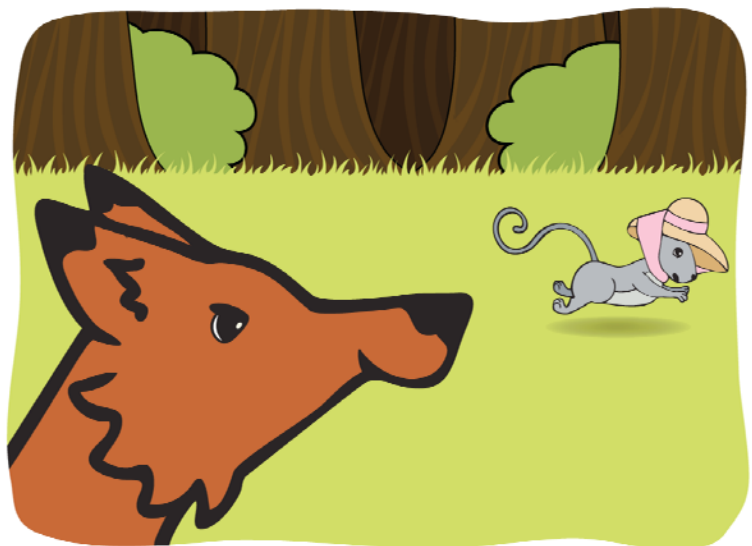
"I've heard of you three raccoons, Buster, Bandit, and Swindle. You used to be thieves. Only thieves lie," Rascal Dickens said. "You raccoons have stolen many things! I have not. Once I get my ransom of three pies, I will let you critters go."

"I will do it, Rascal Dickens, but you must promise me you'll let my friends go," Tatty said.

"As long as you return with the pies, I will let them go," Rascal Dickens said. Rascal Dickens let a rope down into the hole. "If any other critter touches the rope except the mouse, I will drop the rope!"

Tatty climbed up the rope. She hurried. All she could think of was making those pies and freeing her friends. Tatty was soon at the top. She climbed up and ran to Pine Hollow.

Rascal Dickens watched her run. He smiled. "My trap is working!"





Doctor Your Words

With Doctor Derby



Find the Plural Nouns.

Read each sentence and write the plural nouns on the lines below the sentence. Some sentences will have more than one plural noun.

1. Wormwood read a book about donkeys and ponies.

2. Button Bunny washed three scarves.

3. Aunt Lacey loved to eat cherries, raspberries, and blueberries.

4. Aunt Libby enjoyed drawing butterflies and daisies.

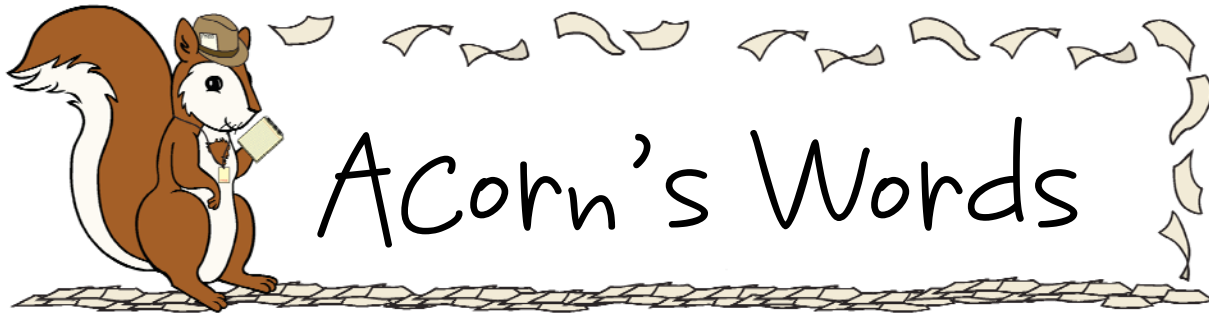
5. Bert told Whittle, Wormwood, and Willow stories every night.

6. Tatty baked two loaves of bread and three batches of cookies.

7. Tatty and Button Bunny had many hobbies.

8. Dash and Scoot ate too many candies.

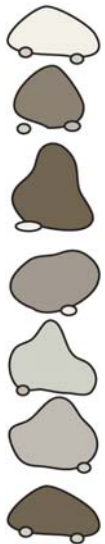




Sound it Out

Sound out the letters to read these phonogram "ew" and "ue" words below. You will also be looking at plurals and unusual plurals. Some of these words will be in your reading this week.

shrewd	spinach	deer	teeth	wrenches
porches	unscrew	corn	calves	newborn
tongue	children	cities	tissue	countries
rescue	candies	value	sewer	honeydew
mildew	jewelry	sewn	mouse	jewelry



woman	bosses	butter	broccoli
pursue	copies	honey	oatmeal
moose	foot	bacon	zucchini
wolves	oxen	cattle	turkeys
salmon	feet	plague	newspaper
watches	wishes	untrue	donkeys
marshes	tooth	foxes	benches
puppies	dishes	bushes	nephew
babies	knives	washes	churches
berries	argue	valleys	coaches

Words To Know

In this week's story you'll be learning about the Lewis and Clark Expedition. There will be several unfamiliar words. Ask a parent to help you sound out these words.

Missouri Oregon Colorado Columbia Meriwether Lewis

The Native American words below don't follow phonetic rules. The first word is the name for a Native American tribe. The second is the name for an important Native American who was part of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Shoshone Sacajawea



Secret Spelling Words

Sound out the letters to read the spelling words below.

scarves	geese	wrenches	puppies	raspberry
bison	ponies	watches	argue	butterfly

Vocabulary Words

Sound out the letters to read these vocabulary words below. You will practice reading and using these words all week.

barrel	section	zucchini	expedition
batch	squishy	whittle	

Match the Meanings.

Match the words with their meanings.

- | | | |
|---------|----------|---|
| 1. ____ | whittle | (a) a green vegetable like a cucumber |
| 2. ____ | section | (b) to cut at a piece of wood using a knife |
| 3. ____ | zucchini | (c) a certain portion or part of something |

Fill In!

Write in the missing letters to make your spelling words.

po ____ i ____ s

____ rg ____ e

____ e ____ se

wr ____ n ____ h ____ s

p ____ pp ____ e ____

b ____ s ____ n

____ at ____ he ____

____ ut ____ er ____ ly

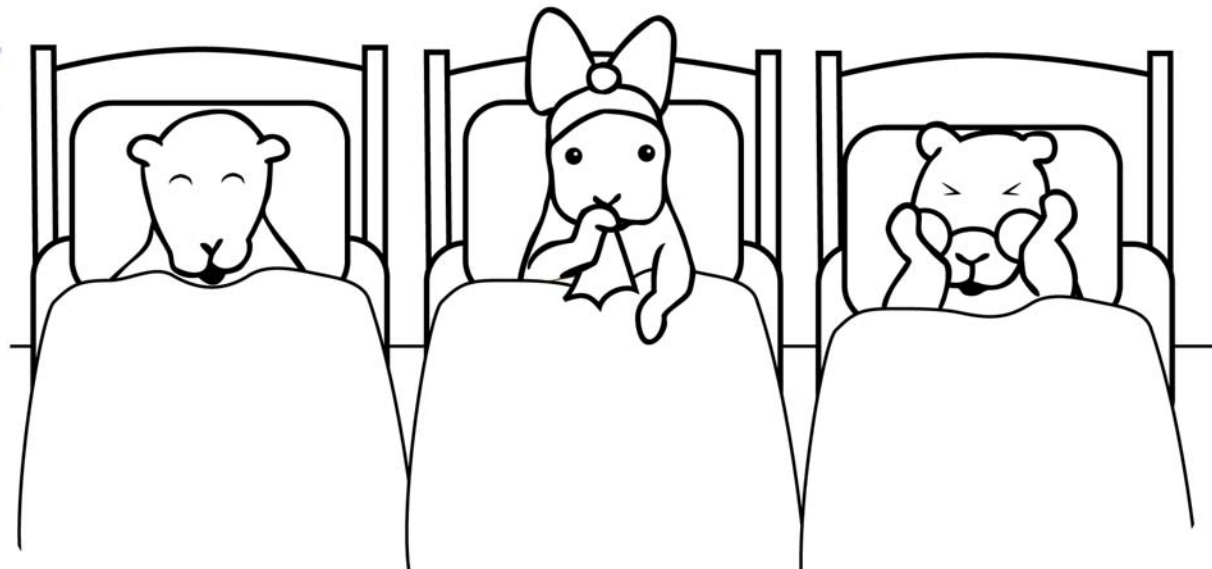
sc ____ r ____ es

____ as ____ be ____ ry



Color the Beavers' Pillows and Blankets.

The three beavers are sick. They have a terrible colds. Whittle, Wormwood, and Willow must stay in bed. Color their pillows and blankets like they are described in today's story.



Match the Meanings.

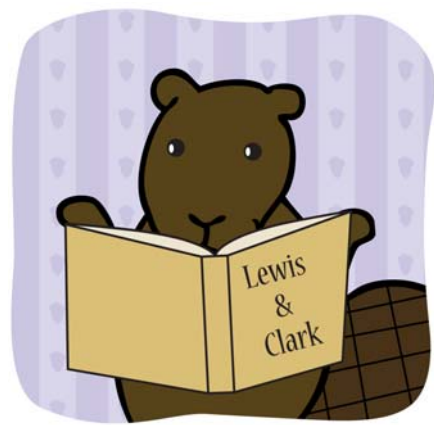
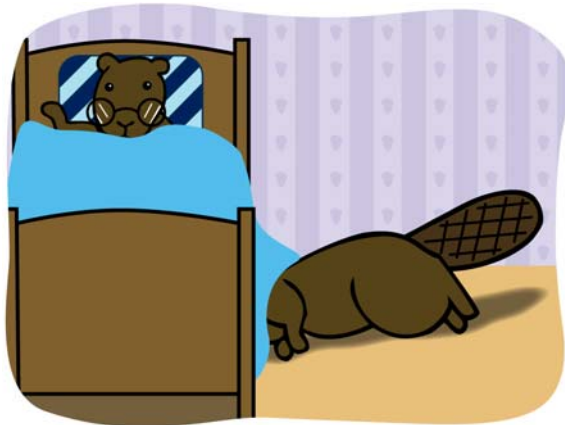
Match the words with their meanings.

- | | | |
|----------|------------|--|
| 1. _____ | barrel | (a) a journey to explore or for another purpose |
| 2. _____ | expedition | (b) something soft and damp |
| 3. _____ | batch | (c) a wooden object shaped like a can but having a wider middle than its flat top and bottom |
| 4. _____ | squishy | (d) the amount of cookies or other baked goods made at a time |

The Lewis and Clark Expedition

"That sounds like a fun story," Wormwood said.

"It is," Bert said. "I have to tell you a little about the expedition and the people who were on it first." He dug under Wormwood's bed for a book. It took several minutes but he found it. Bert quickly read it to himself. "Whittle, Wormwood, and Willow, you will need to know some things about Lewis and Clark before I tell you a story about them."



"The Lewis and Clark Expedition was a venture to explore the Missouri River and the land around it. The expedition was also to discover if the Colorado, Columbia, or any other river connected to the Pacific Ocean. The expedition needed to map out the areas they explored, meet native tribes, and see what natural resources the land offered. They also needed to find out if the land was a good place to live and settle.



"President Jefferson of the United States of America sent Lewis and Clark on this expedition. The explorers hoped that one of these westward flowing rivers would make it possible for boats and trade to go from the middle of the United States to the western part of the country and through to the Pacific Ocean.

"The leaders of the expedition were Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The expedition had a total of thirty-three men. On May 14, 1804, the group of explorers left for the west.



"That year the men spent the winter at a fort they had built. They called it Fort Mandan. During that winter the group added two new people -- a fur trapper and his wife, Sacajawea. She was a Shoshone Indian. Sacajawea helped the explorers a lot. She was a guide and could speak the languages of the Indians.

"The explorers reached the Pacific Ocean and then returned east. The expedition ended September 23, 1806, lasting a little over two years. When the expedition returned, the men knew more about the land and the natural resources the land provided, they had made friends with some of the native tribes, and they had a better understanding of the geography of the American West," Bert finished.



Whittle wiped the blade of his small knife. He couldn't whittle wood but he could clean his knife. "When will you tell us the story, dad?"

Willow nodded and yawned. This story made her sleepy.



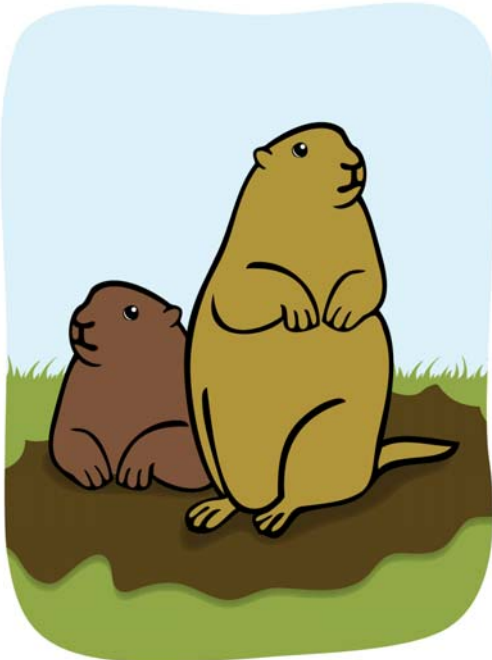
"It isn't making me sleepy, dad," Wormwood said. He pulled a piece of seaweed from between his teeth. He was glad he had finished the soup his mother had made.

"I had to tell you something about the expedition first," Bert said. "I think now you three beavers are ready to hear about a wet prairie dog."

Lily entered the critters' room and took their trays with the empty dishes. She then returned with four glasses of water and said, "I brought water for each of you." Lily gave the glasses to each critter. "I was sure you were thirsty, Bert," Lily said.



"What is a prairie dog?" Willow asked.



"Prairie dogs are rodents that live in underground burrows. Prairie dogs live in large groups. They have short tails and are light brown. The reason they are called prairie dogs even though they are a type of ground squirrel is because of the barking sound they make. Prairie dogs make this barking sound as a warning to other prairie dogs that there is danger," Bert said.

"Prairie dogs would be helpful to have here in Pine Hollow," Willow said. "They could warn us of danger!"