

Sant and the mystery sound

Written by Jan Polkinghorne. Illustrated by Dave Atze.



SPELD SA
Phonic Book Series

Learning to read

SPELD SA Phonic Books support the teaching of reading by using a structured synthetic phonics approach. They are designed to build on the pre-reading skills of oral language and phonological awareness needed for reading success. The books support the learning of letter-sounds and blending in a sequential phonic order, helping students to develop their independent decoding skills. The books also contain limited high frequency words that need to be taught before reading the book. The questions and activities focus on increasing a student's vocabulary and fluency and encourage the student to make deeper connections with the author's message.

Sant and the mystery sound (113 words)

Before reading the book, use the practice page to:

1. Revise the alternative spellings for sounds

2. Teach the blending of letter-sounds in regular words

The student points to each letter or combination of letters, saying the sound they represent. Swipe left to right under the letters, saying the sounds quickly and smoothly together to read the word. e.g. a-w-ay is 'away'; t-oy is 'toy'; s-qu-ea-k is 'squeak'; s-igh-t is 'sight'; m-y-s-t-ery is 'mystery'; s-p-i-ke-y is 'spikey'; qu-i-l-l-s is 'quills'.

During single word practice, check that the student understands the meaning of the word.

If the student is having difficulty hearing the word when blending:

- repeat the sounds more than once in succession to help the student 'hear' the word
- model stretching the sounds together without pauses, e.g. nnnnniiiiip, is 'hip'
- use letter tiles and push them together while saying the sounds.

3. Teach the high frequency words

Tell the student the words and determine any 'tricky' parts by breaking up the word into its sounds. Many high frequency words will be able to be sounded out later as the student learns more sounds and how they are written.

Reading tips

A combination of letters can represent a sound, such as in boat (b-o-a-t), song (s-o-n-g), fern (f-e-r-n), shout (sh-o-u-t), or night (n-igh-t).

A sound can be written as different letters or letter combinations, such as the sound /ai/ in 'rain', 'play', 'make', the sound /ee/ in 'sleep', 'heat', 'happy' and the sound /ou/ in 'shout' and 'brown'.

A letter or letter combination can also represent different sounds, such as <ow> in 'how' and 'grow' or <y> in 'yellow', 'try' and 'mystery'.

Words can contain split vowel digraphs, such as in 'make', 'eve', 'bite', 'note' and 'tune'.

The suffix <ed> can represent the sound /d/ as in 'rubbed', /t/ as in 'packed' and /id/ as in 'landed'.

Words can contain schwa vowel sounds. The schwa is pronounced as an /uh/ sound, such as in, 'Nana', 'butter', 'across', 'the'. Explore with the student which part of the word has the schwa sound by breaking the word into its sounds. Take note of how the schwa sound is spelt.

Vocabulary

The words on this page can be used to help the student's comprehension before, during or after reading the book. Link the meanings of words with what the student already knows, show examples or have students act out the words.

out of sight – hiding, can't be seen

mystery – something that is difficult to understand or explain

sneak a look – take a secret look, look without being noticed

spiny – covered with prickles or spikes

spikey – having many spikes or points that stick out

gathering – collecting

Help with syllables

bigg/er

quick/ly

gath/er/ing

mys/ter/y

dragg/ing

a/way

Practice page

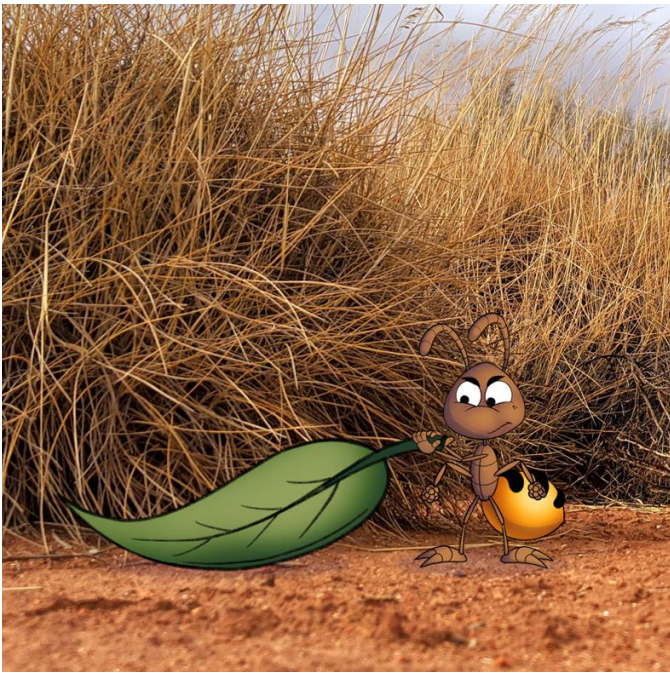
Set 9 includes words with alternate spellings for the sounds /ai/, /oi/, /i/, /ee/ and /ie/.

Practise blending sounds in words

ay /ai/	away	day	
oy /oi/	toy		
y /i/	mystery		
ea /ee/	squeak	sneak	leaf
igh /ie/	sight		
Revision	spikey	quills	

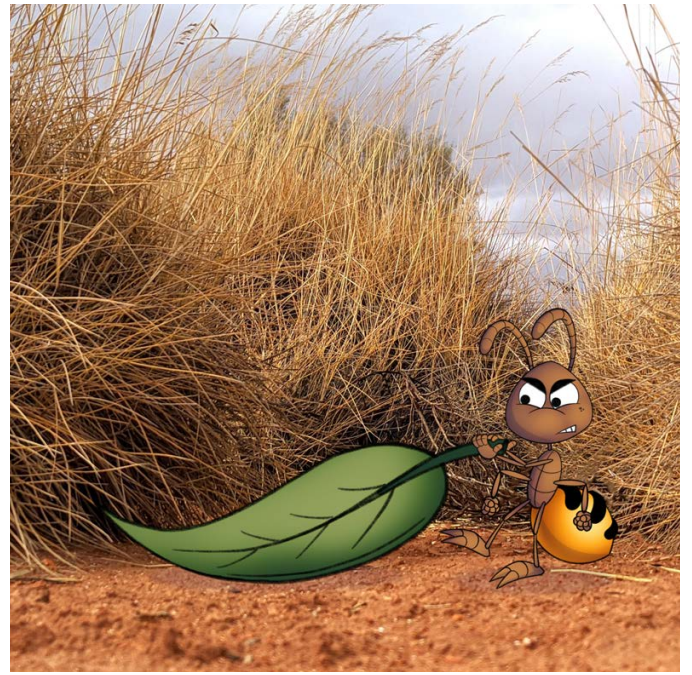
Practise high frequency words

one	was	to	the
of	what	here	said
fur	oh		



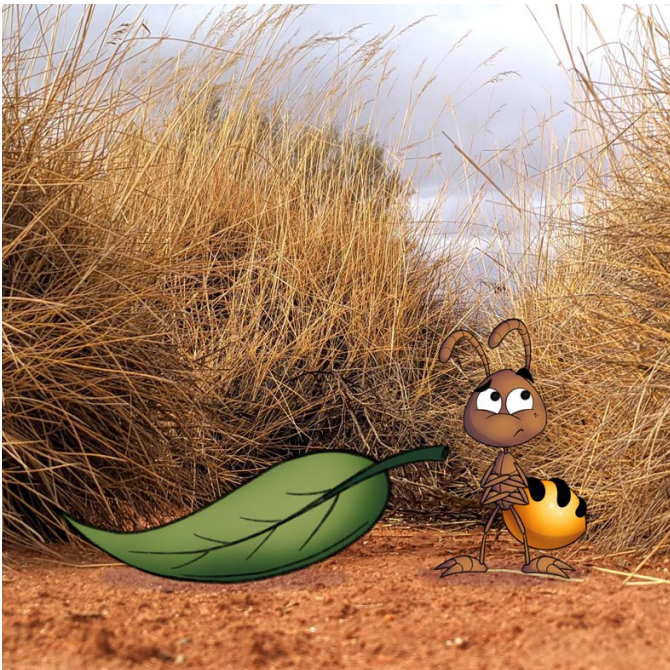
One day Sant was gathering food to save in his nest. He was dragging a big, green leaf back to the hole.

1



The leaf was much bigger than Sant. It was hard to drag it, but Sant was strong.

2



Swish, squeak! Swish, squeak! "What is that sound? It sounds like a toy," said Sant.

3



Sant hid out of sight. He tried to sneak a look at what was making the mystery sound.

4



It looked like a pile of twigs rolling along the ground.

5



It had a round body, soft fur, spikey quills and a long nose.

6



“Oh no!” yelled Sant.

7



“An ant eater! I am out of here!”
Sant left the leaf and quickly ran away.

8

From blending to fluency

To develop fluency, the student needs to re-read the same book multiple times. Students might initially sound out every word and re-read every sentence but, with practice, blending will become more automatic. The fluency chart can be used to develop automaticity of blending by providing single word blending practice.

While reading the book, the student:

- blends the sounds of each unknown word in the sentence
- identifies and reads high frequency words
- re-reads the sentence from the beginning
- discusses the meaning of the sentence

When finished, the student needs to re-read the whole book and practise reading the same book until they can read at a steady pace with minimal sounding out.

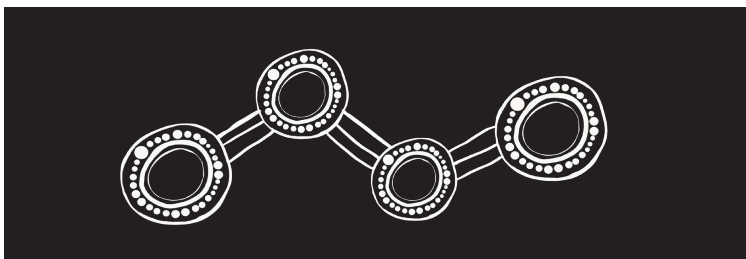
Making connections - questions and discussion

After the student has read the book, or the relevant page, ask them one or more of the following questions and discuss:

1. Sant did not know what the sound was when he heard it.
How did he describe it?
2. When Sant looked at the creature making the noise, how did he describe it?
3. Why did Sant have to drag food back to his nest?
Can you drag things that are much bigger than you are?
4. Do ant eaters really eat ants?
What do we call ant eaters in Australia? (Echidna)
5. Play guess the mystery animal.
Choose an animal and describe it for a friend. Let them guess what the animal is. Can you make the sound of the animal?

Fluency chart

am	out	toy	day
leaf	like	food	pile
hole	drag	much	sight
green	sound	swish	eater
strong	sneak	twigs	away
quickly	rolling	squeak	mystery



Cover artwork by Elizabeth Close

Elizabeth Close is an Anangu woman from the Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara language groups in the APY Lands in outback South Australia. She was born in Adelaide and spent much of her upbringing in remote communities, learning her language and receiving cultural education.

'This artwork represents the literacy and numeracy learning journey, and the path towards independent learning. The circles represent the collaborative learning and supports around children with specific learning difficulties, including children, schools, families, SPELD SA and others.' Elizabeth Close, Artist.

About this series

The SPELD SA Phonic Book Series complements the teaching of reading and writing using a structured synthetic phonics approach. SPELD SA aims to help Aboriginal students engage with phonic books by having characters, content and settings that reflect Aboriginal communities. In developing this series, SPELD SA has consulted with people who live and work in the Anangu, Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. We understand that the content, settings and characters may not reflect all Aboriginal people and their experiences but hope that Aboriginal students learning to read can find some familiarity in and connection with these books in their literacy journey.

Each set of books introduces a group of sounds for students to blend to read words. The books with a single star icon on the front cover contain a lower word count and less high frequency words. The books with two stars contain a higher word count, a greater number of high frequency words and/or more complex word structure. Please consider your student's ability when choosing a book for them to read. For a comprehensive explanation of the structure of the series, please refer to the SPELD SA website.

Acknowledgments

Produced by SPELD SA, 2021 and supported by the Government of South Australia.



Thanks to Jan Polkinghorne for her contributions in the development of the series and to Angela Weeks for permission to use and revise some of her stories. Thanks to the Anangu Lands and Rueben Burton for support of this project. Thanks also to Sandra Ken for cultural advice on Anangu communities and language.

SPELD SA is grateful for the contributions of volunteers for: consultation and project development; writing texts, comprehension questions, charts and games; illustrating, photography and graphic design; character development and cultural advice; speech and language advice. This is a wide community project, with talents, expertise and knowledge being shared for a common purpose - to improve literacy. Thank you all.

Book design by Tricia Smith Design, compilation and additional design by Janet Stone.

SPELD SA Phonic Books follow the sequence of letter-sounds used in the Jolly Phonics synthetic phonics program. The books can be used with other phonics programs.

Set 1	s, a, t, p, i, n
Set 2	c, k, ck, e, h, r, m, d
Set 3	g, o, u, l, f, b
Set 4	ai, j, oa, ie, ee, or
Set 5	z, w, ng, v, oo (book), oo (room)
Set 6	y, x, sh, ch, th (think), th (that)
Set 7	qu, ou, oi, ue, er, ar
Set 8	y (sunny), a (apron), a-e (cake), e (female), e-e (eve), i (silent), i-e (kite), o (open), o-e (home), u (student), u-e (tune)
Set 9	ay (play), ey (they), oy (toy), y (mystery), ea (dream), ie (chief), y (dry), igh (night)
Set 10	oe (toe), ow (rainbow), ow (now), ir (bird), ur (turn), ew (few), au (launch), aw (paw), al (talk)



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