

A SHORT VOWEL SOUNDS BOOK WITH CONSONANT DIGRAPHS



# The Thing on the Wing Can Sing



**BRIAN P. CLEARY**

Illustrations by **JASON MISKIMINS**

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# The Thing on the Wing Can Sing

A SHORT VOWEL SOUNDS BOOK  
WITH CONSONANT DIGRAPHS

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illustrations by  
**Jason Miskimins**

Consultant:

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University of Minnesota

**M** Millbrook Press/Minneapolis

to Mrs. Somlai, my fourth-grade teacher in  
Richfield, Minnesota, and to Mrs. Simoneau, my  
(second) fourth-grade teacher in Rocky River, Ohio  
—B.P.C.

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Dear Parents and Educators,

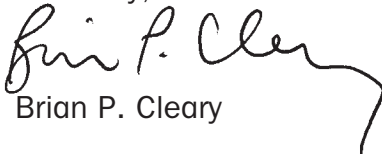
As a former adult literacy coach and the father of three children, I know that learning to read isn't always easy. That's why I developed **Sounds Like Reading™**—a series that uses a combination of devices to help children learn to read.

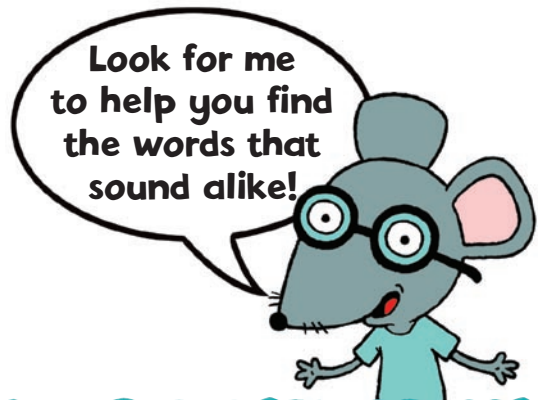
This book is the fifth in the **Sounds Like Reading™** series. It uses rhyme, repetition, illustration, and phonics to introduce young readers to short vowel sounds and consonant digraphs—letter combinations that come together to create a new sound. These include combinations such as *ch*, *sh*, and *th*. I've chosen to use a broad, inclusive definition of digraphs in this book, so you'll also see combinations such as *kn*, *ng*, and *ck*.

Starting on page 4, you'll see three rhyming words on each left-hand page. These words are part of the sentence on the facing page. They all feature short vowels and consonant digraphs. As the book progresses, the sentences become more challenging. These sentences contain a “discovery” word—an extra rhyming word in addition to those that appear on the left. Toward the end of the book, the sentences contain two discovery words. Children will delight in the increased confidence that finding and decoding these words will bring. They'll also enjoy looking for the mouse that appears throughout the book. The mouse asks readers to look for words that sound alike.

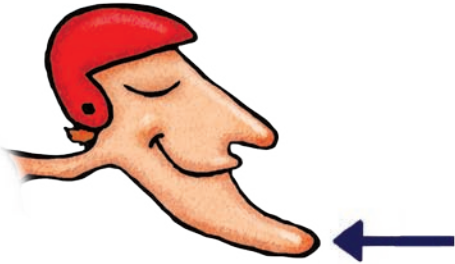
The bridge to literacy is one of the most important we will ever cross. It is my hope that the **Sounds Like Reading™** series will help young readers to hop, gallop, and skip from one side to the other!

Sincerely,

  
Brian P. Cleary



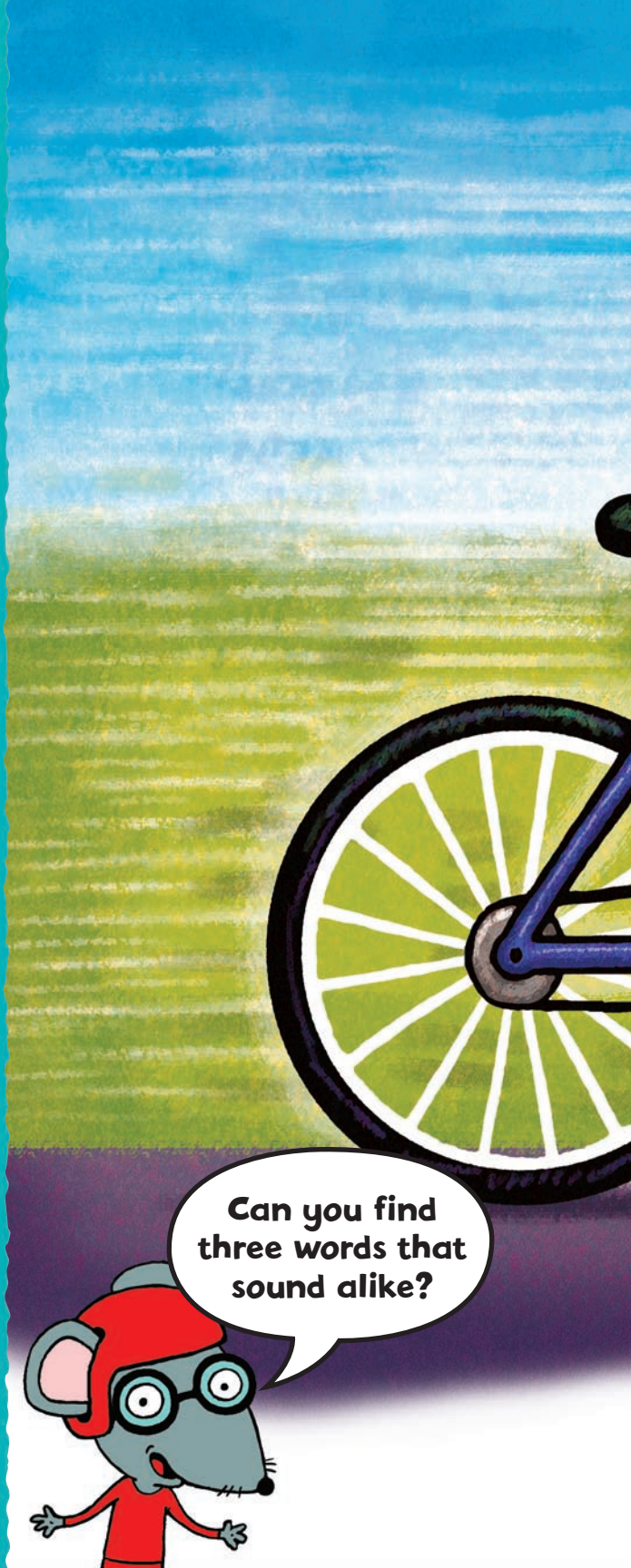
chin



shin



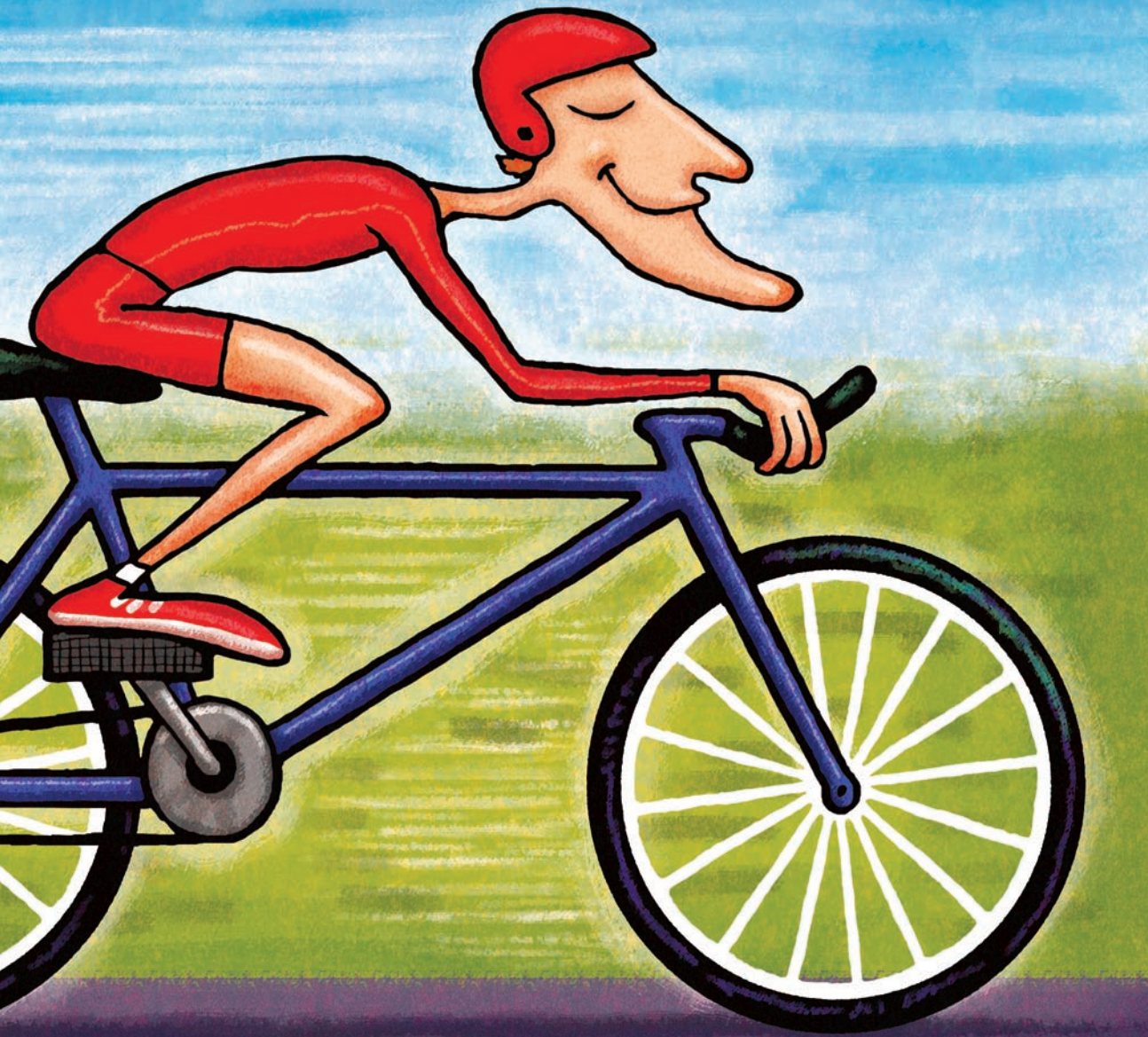
thin



Can you find  
three words that  
sound alike?







His **chin** and his **shin** are **thin**.



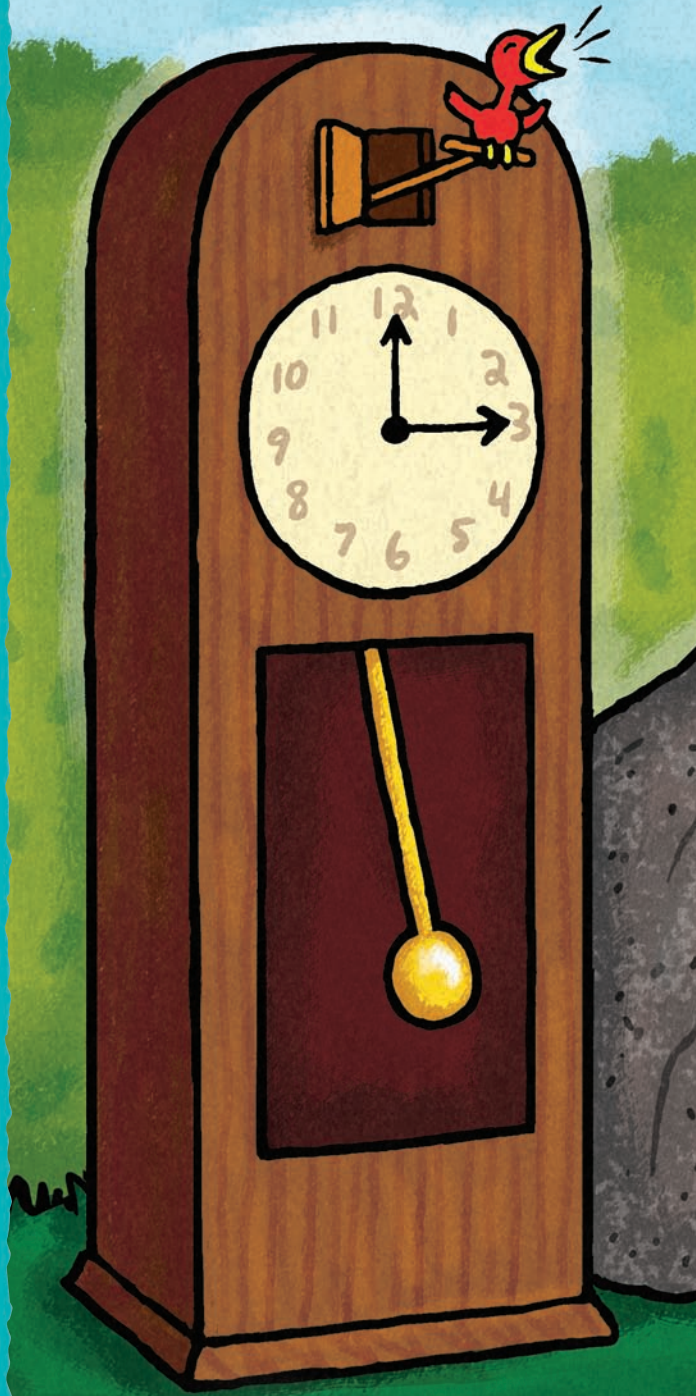
knock



rock



clock





Can you find  
three words that  
sound alike?

**Knock** on the **rock** by the **clock**.

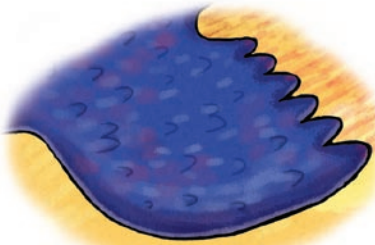




thing



wing



sing





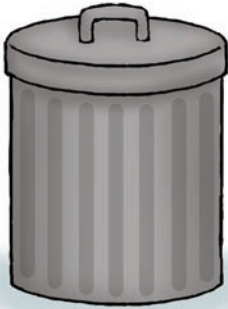


Can you find three words that sound alike?



The **thing** on the **wing** can **sing**.

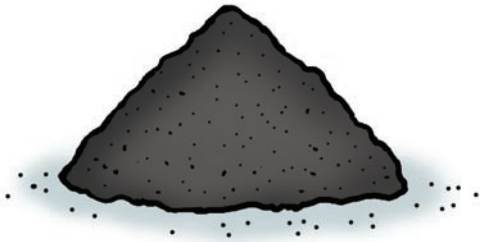
trash



sash



ash







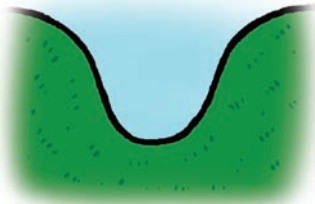
The **trash** by the **sash** was  
filled with **ash**.



witch



ditch



itch







The **witch** in the **ditch** began to **itch**.

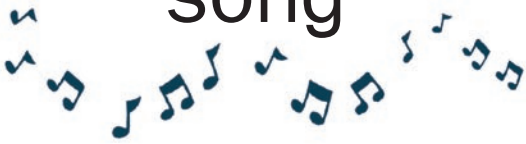




long



song



wrong







The **long** **song** was all **wrong**.

Can you find three words that sound alike?



batch



patch



latch



Can you find  
the word that  
sounds like batch,  
patch, and latch?





**Snatch** the **batch** from the **patch**  
by the **latch**.



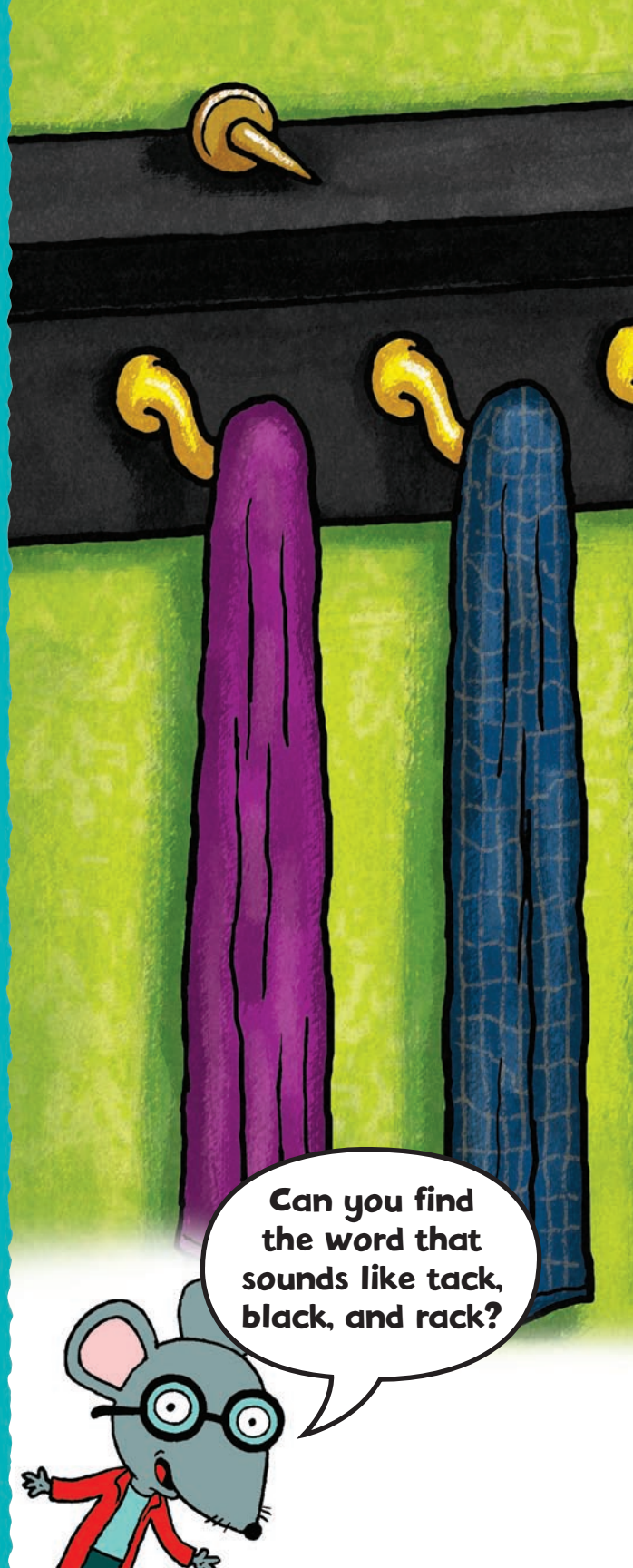
tack



black



rack



Can you find  
the word that  
sounds like tack,  
black, and rack?



The **tack** is **back** on the **black** rack.



duck



stuck



muck







**Chuck** and the **duck** are **stuck**  
in the **muck**.



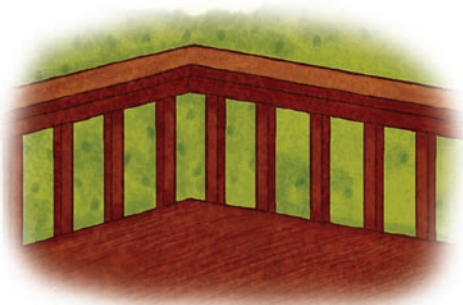
speck



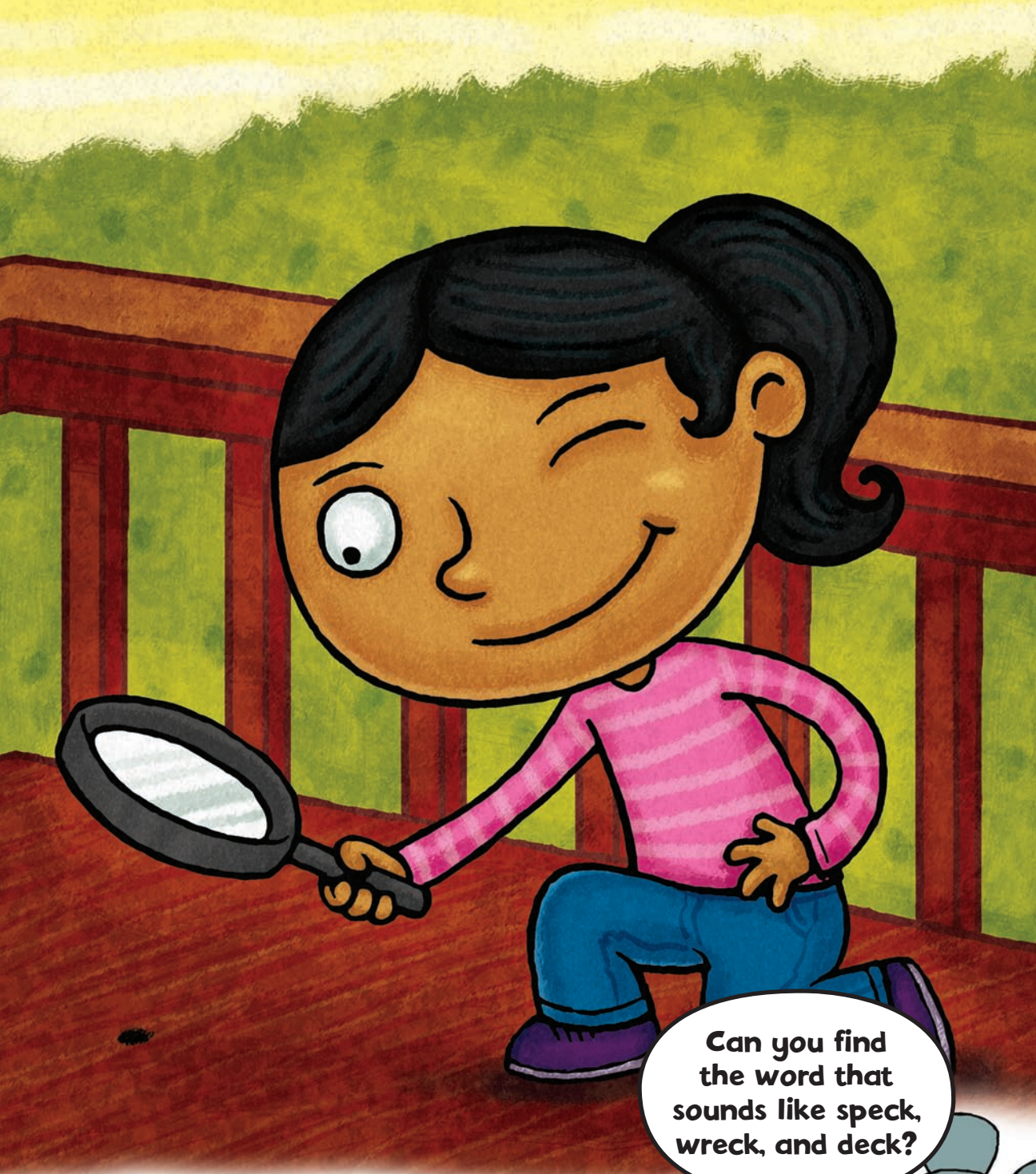
wreck



deck







Can you find the word that sounds like speck, wreck, and deck?

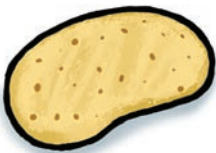
**Check** the **speck** by the **wreck** on the **deck**.



whip



chip



ship



Can you find  
the word that  
sounds like whip,  
chip, and ship?







A **whip** and a **chip** are at the **tip** of the **ship**.



snack



sack



stack







Can you find the word that sounds like snack, sack, and stack?

**Pack** the **snack** in a **sack** from the **stack**.



bunch



munch



punch







The **bunch** has a **hunch** that they will **munch** and drink **punch** at **lunch**.

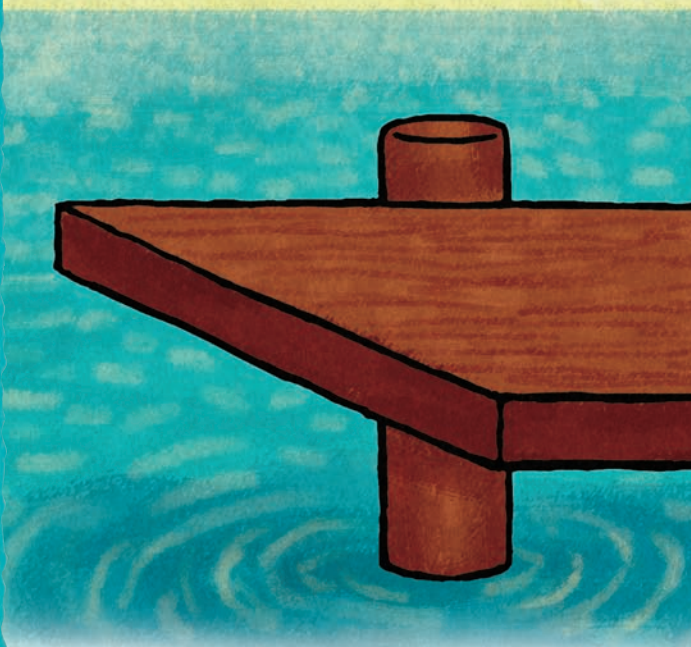
jock



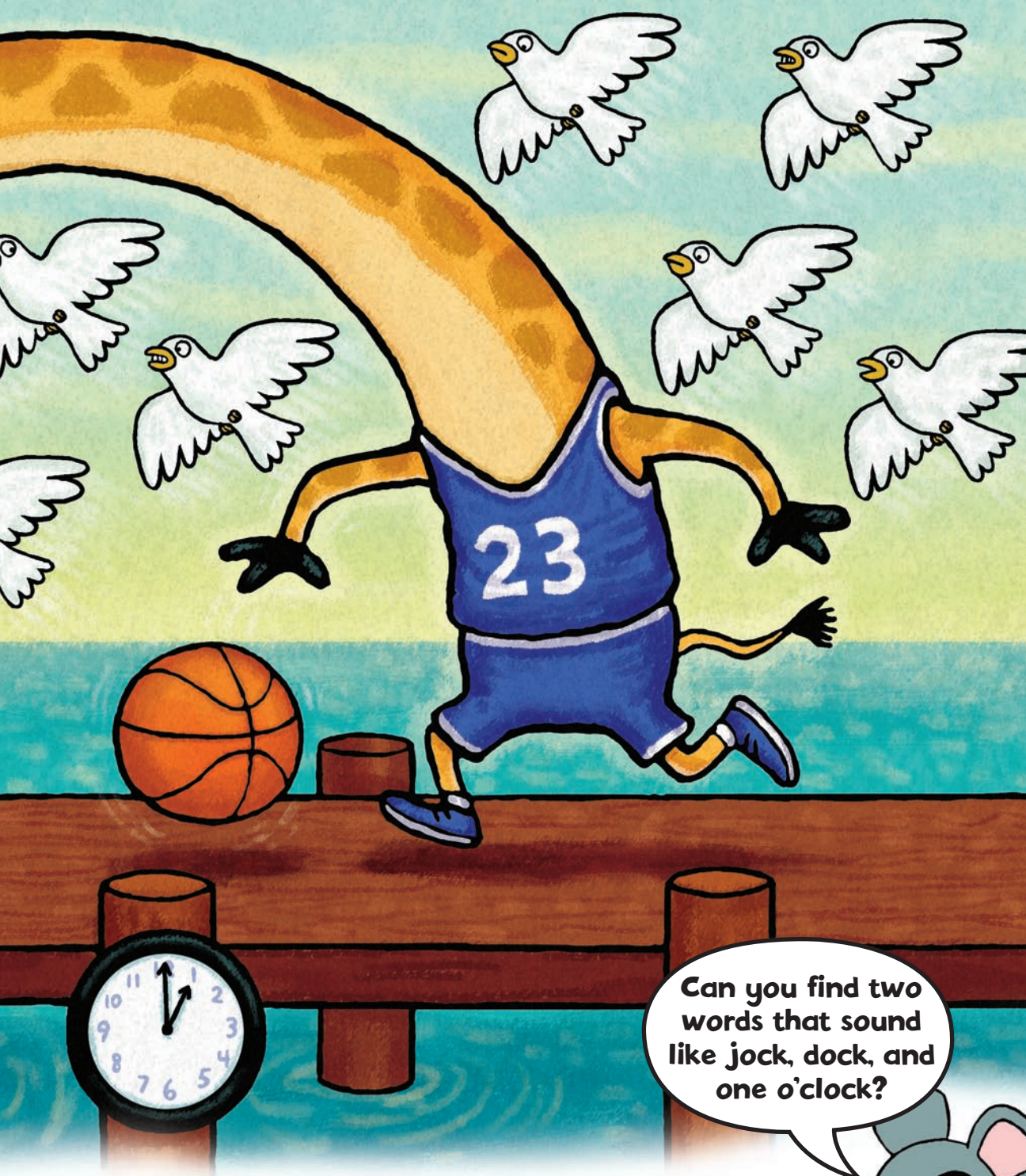
dock



one o'clock







Can you find two words that sound like jock, dock, and one o'clock?


The **jock** was in **shock** to meet a **flock** on the **dock** at **one o'clock**.



**Brian P. Cleary** is the author of the best-selling Words Are CATegorical® series as well as the Math Is CATegorical® and Adventures in Memory™ series. He has also written several picture books and poetry books. In addition to his work as a children's author and humorist, Mr. Cleary has been a tutor in an adult literacy program. He lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Jason Miskimins** grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and graduated from the Columbus College of Art & Design in 2003. He currently lives in North Olmsted, Ohio, where he works as an illustrator of books and greeting cards.

**Alice M. Maday** has a master's degree in early childhood education from Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana, and a Ph.D. in early childhood education, with a focus in literacy, from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Dr. Maday has taught at the college level as well as in elementary schools and preschools throughout the country. In addition, she has served as an emergent literacy educator for kindergarten and first-grade students in Germany for the U.S. Department of Defense. Her research interests include the kindergarten curriculum, emergent literacy, parent and teacher expectations, and the place of preschool in the reading readiness process.



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Come along with me and learn all about reading! Brian P. Cleary's wacky sentences and Jason Miskimins's colorful art will make phonics fun!



**BOOK 1 The Bug in the Jug Wants a Hug**  
A Short Vowel Sounds Book

**BOOK 2 Stop, Drop, and Flop in the Slop**  
A Short Vowel Sounds Book with Consonant Blends

**BOOK 3 The Nice Mice in the Rice**  
A Long Vowel Sounds Book

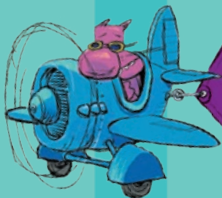
**BOOK 4 The Frail Snail on the Trail**  
A Long Vowel Sounds Book with Consonant Blends

**BOOK 5 The Thing on the Wing Can Sing**  
A Short Vowel Sounds Book with Consonant Digraphs

**BOOK 6 Whose Shoes Would You Choose?**  
A Long Vowel Sounds Book with Consonant Digraphs

**BOOK 7 The Peaches on the Beaches**  
A Book about Inflectional Endings

**BOOK 8 The Clown in the Gown Drives the Car with the Star**  
A Book about Diphthongs and R-Controlled Vowels



Find activities, games, and more at  
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**ALSO BY BRIAN P. CLEARY**

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