



Stan is Strong

A DecodiVerse Story



Stan is Strong

1st Grade — Just Starting

Words beginning with s-combinations (like sn-, sp-, st-, and sm-) and three-letter starting sounds (like spl- and scr-).

Words to watch for: Stan, snack, stem, stuck, split

Before you start: Let's warm up our starting sounds! Say /st/ — add 'em': stem! Now say /sn/ — add 'ack': snack! Next try three sounds together: say /spl/ — add 'it': split!



Stan is a small bug. He ran in the grass.
Off he went for a snack.



Stan spots a big plum. The plum is on a stem. He wished for a big lunch.



Stan felt glad. He will lug the plum. Quick steps led to the stem.



With a grip, Stan pushed the plum. Stan tugged on the stem. The plum was stuck fast.



Suddenly, Stan slipped in the mud. He fell on a stick. Stan was stuck and cross.



Up stood Stan. He had a fresh plan. This plan will split the plum!



Stan snapped the thick stem. The big plum split. He munched on a scrap.



Stan sat on the plum. He rubbed his chin.
A big snack was fun!

Reading Guide

For Parents & Teachers

Level: 1st Grade — Just Starting | Words: 121 | Sight words: 37.2%

HOW TO READ THIS TOGETHER

- If your child gets stuck on a word with three starting letters like 'split,' use your finger to cover the first letter so they read 'lit,' then uncover to make 'plit,' and finally uncover the whole word 'split.'
- When two or three consonants appear at the start of a word (like st- in 'stick' or scr- in 'scrap'), remind your child to slide the sounds together smoothly like going down a slide, rather than pausing between each letter.

BEFORE READING

- Let's warm up our starting sounds! Say /st/ — add 'em': stem! Now say /sn/ — add 'ack': snack! Next try three sounds together: say /spl/ — add 'it': split!
- Look at the picture of Stan the tiny ant looking up at that giant purple plum. What do you think he will try to do with it?

DURING READING

- (Page 2) Look at 'SPOTS' and 'STEM.' Both words start with the /s/ sound sliding into another consonant. Can your child point to the two letters that make the /st/ sound in 'stem'?
- (Page 4) Point to the word 'STUCK.' Help your child spot the /st/ sound at the beginning and the /ck/ sound at the end. How does Stan feel when the plum is stuck?
- (Page 7) Stan tried pushing the plum earlier, but how does he solve his problem on this page instead?

AFTER READING

- Word Hunt: Go back through the story and find words that start with the letter S! Can you find Stan, small, snack, spots, stem, steps, stuck, stick, split, snapped, and scrap?
- Why was splitting the plum into scraps a better plan for Stan than trying to push the whole heavy plum?

PHONICS FOCUS

Words beginning with s-combinations (like sn-, sp-, st-, and sm-) and three-letter starting sounds (like spl- and scr-).

Practice words: Stan, snack, stem, stuck, split

FOR PARENTS

This story helps your child practice words that start with 's' letter combinations, such as snack, stem, and stuck, as well as three-letter start combinations like split and scrap. Practicing these sounds helps early readers smoothly slide consonants together without dropping any sounds.

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