



The Flag That Got Loose

A DecodiVerse Story

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The Flag That Got Loose

1st Grade — Building Confidence

Combining consonant sounds smoothly at the beginning and ending of words (like fl-, gr-, st-, and -nd).

Words to watch for: flag, stick, grass, branch, grand

Before you start: Say the sounds /f/ and /l/ together: /fl/! Now add 'ag': flag! Try /st/ — add 'ick': stick! Can you slide /gr/ and 'ass' together to say grass?



Fran held a grand red flag on a stick. She stood on the soft grass. The red cloth had a crisp snap.



A brisk gust of wind swept past! The red flag slid off the stick. It sped away in the brisk air. Fran felt a big shock.



Fran was glum. Her best flag had to come back. "I must sprint fast!" said Fran. She rushed to catch the red cloth.



Fran dashed on the damp grass. She jumped up to grab the flag. Crash! She tripped on a thick stump! The flag was still out of grip.



The red flag spun in the gust. It flipped over a big brick shed. Then it dropped next to the damp mud. Fran ran fast, but the wind kept on.



Fran did not stop. She saw a long branch with a bent end. She picked up the long branch. "This plan will trap the flag!" she said.



Fran stood on a flat rock. She held the long branch up. Snap! The red cloth stuck on the bent end. Fran clutched her flag with a grand grin!



Fran sat on a bench in the sun. She set her red flag on the stick. The red flag flapped in the soft wind. At last, Fran was glad to rest.

Reading Guide

For Parents & Teachers

Level: 1st Grade — Building Confidence | Words: 214 | Sight words: 42.06%

HOW TO READ THIS TOGETHER

- If your child stumbles on a word with several consonant sounds like 'branch' or 'clutched,' cover the ending sounds first. Have them read 'bra-' or 'clutch,' then uncover the rest and slide the whole word together.
- Watch out for ending sounds: children often focus so hard on the start of a word that they drop the final sounds in words like 'damp,' 'gust,' or 'bent.' Gently tap the last letters and ask, 'What sound comes at the very end?'

BEFORE READING

- Say the sounds /f/ and /l/ together: /fl/! Now add 'ag': flag! Try /st/ — add 'ick': stick! Can you slide /gr/ and 'ass' together to say grass?
- Look at the title and cover. Why do you think Fran's red flag got loose, and how might she catch it?

DURING READING

- (Page 2) Point to the word 'GUST.' Have your child sound out each letter: /g/ /u/ /s/ /t/. Notice how the last two letters /s/ and /t/ blend together at the end!
- (Page 4) Look at 'SPRINT' on Page 3 and 'STUMP' on Page 4. Can your child find the three sounds at the start of 'sprint' and the two sounds at the end of 'stump'?
- (Page 6) Fran decided to stop chasing and try a new plan. Why did she pick up the branch?

AFTER READING

- Word Hunt: Go back through the book and hunt for words that begin with /st/ or /fl/ (like stick, stood, stump, stuck, flag, flat, flapped, flipped). How many can your child spot?
- Retelling question: What happened when Fran first tried to catch her flag, and what clever idea finally worked?

PHONICS FOCUS

Combining consonant sounds smoothly at the beginning and ending of words (like fl-, gr-, st-, and -nd).

Practice words: flag, stick, grass, branch, grand

FOR PARENTS

This story gives your child practice reading words where two or three consonant sounds slide together, like flag, stick, and branch. Learning to sound out every letter without skipping the beginning or ending sounds helps build strong, confident reading.

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