



The Pond at Dusk

A DecodiVerse Story



The Pond at Dusk

Reading Level: Grade 1

Digraphs and final consonant blends

Words to watch for: pond, dusk, stump, plunk, clamped

Before you start: Look at the cover. Where are Jess and Hank going?



Jess and her dog, Hank, went to the pond just as dusk fell.



The wind bent the tall grass. Hank sniffed the air and his ears went up.



A frog jumped off a rock. PLUNK! Hank barked and stomped to the bank.



Jess sat on a stump by the pond. She tossed a stick. "Fetch, Hank!"



Hank plunged in. He swam to the stick and clamped it in his jaws.



A duck and six ducklings drifted past.
Hank froze, stick in his mouth, eyes wide.



Hank crept out and shook. Water went on Jess! "Hank!" She laughed.



They sat on the stump as the last pink light sank. "Best pond trip," Jess said. Hank wagged.

Reading Guide

For Parents & Teachers

HOW TO READ THIS TOGETHER

- Help your child hear the final blends: pond (n-d), dusk (s-k), stump (m-p), plunk (n-k). Stretch each blend slowly, then say it fast.
- This is a calm, peaceful story — great for reading before bedtime!

BEFORE READING

- Look at the cover. Where are Jess and Hank going?
- What does ‘dusk’ mean? It’s the time right before dark.

DURING READING

- (Page 3) Hank heard the frog! What did he do?
- (Page 5) Hank jumped in the pond! Did he get the stick?
- (Page 6) Why do you think Hank froze when the ducks came by?

AFTER READING

- What was your favorite part of the pond trip?
- Can you find words that end in two consonant sounds blended together?

PHONICS FOCUS

Digraphs and final consonant blends

Practice words: pond, dusk, stump, plunk, clamped

FOR PARENTS

This story uses final blends — two consonant sounds at the end of a word: po-nd, du-sk, stu-mp, plu-nk. Your child is learning to hear and read these blended endings smoothly.

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