



The Scary Stairs

A DecodiVerse Story



The Scary Stairs

2nd Grade · Step 2 of 3 — More vowel spellings

Before you read

For grown-ups · about 2 minutes

WHAT'S NEW IN THIS STORY

This story practices air, are, ear (bear), like stairs, scared, sparrow.

WATCH FOR

- Watch for reading the vowel short (car as 'cat'). 'The r changes the vowel's sound.' Say the chunk together. Words to watch: stairs, scared, sparr·ow, chair, scar·y.
- Watch for reading the vowel short (car as 'cat'). 'The r changes the vowel's sound.' Say the chunk together. Words to watch: near, fear, fearl·ess.
- Watch for sounding both vowels (reading rain as 'ra-in'). 'These letters work together to make one sound.' Words to watch: you.
- Sound out the names together before you start. Words to watch: gin·ger.

WARM-UP WORDS

Tap one finger for each sound, then blend the word.

- s · p · arr · ow then blend: sparrow
- n · ear then blend: near
- ch · air then blend: chair
- s · c · ar · y then blend: scary
- y · ou then blend: you
- air then blend: air

TRICKY WORDS

Say the word. Tap the sounds you can sound out. Point to the tricky part: that's the part to learn by heart. Say the word again.

- the (tricky part: e)
- of (tricky part: of)
- a (tricky part: a)
- one (tricky part: one)
- from (tricky part: o)

Before you read (continued)

For grown-ups · about 2 minutes

IF YOUR CHILD GETS STUCK

- Wait a few seconds before helping.
- Point to the part they missed. Read it in chunks, then blend the whole word.
- Reread the sentence so it sounds smooth.
- For a tricky word, just tell them, and point to the tricky part.

REASON TO READ

Read to find out what happens to Ginger.



Ginger is fearless. She is not scared of a hairy crab and she is not scared of a loud thunderstorm. But the dim stairs upstairs scare her. They creak, creak, creak! Ginger will not go near the scary stairs.



One day, Ginger is in the kitchen with a muffin. Then she hears a peep, peep, peep. It is a tiny peep, and it is near. It comes from the dim stairs!



Ginger stares at the stairs. Her knees tremble. "I am scared," she says. "But what if something is hurt?" She puts down her muffin. "I will be careful."



Ginger goes up one stair. Creak! She jumps back and bumps a chair. The chair slides, slides, slides! Peep, peep, peep! "Okay, okay," says Ginger. "I am coming."



Up, up, up she goes. Creak, creak! It is dim and dim and dim. Then something swishes past her hair! Ginger yells. She clasps her knees and stops. Peep, peep! It is right up top.



Ginger goes back to the kitchen and fetches her lantern. The lantern shines brightly. Up, up, up she goes. At the top, a tiny sparrow stares at her. It is scared!



"Do not fear," says Ginger. "I will not harm you." She puts out a fingertip. The sparrow clings to it. Ginger opens the kitchen door and puts up her hand. The sparrow flies up in the air!



The next day, Ginger hears peep, peep near the kitchen door. She shares a bit of muffin with the sparrow. Then Ginger goes up the dim stairs, just to look. Creak, creak! She grins. "You are not so scary," she says.

After you read

For grown-ups · 3 to 5 minutes

WHAT YOU PRACTICED

Practice words in this story (air, are, ear (bear)): stairs, scared, sparrow, near, chair, scary, stares, you, air, careful — 35 in all. Tricky words: the, of, a, one, from.

WHILE YOU READ

- (Page 4) What just happened? What do you think will happen next?

TALK ABOUT IT

- Retell it together: Who was the story about? What was Ginger's problem? How was it solved?
- What would you have done if you were Ginger? Why?
- What does 'sparrow' mean? Can you use it in a sentence?

QUICK PRACTICE

- Read these fast: stairs, scared, sparrow, near, chair.
- Spell three: scared, sparrow, near. Say the word, tap the sounds, then write it.
- Word chain (change one sound at a time): near, dear, day, bay.
- Read it again two or three times this week. Take turns: you read a page, then they read it.

WHAT TO WORK ON NEXT

- Smooth? Try the next step (action, cement, future).
- A few tricky words? Practice these this week: the, of, a, one, from.
- Hard? Stay at this step and do the warm-up words together first next time.

Praise the work, not just the result: "You sounded out stairs all by yourself!"

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