

 SCHOLASTIC  
Phonics

# The Next Best Thing



Focus:  
Adjacent  
consonants  
and long  
vowel sounds

Book Bag  
Readers

 SCHOLASTIC  
Phonics

# The Next Best Thing



Published in the UK by Scholastic Education, 2022  
Scholastic Distribution Centre, Bosworth Avenue, Tournament Fields, Warwick, CV34 6UG  
Scholastic Ireland, 89E Lagan Road, Dublin Industrial Estate, Glasnevin, Dublin, D11 HP5F

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1

Printed by Ashford Colour Press  
The book is made of materials from well-managed, FSC-certified forests  
and other controlled sources.



A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-0702-30909-0

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SCHOLASTIC

# Help your child to read!

This book practises words with more than one consonant next to each other, plus long vowel sounds (like 'steep' or 'afraid').

Read these words with your child:

sleep

park

explains

Casper

Your child may need help to read these common tricky words:

the

he

going

to

all

of

says

I'm

we

go

so

she

by

puts

when

come

they

## Before reading

- Look at the cover picture and read the title together. Read the back cover blurb to your child.
- Ask your child: *What do you think the children are doing?*

## During reading

- If your child gets stuck on a word, remind them to sound it out and then blend the sounds to read the word: s-t-ar-t, start.
- If they are still stuck, show them how to read the word.
- Enjoy looking at the pictures together. Pause to talk about the story.

## After reading

- Ask your child: *Why was Max disappointed?*
- *How do you think he felt at the end of the story, when he was in the tent with his friends? Why?*

Can you spot the  
guinea pig on 6 pages?





Max cannot sleep.  
In the morning, he is going to  
the park with Sam and Casper.



All he can think of is swooping  
the highest on the swings.





The alarm clock rings.  
Max gets up, but all he  
can see is gloom and rain.

"It's a storm," Mum says. "I'm afraid we  
cannot go to the park."  
Max is so disappointed.





When Sam and Casper come,  
they point at the tent.  
“What’s that?” says Sam.

“It is a thunder and lightning tent,”  
explains Max. “Come and see.”  
The three of them get in the tent.



# Retell the story

