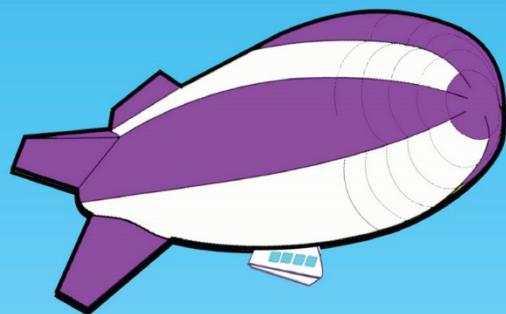


# THE BLIMP

By Pamela Brookes



DOG ON A LOG Chapter Books  
Step 7







**DOG ON A LOG®**  
Chapter Books  
Step 7

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# **THE BLIMP**

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Step 7

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# The Hen Pen

Jan and her sis Gret sit in the hen pen. Jan has the hens Miss Sal and Pine Cone in her lap.

Gret has Grand Hen and Crisp Chick in her lap. Grand Hen is Crisp Chick's sis. Jan and Gret hand scraps of kale and plums to the hens.

Gret pets Grand Hen. Her fluff is soft like smoke. "Do hens blink?" Gret asks.

"I think they do. They must. That is an odd thing to think," Jan says.

"I have sat and sat. I see the hens in my lap. I see the hens on the nest box. I see them get bugs they bite, bite, bite. But I do not see them blink."



*Jan has the hens Miss Sal and Pine Cone in  
her lap.*

"I will sit and see if they blink," Jan says.

"Ruff, ruff," Tup yaps. The white dog is in the drive next to the hen pen.

"Tup, what is it?" Jan asks.

"Ruff, ruff," Tup yaps. His gaze is up. He jumps up. "Ruff, ruff."

Jan twists to see what Tup sees. Tup's gaze is up. The hen pen has a top. Jan can not see what makes Tup yap.

Jan gets Miss Sal and Pine Cone from her lap. She gets up to see what makes Tup yap and yap.

## Gret Sees It

Gret gets up and goes from the pen with Jan. They lock the pen. They do not want wild cats to get in the hen pen.

Tup jumps and jumps.  
"Ruff, ruff."

"I see it," Gret says. "There is a blimp. It is close to the hill. It is close to the top of Dad's bike shed."

"It is not THAT close," Jan says.

"Well, it is still close," Gret says. "Let us tell Mom and Dad."



*There is a blimp. It is close to the hill.*

“Mom is at brunch with her pal,” Jan says. “She will be home late. They plan to spend time at the thrift shop.”

“Yes. I did not think of that. Let us tell Dad,” Gret says.

“Vrusk, vrusk,” comes from the blimp. It drifts past their home to the next hill.

“Dad, Dad, there is a blimp,” Jan and Gret call to their dad. They run into his bike shed. His bike is in a clamp on the fix-it stand.

“There is a what?” Dad asks. He wipes his hand on a cloth.

“A blimp. Come see,” Jan says.

Their dad goes with them from the shed.

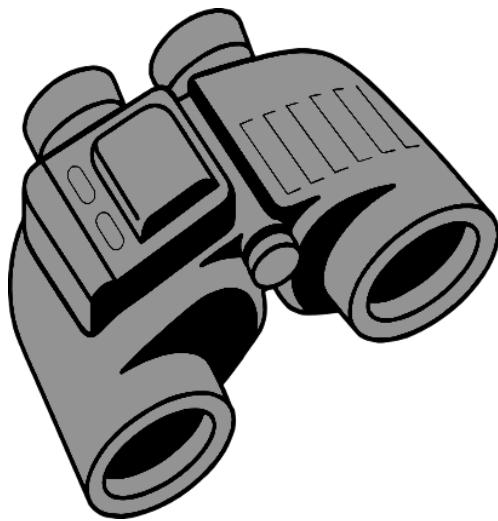
“Vrusk, vrusk,” comes from the blimp as it drifts to the lane.

“Do you want to see where it goes?” Dad asks. “We could ride bikes. If it goes with the lane it would be on top of us as we ride.”

“Yes, that would be grand,”  
Gret says.

“Get your bikes and stuff.  
Are your scopes in your bike  
packs?” Dad says.

“Yes. I have my scope in  
my bike pack,” Jan says. “I like  
to see small stuff with it. It  
makes it big then I can see  
what it is.”



"I have my scope as well,"  
Gret says. "My pack is on my  
bike. We went for a ride with  
mom when the sun came up."

Dad goes back into his bike shed. He takes the clamp off his bike. He gets his bike off the fix-it stand.

Dad puts on his bike stuff to help him be safe. He checks that his scope is in his pack.

Dad takes his bike from the shed and goes to Jan and Gret. They sit on their bikes. They have on their stuff to be safe.

“Ruff, ruff,” Tup yaps at the blimp. He jumps and jumps.

“Come on, Tup,” Dad says.  
“Let us see where the blimp  
will go.”

## **Vrusk, Vrusk**

Tup runs up the drive to the lane. He runs to where the blimp is. Dad, Jan, and Gret get their bikes to go. They ride fast and get to Tup. "Ruff, ruff," Tup yaps.

The blimp drifts and goes, "Vrusk, vrusk."



*"Ruff, ruff," Tup yaps.*

"What makes the blimp go?" Jan asks her dad.

"It gets its lift from gas. Not the kind of gas that makes the van or truck go. It is gas we can not see. That gas pulls the blimp up, up, up," Dad says.

"But what makes it go?" Jan asks.

"Gas like we have in the van. The gas makes the 'Vrusk, vrusk,' thing go. Then the man or the gal that drives the blimp tells the blimp where to go," Dad says.

Jan squints. "The blimp goes, 'Vrusk, vrusk,' and the blimp man tells it where he wants it to go?" she says.

"Yes," Dad says.

## What Tup Sees

“Yap, yap,” Tup says. He sees a pack rat on a stump. He runs to the stump. The rat runs into a clump of plants. Tup runs into the plants. “Yip, yip,” he says.



*He sees a pack rat on a stump.*

Dad, Jan, and Gret stop their bikes. They see the plant where Tup went. The plant shakes.

"Tup, do not chase that pack rat," Dad calls.

Tup comes from the plant. He has twigs and sticks on his back. He shakes. The twigs fall off him.

Tup sees the blimp. He jumps up at the blimp. "Ruff, ruff," he yaps.

The blimp drifts past Frank and Trish's home. Their dogs Sprite and Thrush do not yap at the blimp. They hide in the plants.

# **The Blimp**

“Vrusk, vrusk,” goes the blimp. It twists a bit and Jan can see the side of the blimp. On the side it says,

**WE SELL ADS**  
**CALL US TO GET AN AD**

“Dad, it says, ‘We sell ads.’ What does it have that for?” Jan asks.



*"What does it have that for?" Jan asks.*

“They must get cash for the costs of gas and such. They sell ads. Ads could be for ball games or banks or shops,” Dad says.

“But they do not have an ad on the blimp,” Jan says.

“They must not have an ad to post at this time. They must want ads. They must think they can get ads if they say that,” Dad says.

“Dad, Dad,” Gret calls. “The blimp! I think it fell! See, it is not up like it was.”

"Will it fall and crash? Will the blimp man get stuck in the crash? Will his legs get stuck and broke in the crash?" Jan asks.

"No," Dad says. "Blimps are safe. They can not crash. They will not blast or splat."

"You see, if the wind takes them up, they go up. If the wind has a lull, the blimp goes with it and it is like they fall. But they do not fall. They go here or there with the wind," Dad says.

"But you said the blimp man or gal drives the blimp,"  
Gret says.

"They tell the blimp where they want it to go. But the wind is the boss. If the wind is strong it takes the blimp with it," Dad says.

"The blimp is close. I can see the blimp man," Gret says.

Gret gets her scope from her bike pack. "It is not a blimp man. She is a blimp gal! She is blond. I can see her wave," Gret says. Gret waves at the blimp gal.

Dad and Jan get their scopes from their packs.

"I see five men in there. And a kid. There is a kid in the blimp. I would like to spend time in a blimp," Jan says. She waves up at the blimp. "I see them wave back at me."

“Dad, can we go for a ride in a blimp?” Gret asks.

“I do not think we can. They do not have lots of rides on blimps. But it would be fun,” Dad says.

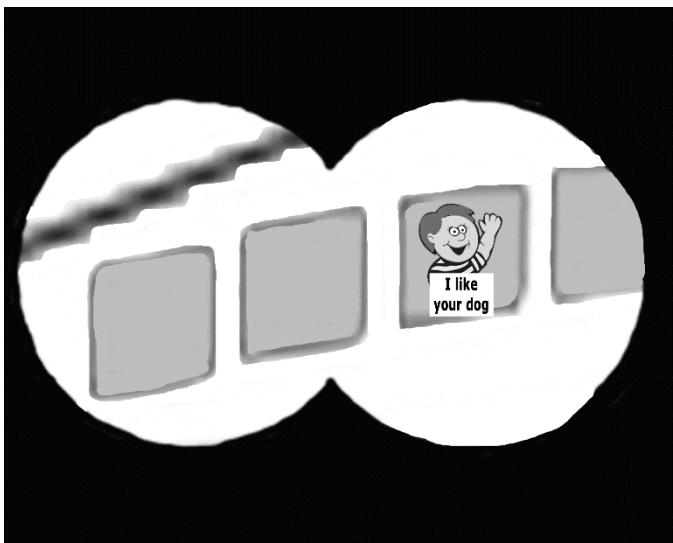
# **The Kid In The Blimp**

“Vrusk, vrusk,’ comes from the blimp. The blimp goes to the left. Then it still goes to the left. Then it comes to Jan, Gret, and their dad.

The “vrusk, vrusk” stops and the blimp is still. It is not on top of them, but it is close.

Jan, Gret, and Dad grab their scopes. They can see the kid in the blimp. He waves at them. He holds up a note pad. It says, “I like your dog.”

Dad picks up Tup and holds his leg. He waves Tup's leg at the kid. The kid waves back.



*He holds up a note pad. It says, "I like your dog."*

The blimp goes, "Vrusk, vrusk." It goes to the left. On the side of the blimp it says, "That is a fine dog."

The blimp drifts to the hill then the next hill. There is no path where the blimp goes. Dad, Jan, and Gret can not go where the blimp goes. They ride their bikes to go home.



# Stop Tup

“Yip, yip,” Tup says. Jan, Gret, and Dad stop.

Tup sees a skunk. The skunk stops.

“Stop, Tup,” Dad says.

Tup stops. “Yip, yip.” He says it soft.

The skunk gets its back end to Tup.



*The skunk gets its back end to Tup.*

“Stop, Tup,” Dad says.

Tup sees Dad. Dad pats his leg. “Come here, Tup.”

Jan and Gret grasp their bikes. They can not think what to do. It will be bad if the skunk makes Tup stink.

Tup sniffs at the skunk. The skunk lifts its back end.

“Tup, come here,” Dad says.

Tup comes to dad. The skunk goes into a clump of plants.

"Thank you, Tup," Dad says. "I did not want you to get skunk stink."

Jan clasps her hands. "What luck," she says. "We got to see a blimp that was close to us. Then we got to see a skunk. I am glad we got to see a skunk."

"And Tup does not stink. That is the best luck of all," Gret says.

“Come on, Tup. Come on, Jan and Gret,” Dad says. “Let us ride home. We can call your mom and tell her what we just got to see.”

They all get on their bikes and ride home. Tup runs with them.

From past the hills the blimp goes, “Vrusk, vrusk.”

# **Sight Words Used in**

## **“The Blimp”**

a, are, as, be, could, do, does, for,  
from, go, goes, has, have, he, her,  
here, I, into, is, me, my, no, of, or,  
pulls, puts, said, say, says, see,  
sees, she, the, their, there, they,  
to, want, wants, was, we, what,  
where, would, you, your

Approximately 1,580 total words