

The Best

By Sheila Clark-Edmands

Illustrated by Steve Cox



Specialized Program Individualizing Reading Excellence

EDUCATORS PUBLISHING SERVICE

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Cambridge and Toronto

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The Best

Note to Teachers and Parents

Focus Concept

Previously Taught Skills



Abby was the fastest runner
in her class.

She had jogged with her
mom from the time she was
just a small child. But she
wanted to run faster than a jog.



Running became her hobby. At the age of ten, Abby got a winner's cup. She had run the fastest mile of all the kids in her state.



Then when Abby was 16, she was set to go in the ten mile run. Lots of the best runners in the state were going to run. The winner got a big prize. Abby was thrilled to be a runner. But she also wanted to be the winner.



On the big day, it was hot and windy. Abby felt fit and strong. When the man yelled "Go," Abby set off with the rest of the runners. She was running well.



Abby was running up a hill when it happened. She got a cramp in her left leg. She had to stop, sit on the sidelines, and rub her leg.



All the runners ran past Abby.
She felt sick. The run was not
going well at all!



Abby got back up to run, but
the cramp was still there. Her leg
throbbed.

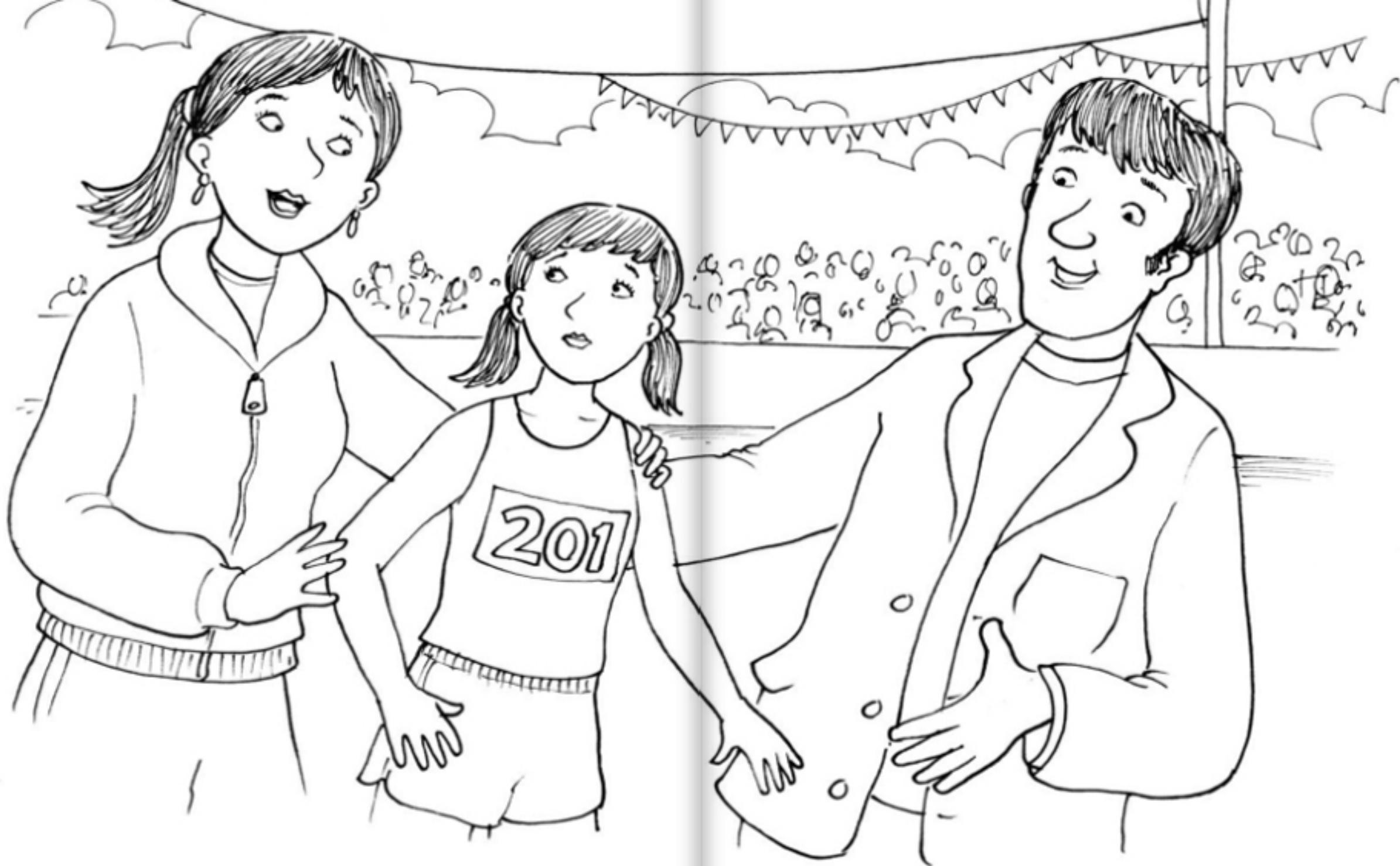


"It's just not your day," someone called to her. "Give up!"

"No," Abby said grimly. "I may not win, but I will not be a quitter."

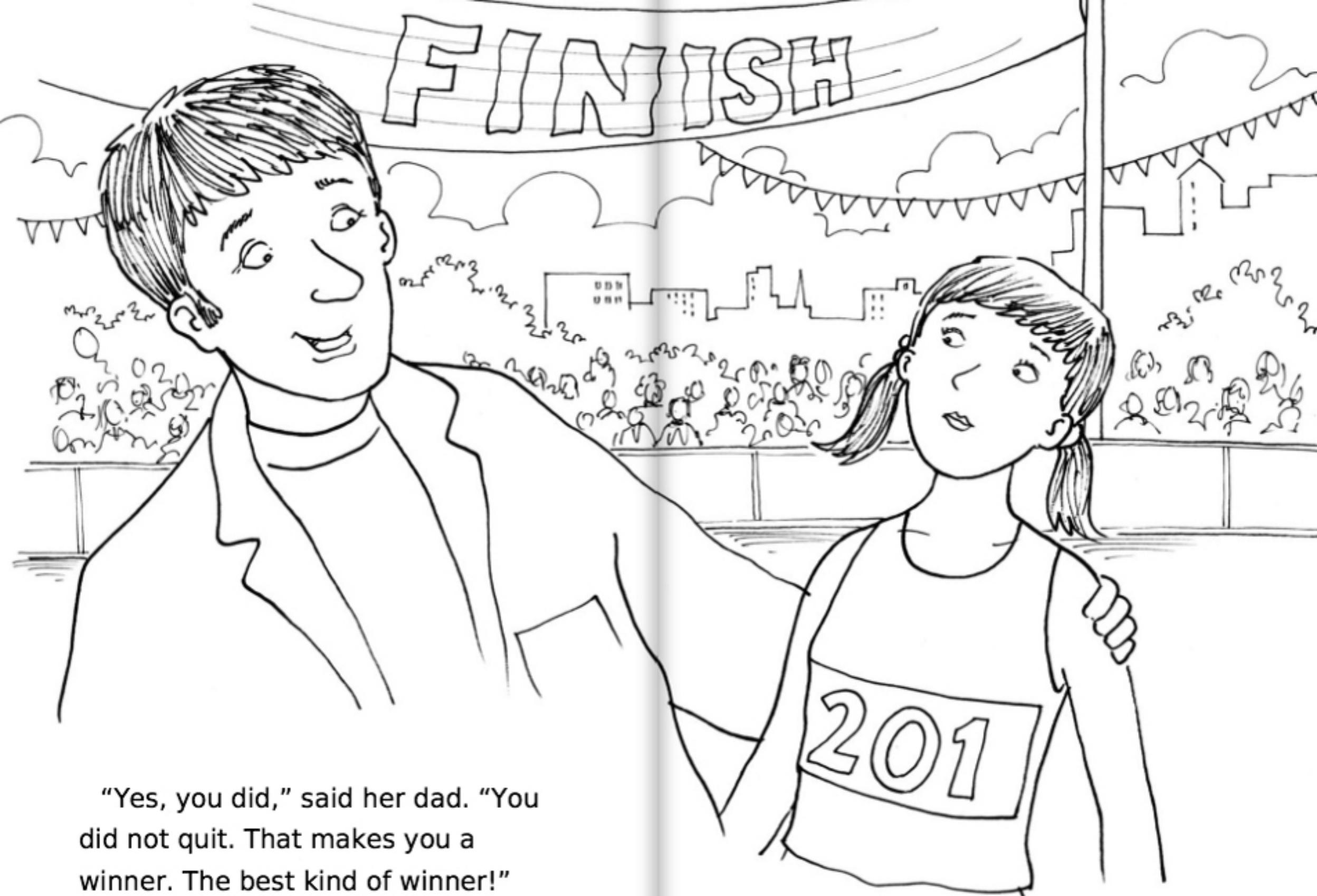


She got up and began limping her way to the end of the run. She crossed the line last.



Her mom and dad ran to her and gave her a big hug.

"Well, I did not win this time," Abby said.



"Yes, you did," said her dad. "You did not quit. That makes you a winner. The best kind of winner!"



Abby nodded. "I did my best," she said softly. "That's all I can do!"

Note to Teachers and Parents

All children should have the opportunity to experience success when reading. The decodable ebooks in this engaging series begin with simple words and sentences and increase in difficulty from level to level. Children may begin reading anywhere in the series, depending on their reading ability. The focus concept and sight words for this title, as well as a list of phonics skills children may already be familiar with, can be found at the end of this book.

This decodable ebook is perfect for independent reading. Encourage children to find a quiet spot to read, away from distractions. Help children build confidence by having them read aloud to you or to a friend or sibling.

Before beginning, you may wish to have children read the list of focus concept and sight words. When children have finished the story, encourage them to find these words on each page. To extend children's experience with these phonics concepts, encourage them to name or write down other words that follow the same phonics pattern. For example, if the focus concept is short o, they might write *log*, *pot*, and *frog*.

The presentation of phonics concepts in this series of ebooks was developed for the S.P.I.R.E.® reading program, a product of Educators Publishing Service.

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Abby
happened
hobby
nodded
quitter
runner
runners
running
winner
winner's

Consonant Sounds

all consonants
sh (ship)
ch (chin)
th (this, thin)
wh (whisk)
ck (clock)
tch (catch)

ff (cliff)
ll (will)
ss (miss)

qu (quilt)

Vse

Welded Sounds

ang (sang)
ing (ring)
ong (strong)
ung (stung)
ank (bank)
ink (wink)
onk (honk)
unk (trunk)

Syllable Patterns

open single syllables (so, he, fly)
closed syllable exceptions
(child, cold, find, post, roll)

Vowel Sounds

a (ax)
i (hit)
o (ox)
u (up)
e (bed)

ai (ball)
wa (wasp)

a (lake)
i (bike)
o (rode)
u (tune)
e (Pete)

ay (spray)

Affixes

suffix -ed (melted, smelled, winked)
suffixes -s, -es, -ing, -er, -est, -en,
-ish, -ly, -y, -ful, -ness, -less

Sight Words*

a, do, give, I, of, said, someone, the, The, there,
to, was, were, you, your



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The Big Catch

Open Single Syllables (so, he, fly)

The Bold Robins

Closed Syllable Exceptions (child, cold, find, post, roll)

The Rays of the Sun

oy (spray)

A Day of Play at Black Cove

Suffix -ed (melted, smelled, winked)

No Time to Ride

Suffixes -s, -es, -ing, -er, -est, -en, -ish, -ly, -y, -ful, -ness, -less

Helpful Pals

Twin-Consonant Syllable Division

The Best

Twin-Consonant Syllable Division

A Play

Non-twin-Consonant Syllable Division

The Humpback Whale

Non-twin-Consonant Syllable Division

A Big Problem

ou (mound, cousin, doughnut, you), Prefix a- (alike)