

A Brute in the Tree?



See this big tree up on
the hill.

Wee homes with red
roofs sit on it. These
homes are so cute.





Pip has a big nut
stash. She packs
these nuts in a
deep hole. Winter
will come, and
Pip will consume
all **these** nuts.

Pip checks her hole.
It is empty! Not one
nut is left.

Pip fumes. 'The one
that took my nuts is
so rude!' she yells. A
pal hops up. 'Not
me,' he tells Pip.





Pip grips a branch by
the beehive. 'Excuse
me!' she calls. 'Did you
see the one that took
my nuts?'

The bees hum back.
'We did not see a
thing.'

Pip asks and asks.
The bees rush at
her. 'Do not intrude!'
they hum. Pip flips
and drops from the
branch. Bump! She
lands in the grass.





Pip asks a bug
for help. The bug
is rude. It will not
help. Pip sits by
a rock. She feels
sad. This is such
a bad day.

Liz waves from a branch. 'Pip, take this food!' she calls.

But Pip shakes her head. 'No, Liz. Keep that food. I will fix this.' Liz is such a cute pal.

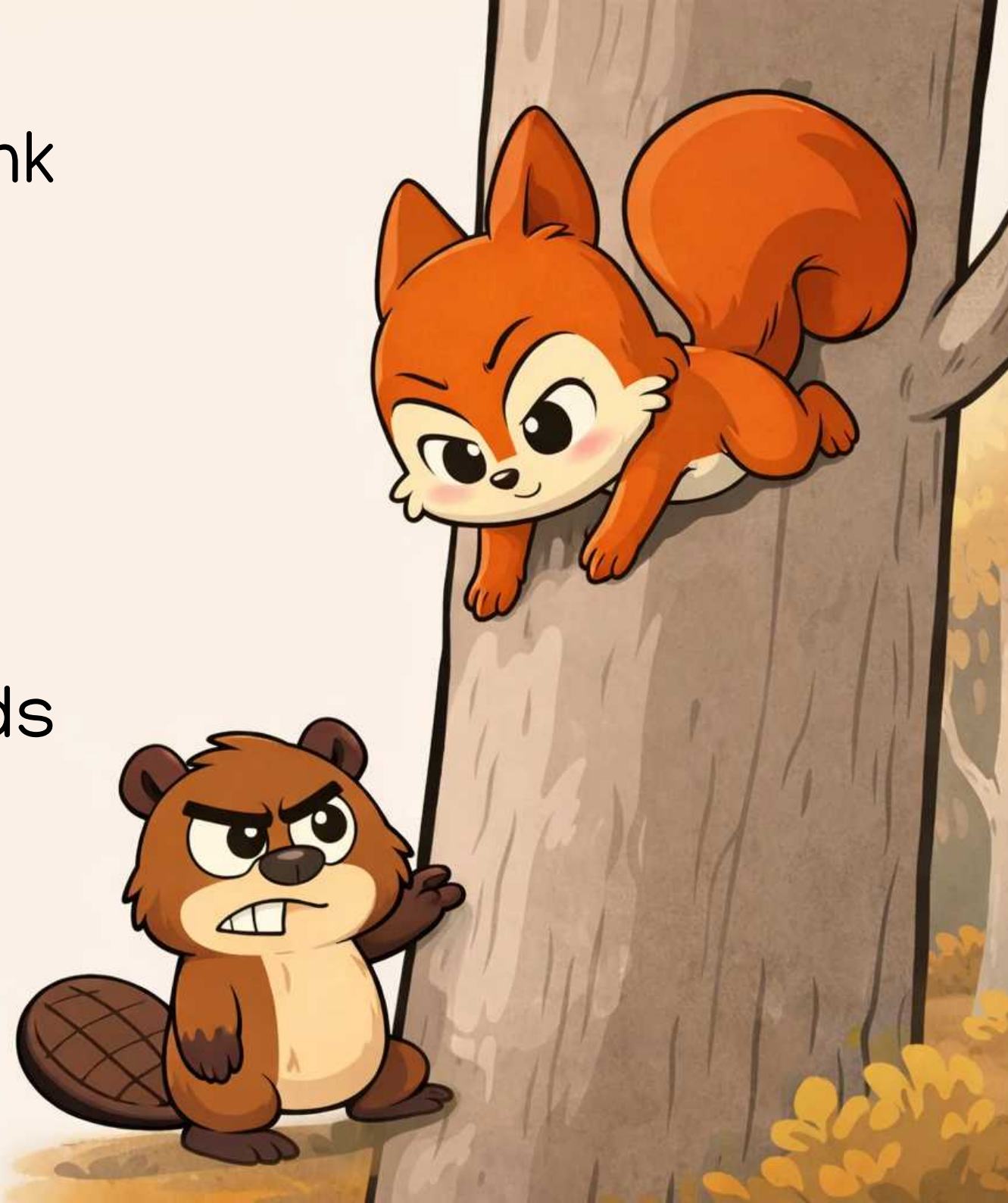




Liz sits with Pip on the branch. 'Do not assume a pal took them,' Liz tells Pip.

Pip blinks. 'Then did the nuts just drop?' she asks.

Pip grips the trunk
and goes to the
base, nose first.
Her big tail is a
plume. Ben stands
at the base. He
looks up at Pip.





All the nuts sit by a
hole in the ground.

'Excuse me, Pip,' Ben
tells her. 'I dug too
deep. I did not mean
to intrude.'

Pip grins. 'No fuss,
Ben! No one took
them at all.'

Pip gets planks and nails. Bang, bang, bang! She fixes the hole, and the job is complete.

Then she packs the nuts back and goes up to her home.





Pip sits snug under
her blanket and
sips her drink. All
the nuts are safe.

She looks out at
the sunset and
hums a soft tune.



LONG VOWELS

A Brute in the Tree?

High up in the oldest tree on Butternut Hill, a busy squirrel has packed away forty-nine nuts to get through winter. One morning every single one is gone, and no one nearby will admit to seeing a thing. Who could have taken them, and where could they possibly have gone? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 2, Unit 6: long vowels), this book practices words like 'cute', 'rude', 'excuse', 'assume', 'fumes'.

Phonics Focus: <long> <vowels>

assume, complete, consume, cute, excuse, fumes, fuse, intrude, plume, rude, these, tune

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