

Alex Digs for a Clue





Alex has a new
blue spade.

'A big prize is
down in that hill,'
says Alex. 'I can
feel it. Time to dig!'

Alex digs a new
tunnel in the hill.
Dig, dig, dig.

A few blue bits
wink in the dirt. 'A
prize is down
here,' says Alex.





Alex stops. A cod
sits in a frame on
the ground.

'A fish, down here?
That is odd,' says
Alex. 'But I can
chew on it for lunch!'

Alex takes the fish up to the top. She sets it by the flames. The heat will make it crisp. 'Stay there, lunch,' says Alex. Then she goes back in the hole to dig anew.





Down, down,
down. The path is
steep and dark.

A **few** rocks slip
under her boots.

Alex grips her
spade tight.

Up on top, Cat
sniffs the air.

Fish!

'Mew!' says Cat.

Swipe! One quick
paw, and the fish
is out.





Cat chews and
chews. The fish
is hot and crisp.
Soon not a
scrap is left.
Not one bit.

Cat goes off up
the hill with a
full belly. Down
in the hole, Alex
has no news.
She just digs on.

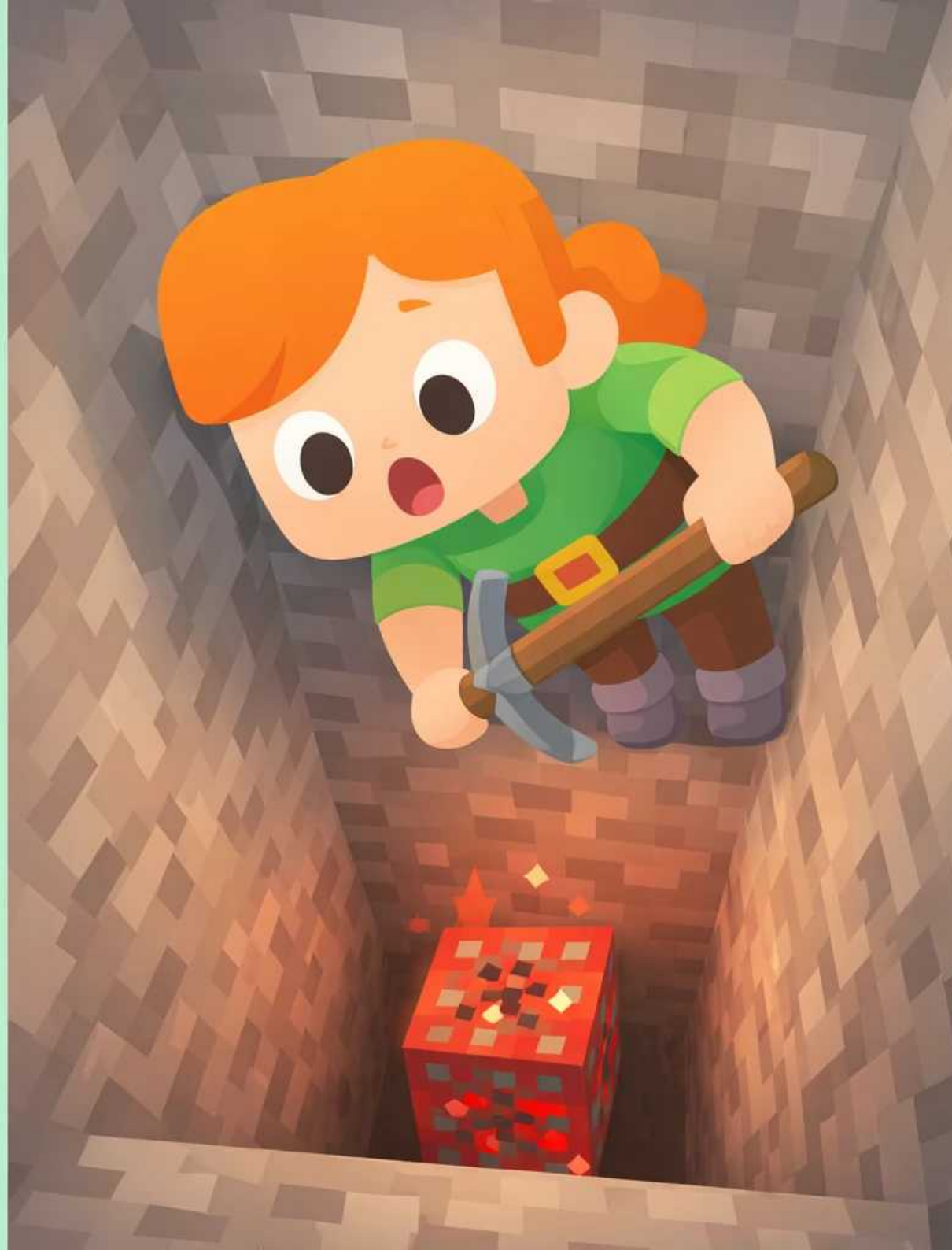




The hole is so deep now. Rock piles up by her feet.

'I must fill this in when I stop,' says Alex. 'But first, a few blocks down.'

Alex stops. The ore under her feet glows red. 'That is not a prize,' says Alex. 'That is bad news!'





Alex runs up the
steps, quick, quick,
quick!

The ground
shakes. It will blast
and spew rock!

Boom! Rock and dirt
fly up. And look.
Fish! Lots and lots!
Cod are strewn on
the rocks. 'A big
prize!' says Alex
with a grin. 'Lunch
for days!'





Alex Digs for a Clue

Alex has her diamond shovel, her lucky boots, and a feeling in her belly: something special is buried in the hill. She digs deeper and deeper, past sparkling walls, sure that a big prize is waiting below. But what could possibly be hiding at the bottom of her tunnel? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 2, Unit 12: ue, ew, u_e as in glue, new, cube), this book practices words like 'few', 'new', 'chew', 'blue', 'anew'.

Phonics Focus: <ue> <ew> <u_e>

anew, blue, chew, chews, few, mew, new, news, spew, strewn

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