

Do Not Drop That Mango!





At mango time, Gran **always** says, 'Do not drop that mango!' Today is the **day!** Dog and I stand in the big mango shade, glad to **stay.** Dog sniffs and sniffs. The branches hang so close and so full of mangoes I can almost grab one. Two birds sit up top. '**Stay back!**' I tell the birds. 'Those mangoes are for us.'

It is harvest **day**! I tote a big sack of mangoes **today**. One wobble, and they all tumble **away**! **May** holds a mango like a baby. Max runs by, fast. 'I **always** pick the most!' he yells. 'And he drops the most,' I whisper. Dog trots next to **May**, tail going swish, swish.



Max goes up fast, **way** up by the big branch. I trail after him, picking one by one. Max **stays** up and grabs two at once, then more. 'Look! No hands!' he yells. A mango slips and falls. Gran catches it in the basket. 'Do not drop that mango!' she yells. May giggles as Dog **waits** for a mango to drop.

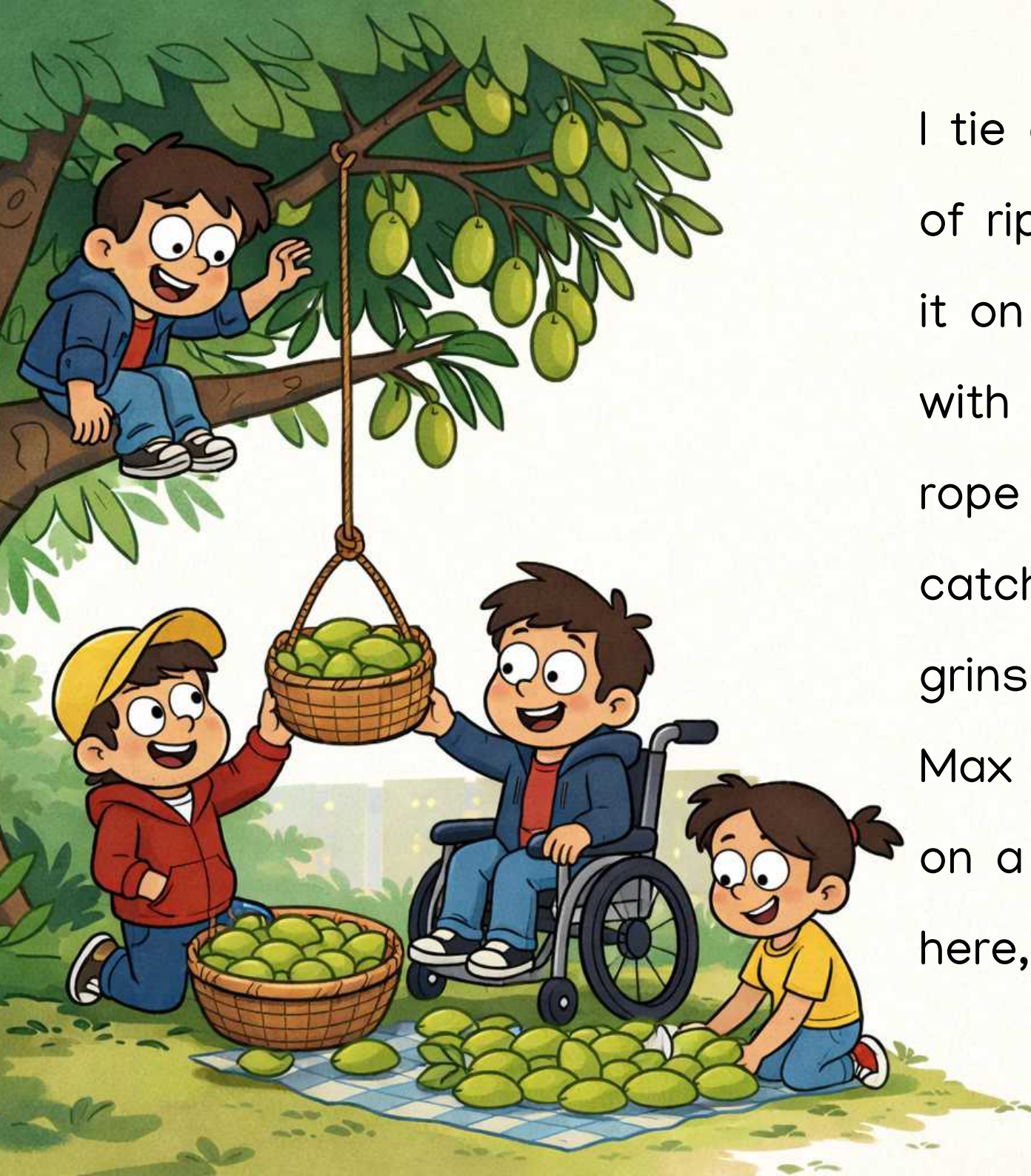




Gran cuts up the mangoes.
We sit by a big plate of
golden mango bits. Max
bites a thick slice. Mango
drips off his chin, his neck,
his shirt. 'Max, you look like
a mango!' I tell him. He just
grins and takes a bigger
bite. I munch the skin and
suck the pit. Gran nods at
me. 'That is the way to do
it. Not a bit lost.'

My friend Sam rolls up
after lunch with a big grin.
'I will catch the mangoes!' he yells. Gran sits by a
tray of golden mangoes.
She smiles. 'More helpers,
more hands. More hands,
more chance to...' 'Drop a
mango!' we all yell. Dog
barks with us.





I tie a rope to a basket full of ripe mangoes, then send it on its way. Sam waits with both hands up as the rope begins to sway. He catches the basket and grins. Not a single dent! Max and May sort the rest on a blanket. Big ones here, the best ones there.

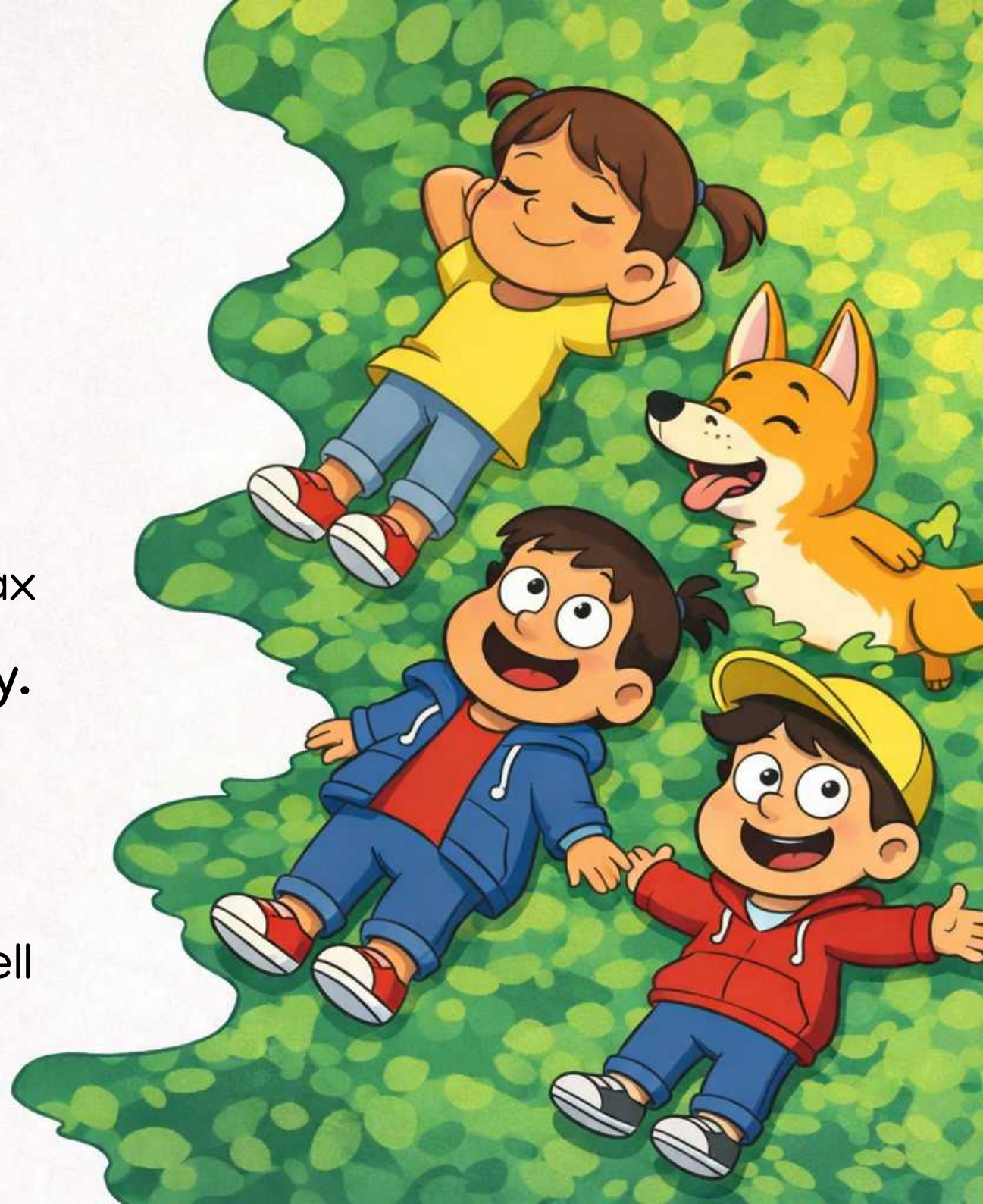
Dad packs the best mangoes in the truck. We drive to the market. My belly flips all the way. We lay a blanket and pile mangoes up, like a golden hill. A man bends and picks one up. He sniffs it. I hold up the top mango. 'No dents. No marks. Not a drop.' The man smiles. 'I will take ten.'





The land market is just part of the fun. We pack the rest in a craft and **sail** to the river market **today**. More craft bump on every side. Some hold melons, some hold plants in every shade. Max stands up to wave and starts to **sway**. **May** grabs the mangoes before they slide **away**. I stand and yell, 'Sit, Max!' A man close by yells, 'Do not drop that mango!'

The harvest is done, and every mango is picked today. We did not drop one mango all day! We rest in the branches to end the day. May and Max nap on a branch and stay. I whisper, 'Next time, we will pick many more.' Dog thumps his tail. He can tell I always say that.





Do Not Drop That Mango!

Harvest day has arrived, and a girl's family is picking their mango tree bare before Gran's basket catches every single one. Her friend races ahead shouting he'll always pick the most, and Dog's tail sways like he already knows who'll drop one first. Will they get every mango to market without a single splat? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 84: ai, ay /ā/), this book practices words like 'may', 'today', 'stay', 'sway', 'trail'.

Phonics Focus: ai, ay /ā/

always, away, day, lay, may, sail, say, says, stay, stays, sway, tail, today, trail, tray, waits, way

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