

Do Not Open
That Doorway

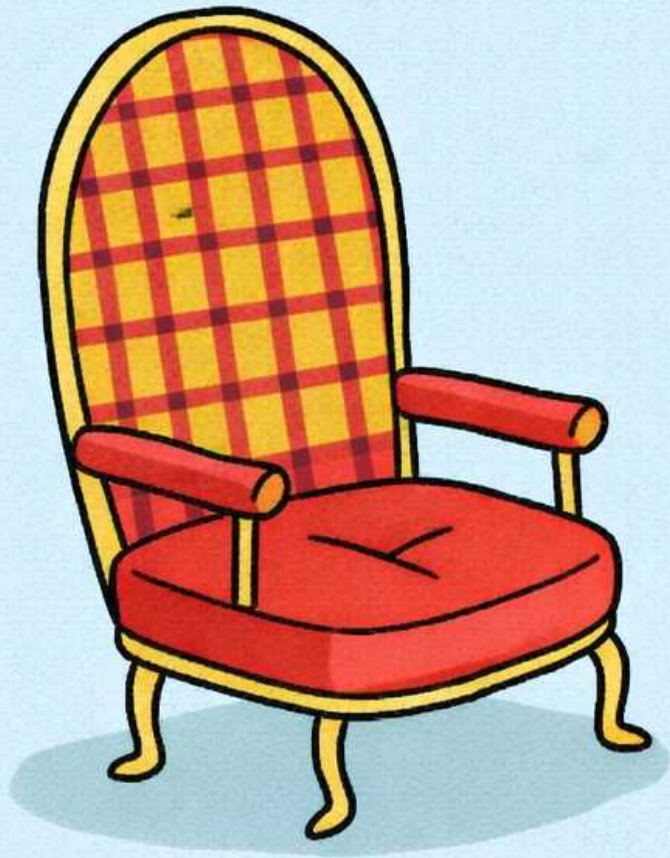




Pa tells the best bedtime tales of all. Better than books. Better than songs. Better than all things. Each bedtime, Pa sits on my bed while the small lamp **glows**. Each bedtime I say, 'Tell me a story, Pa.' And each bedtime, Pa **does**.

Pa leans in close. His whisper is low and slow. 'I will tell you the story of Wisp, a girl made of wind.' 'A girl made of wind?' I say. 'That is not real. That is a tall tale.' Pa just smiles. 'You tell me at the end.'





Wisp had no face you
could see. No **shadow** you
could **follow**. She could sit
just next to you in a big
red seat and you would
not feel a thing. The one
hint? A small **hollow** dip.
But who checks the seat?
Nobody. That is who.

When it rained, you could almost spot Wisp. Rain flowed off her shape, showing the line of her chin and her nose. The drops made small splashes at her feet. Yet people just walked past and did not look. Wisp kept still, and still they did not see her.





Snow was better.

Snowflakes landed on Wisp and stayed, so Wisp looked like a snow girl who had lost her body. A few kids stopped. They pointed. They said, 'Do you see that?' Wisp held very, very still. She did not want them to look away.

One morning, Wisp did a brave thing. She walked into a class, sat at a desk, and picked up a crayon. A kid sat at the next desk. Wisp held the crayon to the paper. The kid yelled, and the teacher jumped back. From where the kid sat, a green crayon floated all by itself.





'Please do not yell,' said Wisp. 'I just wanted to sketch.' The kid froze. Then he asked, 'Can I paint your face so I can see you?' Wisp held still. The kid **soaked** his brush in **yellow** paint and slowly, slowly gave her a face: two arcs and a smile.

'More!' said Wisp. 'Paint me full of things I like!'

Wisp's locks **flowed** up and out, and the kid filled them with a star, a fat cat, and music notes that almost seemed to hum.

'Do I look pretty?' Wisp asked. The kid grinned.

'You look like a song.'





After that, Wisp painted herself every single morning. Stars on her arms. Music notes on her fingers. Vivid prints **glowed** along her way, so people could **follow** her trail. Wisp was done hiding. She was **showing** them all who she was.

Wisp stood on a hill, full
of painted stars, a sun,
and all the things she
liked. She began to **glow**.
People could see her at
last. Not because of the
paint. Wisp was so full
of who she was that
she **glowed**, and there
was no way to miss her.





Pa goes quiet and sips the last of his drink. In a low tone, he asks, 'So, tall tale or real?' I pull the blanket up to my nose. A girl made of wind? No way. 'Not real, all made up,' I say. Pa smiles and says, 'Sleep well.'

Pa turns off the lamp. Pa walks out. Pa shuts the door. Bit by bit, the door creaks back open. A **yellow glow** falls in from the hallway. But nobody is there. I pull the blanket up to my chin. Don't open that door. Don't open that door. **DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR.**





Do Not Open That Doorway

Wisp is a girl made of wind, invisible to everyone except for one small clue in a cushion. When rain falls, its drops slowly curve around her shape without ever touching her, and when snow does fall, it clings to her shoulders and stays. Could snowflakes be the thing that finally lets people see a girl made of nothing but air? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 86: oa, ow, oe /ō/), this book practices words like 'snow', 'glow', 'follow', 'yellow', 'hollow'.

Phonics Focus: oa, ow, oe /ō/

does, floated, flowed, follow, glow, glowed, glows, goes, hollow, low, shadow, showing, slow, snow, snowflakes, soaked, yellow

Bookbot is not endorsed by or affiliated with UFLI (the University of Florida Literacy Institute) or Jolly Learning Ltd. UFLI Foundations and Jolly Phonics are trademarks of their respective owners.

Learn to read with confidence

The Bookbot app and its carefully designed decodable books help children practise the sounds and words they are learning, building strong phonics and reading skills one step at a time. In the app, children can listen to stories read aloud, follow highlighted words as they are spoken, and read independently when they are ready. Together, the decodable books and oral reading support help develop accuracy, fluency, confidence and a love of reading. Learn more at www.bookbotkids.com.

