

Do Not Take That Gem!

An Unofficial Minecraft Book



Part

1

My pick goes chink, chink, chink at the coal. Just the same old coal. The same old dark cave. The same old day. The torches flicker on the wall behind me.

Then a green flash bursts from the rock, and my pick stops mid-swing. A **gem!** A big, fat emerald stuck in the wall, glowing like it wants me to find it.

My brain says, 'Don't take that **gem.**' My hands say, 'Too late.' I step closer to grab it.





Hiss. I know that sound. Every miner knows that sound. I spin around fast and lift my shield just as the Creeper goes bang. Boom! The blast slams me back into the cave wall so hard my teeth rattle and my ears ring. When the dust clears, I **glance** at the **gem** still stuck in the wall. Something inside it is glowing now. Not the same plain green. A deeper, stranger green, flickering like a tiny flame. 'That is new,' I whisper. And then the cave starts to spin.

I blink. I stand on grass now. Under stars. Outside on a hill. Deep cave? Gone. Now there is wind on my **face** and a wood post I have never seen. I check my boots for cracks. No cracks at all. I check the green emerald in my hand. Still glowing. Still **strange**. 'Fine,' I say to the wind. 'So it is that kind of emerald.'





Twang! An arrow zips past my ear. A skeleton. It is always a skeleton. I **dodge** the next two arrows, then pull out my blade and **charge** in. One big swing. The skeleton drops in bits. Bones go flying all over the grass. A little green orb floats up from the pile, and I breathe it in. 'Thanks for that,' I tell the bones. The bones do not say a thing. But behind me, something does. A clicking, skittering thing with many legs in the dark.

I turn around slowly. A spider creeps out of the shadows, red eyes glowing. Behind that spider, a fresh skeleton with an arrow already on the string. And behind that... a baby zombie. Riding a chicken. 'Come on,' I groan. I do not wait to count any more of them. I pick a way and **race** off into the night. My boots pound the wet grass, my kit clangs, and behind me a chicken keeps clucking like this is the best night of its little life.





A river. Perfect. I dash to the **edge** and splash in. Zombies can't swim fast, skeletons can't aim at a moving target in deep water, and baby zombies on chickens... well, who knows what they do in rivers. I will not stay to find out.

A zombie stands on the bank, watching me with dull, hollow eyes. It will not wade in. I paddle out to the deep part and let the river carry me along. Behind me, the monsters shrink to tiny shapes in the dark.

'Not today,' I whisper. 'Not today.'

I swim until the trees on the river banks turn tall and tangled. Jungle. Vines hang thick and low, too thick to run through in the dark. Then I **notice** it. A little wood cabin, hidden in the green ferns. I can see its shape in the still water too. A cabin means a door. A door means no jungle monsters can get in. I swim for it so fast I nearly gulp the river down.





I slam the door, flop on the bed,
and sleep hits me like a brick.
When I wake, sun shines through
the window. I eat my last bit of
bread and sit there chewing,
staring at the wall. Then a green
glow catches my eye. The
emerald, right there on the bed. I
notice that little flame still **dancing**
inside it. This **gem** is nothing but
danger. Monsters. A mad dash in
the dark. A baby zombie on a
chicken. I pick it up. I hold it up to
the light. I grin. 'So,' I say. 'Where
to next?'



Do Not Take That Gem!

A miner spots a glowing emerald in the wall, but the moment they touch it, everything changes. One flash later, they're outside under strange stars, with skeletons, spiders, and even a baby zombie riding a chicken closing in fast. Racing through jungle and river to escape, will this strange gem ever let them go home? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 117: Signal Vowels (c /s/, g /j/)), this book practices words like 'gem', 'notice', 'strange', 'charge', 'dodge'.

Phonics Focus: Signal Vowels (c /s/, g /j/)

charge, dancing, danger, dodge, edge, face, gem, glance, notice, race, strange

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