

Ned's Big Need



Ned has a farm. He has pigs and cows and crops, and a home that **creaks** in the wind.

But Ned has a big **need**. 'I **need** to look grand,' he tells The Book. 'A farmer can look **sleek** too.'





All **week**, Ned makes a kit in his shop. He holds it up with a proud grin. Then his smile drops off his face. 'It is brown,' he says. 'Plain, dull, ugly brown. I look like a mud **heap.**' 'Add some colour,' says The Book, flipping its pages. 'But it is not so **easy.**'

The Book sends Ned out to the land, where red blooms and yellow blooms fill the tall grass. 'Pick a red bunch and a yellow bunch,' says The Book, waving its quill like a **wee** blade. 'I have a plan.' Ned grabs a bunch in **each** hand. 'No more brown,' he says. 'I **mean** it.'





Back in the shop, The Book **speaks**. 'Crush the red bloom. **Squeeze** it hard.' Ned **squeezes** and **squeezes**. **Deep** red goo **seeps** out and drips from his fists. 'Now rub it in,' says The Book. Ned rubs the goo onto the kit on its stand. The brown fades. Red blooms! Ned gasps.

Ned puts on the red kit. He looks down. He frowns. 'Red is too loud,' he says. 'I **feel** like a shout in a shirt.' 'Try the yellow bloom,' says The Book. '**See** what yellow can do.'





Ned crushes the yellow bloom with a quick **squeeze**. Yellow goo spreads on the bench like **sweet cream**. 'Ooh,' says The Book. 'That is a **dreamy gleam**.' Ned rubs it into a fresh kit till **each** scrap glows bright, sunny yellow.

Ned puts on the yellow kit. He **peeks** down. He **peeks** up. He **peeks** down one more time.

'I look like a big yellow **bean,**' he says. 'A big **bean** with **feet.**'

'It is quite bright,' agrees The Book. 'Not. That. Colour,' says Ned.





Ned slumps at his bench.
One red bloom and one
yellow bloom sit there. He
crushes them both, not
trying hard at all.

Then he pushes the two
heaps into **each** other. The
red and yellow swirl. They
blend. A warm new colour
spreads like sunup.

Ned's eyes go wide. 'What
is that?'

Ned rubs the new goo into a fresh kit at top **speed**. It turns warm and bright. He puts it on. He looks down. He does a little spin. 'That is the colour!' he yells. 'Not too loud, not too yellow. It is **peachy**. It is perfect!' 'Easy,' says The Book with a sly grin. 'It just takes all day.'





At sunup, Ned starts to make stands. Stand after stand after stand. 'Why so many stands?' asks The Book. Ned just smiles a sly smile. He takes the stands outside and sets them in a **neat**, long row by his home. 'It is my big plan,' he says with a wink. 'Just wait till noon.'

Ned goes back to the land.
He picks **each** bloom and
plant he can **see**. Then he
crushes and mixes and rubs
all day long. Red kits. **Green**
kits. Yellow kits. Blue kits. **Each**
one **gleams** on its stand.

'Come one, come all,' says
Ned, arms wide, 'to Ned's Kit
Show!'

The Book tries not to **beam**
with **glee**. It **beams**.





That night, Ned steps out into the dark in his best kit, blade swinging. All the monsters can **see** him from far off. He glows like a small sunset. 'Ned! That is a bit bright!' calls The Book. Ned grins. 'If I fight monsters at night, I can look grand too!'



Ned's Big Need

Ned has a farm, pigs, cows, and crops, and a big need: he wants his armour to look grand instead of plain, boring brown. The Book has a plan, but every colour Ned tries seems wrong, too loud, too bright, too much like a bean. Can Ned find the one colour that finally feels right? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 5: /ee/ mixed), this book practises words like 'need', 'heap', 'peek', 'dreamy', 'sleek'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

agree, beam, beams, bean, creaks, cream, deep, dreamy, each, easy, feel, feet, gleam, gleams, glee, green, heap, heaps, mean, neat, need, peachy, peek, peeks, see, seep, seeps, sleek, speak, speaks, speed, squeeze, squeezes, sweet, wee, week

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