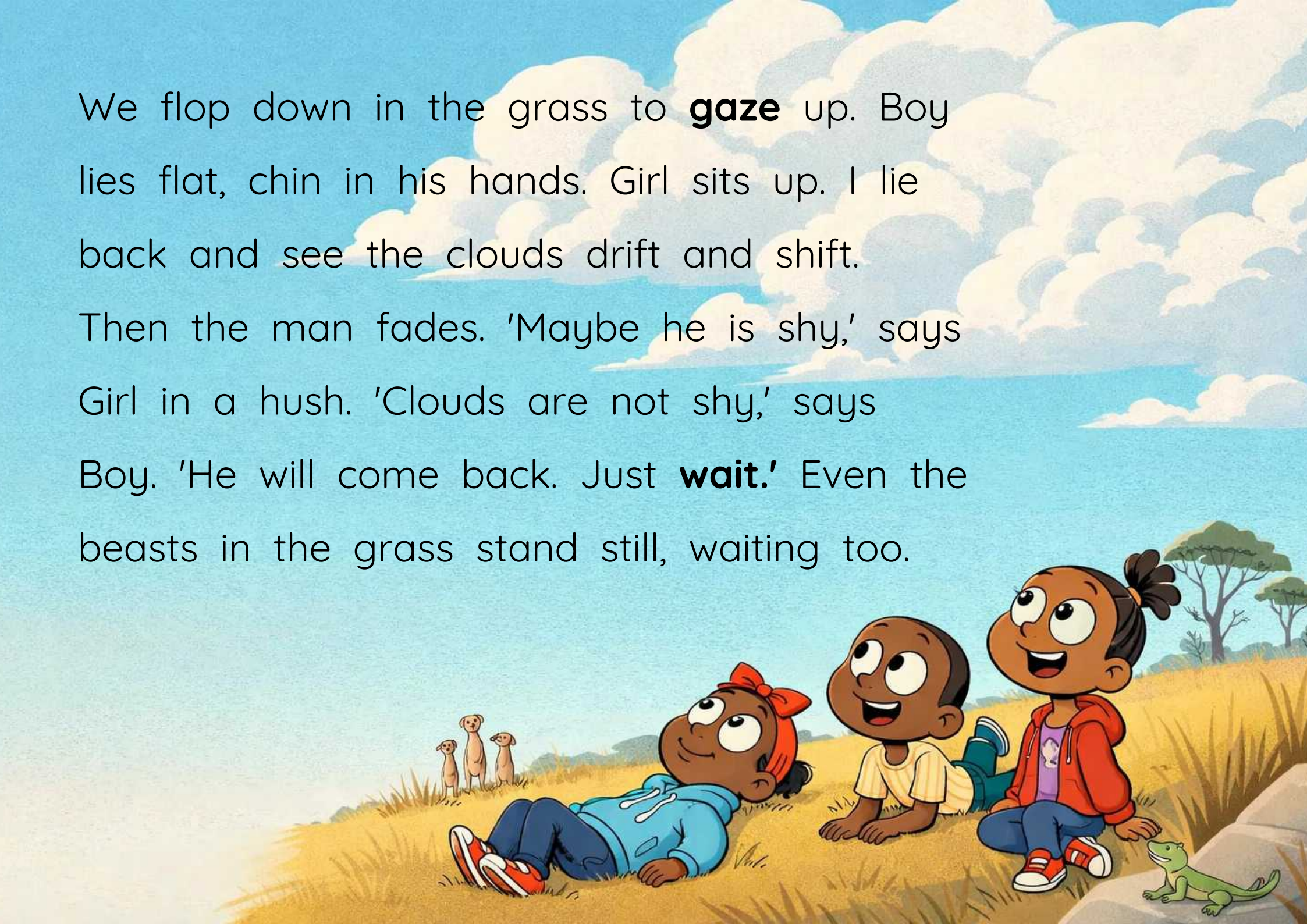
Who Waves At Boy?

Boy sees him first. 'Up there!' he yells. 'A man in the clouds!' Girl and I **gaze** up. A big soft **shape** floats in the sky, **waving** down at us. 'He waves at me,' says Boy. 'He waves at us all,' I **say.** 'No,' says Boy. 'Just me.'

We flop down in the grass to **gaze** up. Boy lies flat, chin in his hands. Girl sits up. I lie back and see the clouds drift and shift.

Then the man fades. 'Maybe he is shy,' says Girl in a hush. 'Clouds are not shy,' says Boy. 'He will come back. Just **wait.'** Even the beasts in the grass stand still, waiting too.



Then he is back, and he brings a lady! Both cloud shapes leap and twirl in the sky. They kick. They spin. They dance a jig. 'I like this one!' I jump up and jig along. My arms **sway.** The cat by my feet hops too, which looks more like flopping. 'They copy Sister!' says Girl. 'No,' I grin. 'I copy them!'

The cloud man and lady stop dancing. They plant big soft feet, tilt back, and sing. No sound comes down. But they **gape wide,** arms out, and I can just tell it is a really loud song. Boy sits up and points. 'They sing like ahhh-la-la-laaa!' The birds tilt to one **side,** as if they can feel it too.

Then the sky fills up. Cloud drummers! Cloud horn **players!** A big cloud band grins down at us. And this **time** we can feel it. A deep boom, boom, boom makes the ground hum.

'Dance!' yells Girl. Boy bounces. Girl spins. I kick my legs **way** up high. Even the beasts bob along, and I am not **making** that up.

The drum gets loud. And louder! The sky turns grey, then dark. The boom turns to a big crack. Thunder! 'Um,' says Girl, as fat **raindrops** land on her hand. 'I think the band is upset.' 'Bands do not get upset,' says Boy. But his voice **shakes.** A flash lights up the sky. The drummer bangs harder, and the **rain** comes down fast and thick.

'Run!' I shout. We dash for **home.** Girl is fastest, because Girl is fastest each **time.** Boy swings his arms. I slip twice but keep going. Inside, the lamp light is bright, like it calls us **home.** Both dogs from the yard dash along with us too. We all pile inside just as the sky gives its biggest crack yet.

We kick off the wet socks. Splat, splat, splat! Six wet socks in a heap by the **way** in. Then Boy grabs a cloth and swings it round and round. 'I am the cloud man!' he yells. 'I am the cloud lady!' Girl twirls her red cloth. I **wave** my blue cloth. 'I am all the cloud band!' We dance and drip and grin. Soon the room is a **lake!**

Mum and Dad come in and see us. 'A cloud man **came!'** Boy tells them. 'And he sang like this!' He gapes **wide** and yells. 'They did a jig,' I **say,** jigging. 'There was a band!' says Girl. 'With drums! And then a storm **came!'** Dad grins. Mum smiles. 'The thunder was so loud,' she says. 'But we did not see the show!'

'Not for long,' says Dad. He comes back with his big drum. Boom, boom-boom! Boy grabs a pot. Clang, clang! Girl gets a pan. Bang, bang!

Mum takes my hands, and we leap round the room like the cloud dancers, spinning **away.**

It is louder than the storm. It is sillier than the clouds. We are the best band ever! Well. The best band in the room. **Same** thing.

Late at night, the moon is low. I peek out the window. The clouds are silver now. And there, deep in the soft clouds, the cloud man lies on his back. Legs up. Fast asleep. 'Sleep well, cloud man,' I **say** in a hush. I get in bed beside Boy and Girl, and we sleep too. Maybe, **way** up there, we are in his dream.

MIXED

Who Waves At Boy?

A boy spots a man floating in the clouds and is sure the wave is just for him, but the girl and their sibling gaze up too, wondering who the cloud man is really waving at. Will he come back, or fade away for good? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 4: /ai/ mixed), this book practises words like 'wave', 'gaze', 'wide', 'fade', 'wait'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

away, came, fade, gape, gaze, home, hope, lake, late, make, making, players, rain, raindrops, same, say, shakes, shape, side, site, sway, take, time, wait, wave, waving, way, wide

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.

CC BY NC SA

www.bookbotkids.com