

Dot Hid



Ashley found a photo tucked between a teddy and a stack of books. 'Mom!' she said. 'Look at this hair! So short and so pretty!' She held the photo up next to her own face and squinted. Same eyes. Same smile. Ashley had long, floppy hair. Mom had short, neat hair. 'I want hair just like that,' Ashley said. And Ashley had a plan.





She found the red cutters in the art box. The ones with the loopy handles. Ashley had cut paper before. She had cut string before. She had even cut a worm in two once. Sorry, worm! How different could hair be? Snip, snip, snip! Dark bits flew all around. Ashley had a big grin. She was so good at this.

Ashley picked up her little **blue** looking glass and held it up **high**. 'Time to **see** the **new** me,' she **said**. She tossed her head, just like the **cool** girls in her books. She looked. She blinked. She looked again. This **was** going to be so **good**.





'Oh no!' Ashley wailed. 'My hair!' Her hair stuck out in clumps. Big clumps. Small clumps. One bit on the right side was so short there was almost nothing left. The other side hung down like a soggy leaf. Ashley wanted to glue it back on. She wanted to turn back time. She wanted to never, ever cut it on her own again. 'Right,' she said in a small voice. 'I can fix this.'

In the kitchen, Ashley found a bowl of noodles. Long, floppy noodles. 'Noodles look just like hair,' she said. 'No one will see a thing.' She turned the bowl upside down on her head. Noodles fell over her cheeks and slid down her nose. She held up her looking glass and peeked. People would spot this right away. And now her head was soaking wet.





'Noodles are too floppy,' Ashley said. 'I need stiff hair!' She found green beans in the fridge and set them on her head one by one, like long, wild hair. Then Mom, Dad, and Sis walked in. Dad let out a hoot. Sis giggled. Mom pressed her lips together very hard. All three burst into giggles. 'It is not funny!' Ashley cried. But a bean slid right off her nose, and it was a little bit funny.

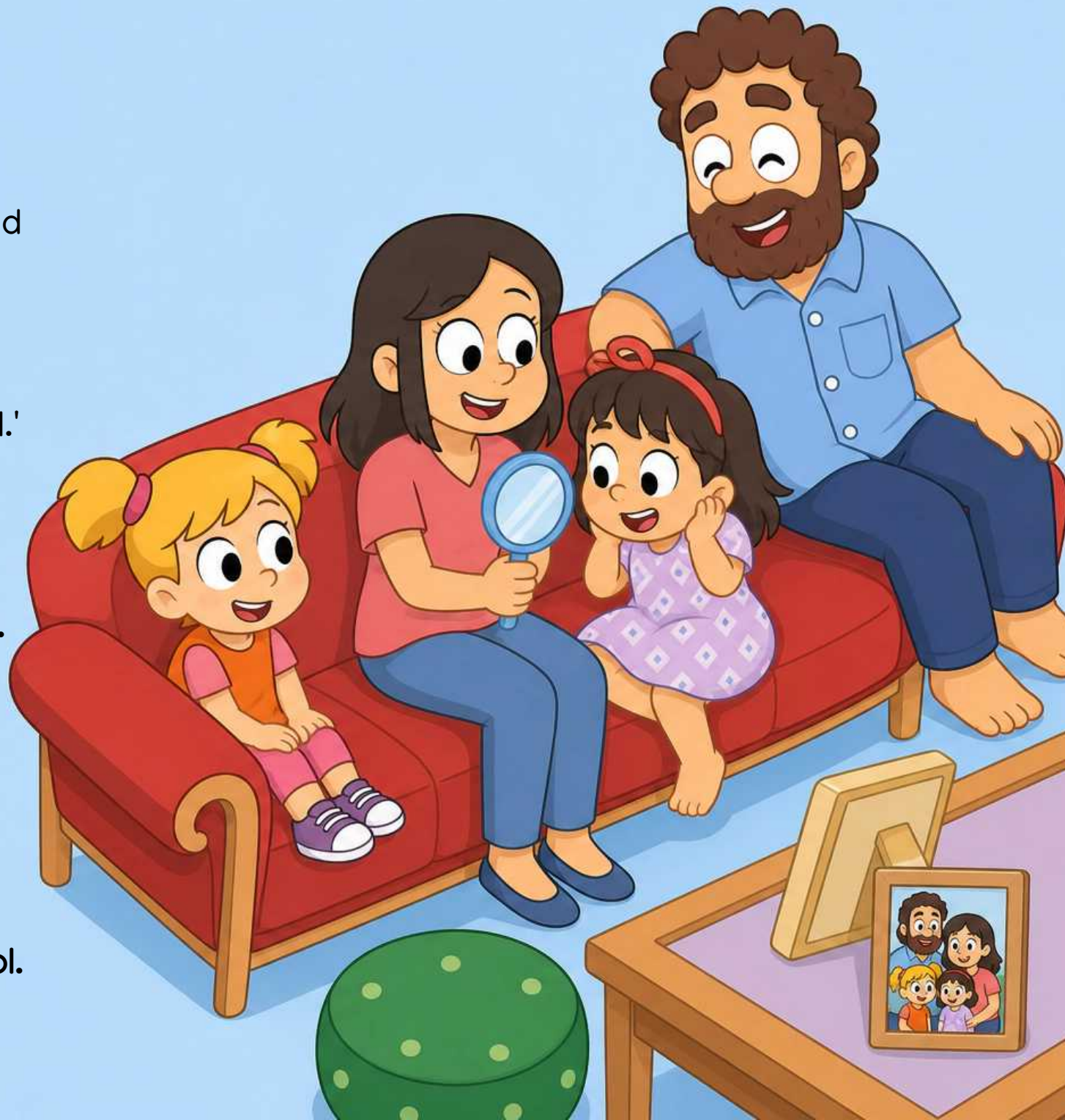
'Third time is the charm,' Ashley said. She took a bag of green leaves from the fridge and piled them on her head like a big green hat, then lifted her looking glass. Behind her, Dad giggled so hard he had to hold his belly. Sis hid behind her red ball and giggled. Even Mom had to wipe her eyes. 'Stop!' Ashley wailed. 'It is a look!' The leaves were wilting, and her head grew itchy.





That **was** it. No more **noodles**. No more beans. No more **leaves**. Ashley crawled behind the big red **couch** and made herself as small as she **could**. If no one **could** see her **hair**, then her **hair was** not **real**. That **was** just facts. 'Ashley?' Mom called softly. 'Come out now.' 'No,' said Ashley. 'This is my home now.'

Mom scooped her up and took her to the couch. Dad sat on the arm. Sis snuggled in close. 'I made a mess of my hair,' Ashley said. 'I do not look like the photo at all.' Mom pulled a red band with a little bow from her pocket and put it on Ashley's head. She held up the looking glass. Ashley looked. She blinked. She looked again. 'Wow,' she said. The girl in the glass looked kind of cool.





Ashley closed her **eyes** and smiled so hard her cheeks hurt. Short **hair**. A red band. A little **bow**. She did not look like Mom's old photo. She looked like Ashley. And Ashley looked **cool**. But next time she needed a trim? She **would** let Mom help. And the **noodles** would go back in the **bowl** where they belong.



Dot Hid

Dot found a photo of Mom with short, pretty hair tucked between old books, and decided she wanted the same look. She grabbed the craft scissors and gave herself a snip, snip, snip haircut all on her own. Would her big idea turn out exactly as she hoped? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 97: Vowel Teams & Diphthongs Review), this book practices words like 'found', 'look', 'right', 'down', and 'need'.

Phonics Focus: Vowel Teams & Diphthongs Review

around, away, bean, between, blue, book, bow, bowl, cheek, cool, couch, could, crawl, cried, down, eyes, flew, found, glue, good, green, grew, hair, head, high, hoot, how, leaf, leaves, look, loopy, neat, need, new, noodles, now, out, own, peek, pull, put, real, right, said, scoop, see, soak, three, too, took, voice, wailed, want, was, would, wow

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