

How Hard Can It Be?

An Unofficial Minecraft Book





Jill had a problem. A big, blocky, takes-up-the-full-yard kind of problem. She had been mining all week, and now cobblestone was all over the place. Stacks on the grass. Stacks by the door. Stacks she did not even know she had. Her chests were so stuffed that the lids would not close. Every time she tried to push in one more block... pop! Three fell out the other side. What a **great** big mess. 'I need to get rid of this stone,' Jill groaned, 'before my house vanishes under it.'

No problem. Jill would just use Dr. Can Do's bin, same as always. But when Jill got there, the line stretched all the way down the path and past the corner. **Eight neighbors.** Nine. Ten! Not one of them was in a hurry. The **neighbor** at the bin was humming. The one next to Jill slept standing up. **They** did not move at all. 'This is so slow,' Jill muttered. She looked at the line. She looked at her pickaxe. She looked at the line again. 'Forget it. I'll build my own bin. How hard can it be?'

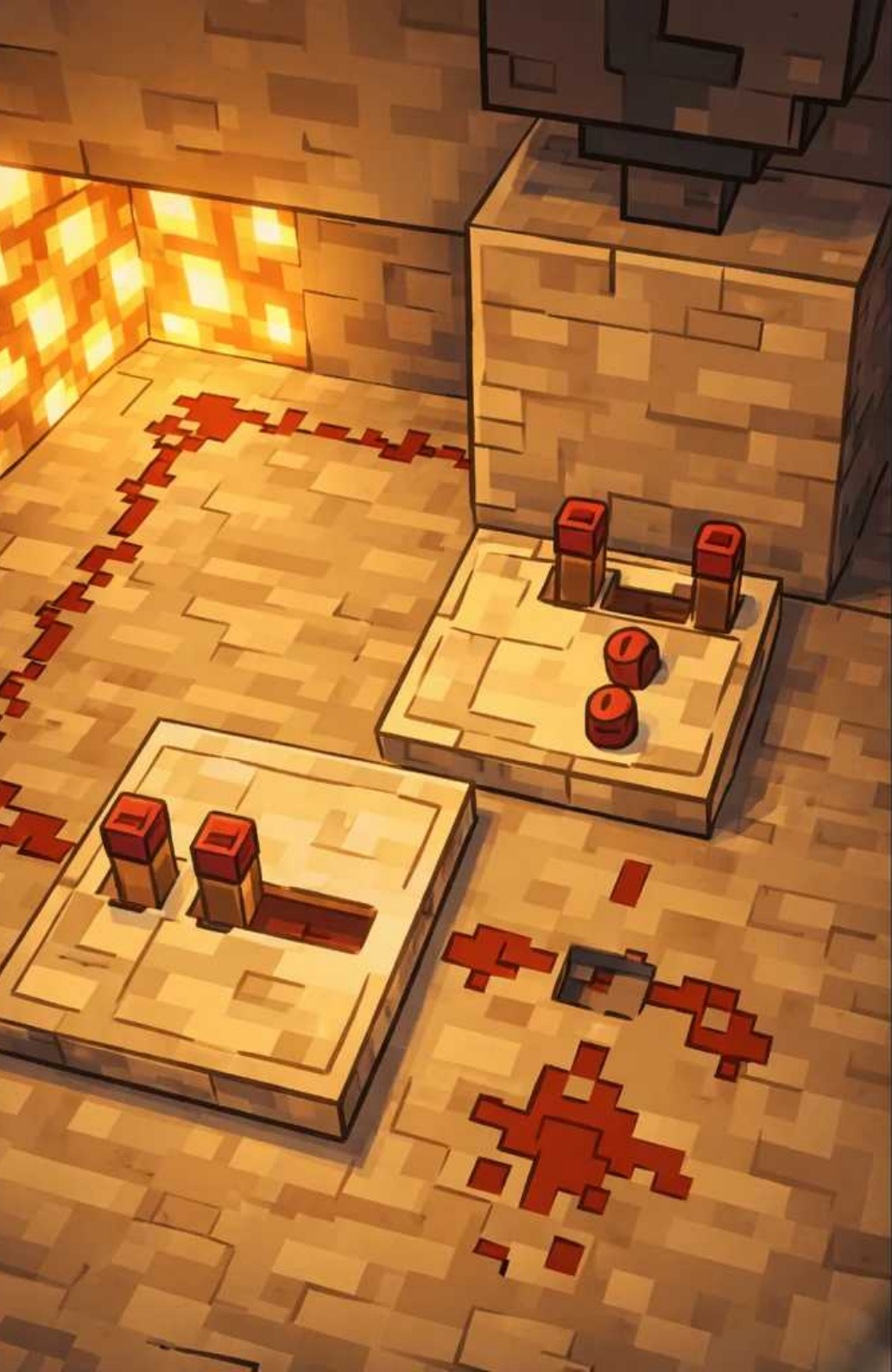




Jill found Dr. Can Do by the garden pond and told him her plan. 'You want to build one?' He lifted a bushy white brow, then smiled. 'Well, why not?' He handed her a pattern and a list of supplies. 'Buckets, redstone, repeaters. It is all in that chest. But Jill, read the pattern **straight** to the end before you start. Every piece matters.' 'Got it, got it, got it.' Jill was already on the way to the chest. She scooped up a big armful of redstone and grinned. '**Hey**, I'll have this done before lunch.'

It was not done before lunch. Down in her underground room, Jill had laid it all out on wooden platforms. Repeaters on this side. Redstone on that side. It looked just like the pattern. Almost. She stepped back and waited for the bin to hum to life. Nothing happened. The bin needed lava inside to melt the stone, and Jill's bucket was empty. So now she had to find a lava pit, and the sun was already going down. She grabbed the bucket and ran **straight** for the door. 'Fine. I'll do that myself too.'





Lava, collected. Put in. Jill held her breath and dropped a cobblestone block into the bin. Clunk. It just sat there. The bin still did not work.

'**Hey**, come on!' Jill got up on top and looked **straight** down into the guts of the bin. And there it was, plain as day. One tiny gap in the redstone path, right in the middle. A clean **break** she had missed. She could almost hear Dr. Can Do's voice in her head: 'Every piece matters.' She had not **obeyed**. But now she could see exactly what to do.

One small piece of redstone dust. That was all. The redstone path connected. The bin hummed. Jill grabbed a cobblestone block, held it over the top, and let go. Whoosh. Gone. She grabbed another. Whoosh. And another. Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh! 'I did it myself!' Jill shouted to nobody, because she was underground, all by herself. Then she laughed, because honestly? That was the **greatest** part.





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Jill's chests are overflowing with cobblestone, and the line for the village disposal bin stretches around the corner with no end in sight. So Jill decides she'll build her own bin instead, no matter what it takes. Will her great plan actually work? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 114: Alternate /ā/ (ei, ey, eigh, aigh, ea)), this book practices words like 'hey', 'break', 'great', 'greatest', 'obeyed'.

Phonics Focus: Alternate /ā/ (ei/ey/eigh/aigh/ea)

break, eight, great, greatest, hey, neighbor, neighbors, obeyed, straight, they

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