

Sit! Sit! Sit!





A letter was **brought** to Rainbow Tower just as the sun turned gold. The Rainbow Queen read it out loud. 'The Wind Princess is coming to visit, and she will arrive by sunrise!'

Kate **thought** she must have heard wrong.

'Sunrise? That is tomorrow!'

Every fairy in the tower jumped up and got to work. They grabbed dustpans, mops, rags, and buckets. They zoomed up and down the stairs. They zoomed into rooms they had not seen in years. 'Everything must sparkle!' called Kate, racing down the hallway with her arms full of brooms. 'From the bedrooms to the doorstep!' **Although** Kate had grabbed every broom she could find, there was still one she needed. The big one. The one that can fly. The one with a very bad temper.





The Rainbow Broom sat in the corner, glaring. 'Come on,' said Kate, reaching for the handle. 'We have work to do.' The broom growled. It really growled. Kate **fought** to get a grip, but the broom yanked itself away so hard that Kate tripped and grabbed nothing but air. 'Fine,' Kate said, reaching again. The broom dodged left. Kate darted right. The broom was not in the mood.

Then the broom shot straight up and zoomed down the hallway like a rocket, and Kate was still holding on. 'Stop, Broom, stop!' she yelled. Her feet swung past rows of painted plates and fans. Her foot knocked a glass ball. It wobbled. It spun. Kate **thought** it would crash. But it did not fall. The broom did not stop.





The broom burst out through a window and into the open sky. Kate flew through the air and landed right on top of it. She grabbed the handle, wrapped her arms around it, and squeezed. 'I said stop!' **Although** the broom bucked and twisted, Kate held on and pulled it down until they crash-landed on a hilltop in a heap. Below them, little fairies stared with their mouths wide open.

Kate sat up and got a good look at the broom. 'Oh, no!' Its rainbow hair was tangled and gray and packed with dirt. Cobwebs hung from it, and a small spider swung from the handle. Kate's heart felt heavy. How **thoughtless** she had been. She had tossed the broom into a dark corner without cleaning it. 'I made this mess,' Kate said softly. 'I would be angry too.'

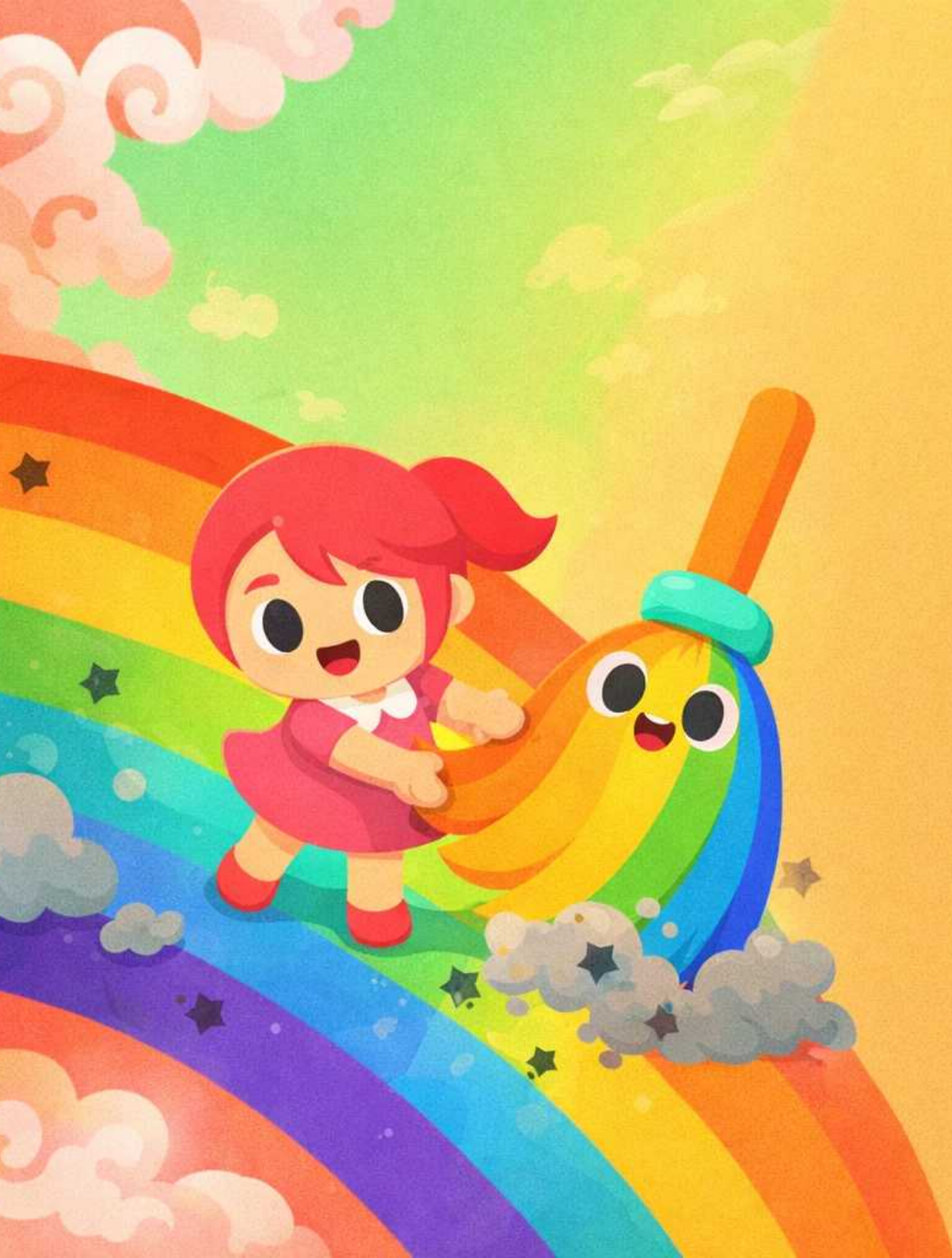




Kate **brought** the broom inside and set it in the bathtub. 'Hold still,' she said. 'This might tickle.' She scrubbed the handle with hot soapy water. She scrubbed the rainbow hair, one soft hair at a time. Pink bubbles floated up and popped against Kate's nose. The broom shivered. Then it sighed. Then, very quietly, it stopped growling.

Next, Kate grabbed a wide-tooth comb. Scrape! Scrape! Scrape! She pulled it through the broom's hair, slow and careful. One by one, the stripes came back to life. Orange. Yellow. Green. Blue. Each one brighter than the last. Kate **thought** she had never seen a brighter sight. The broom's eyes went wide. Then it smiled. A real smile. The kind that starts small and spreads across your face.





The Rainbow Broom shot into the air, and this time Kate was ready. She grabbed on, and together they soared up to the great rainbow. Dust and grime made its bright stripes look gray. 'Let's make it shine!' Kate shouted. They swept the red stripe. They swept the orange, the yellow, the green, the blue, and the purple. **Although** the rainbow was very big, they swept it all. The broom danced across each one, humming happily, flicking dust into the clouds.

Kate wiped sweat from her forehead and looked down. All the kingdom sparkled, and a cheer rang from the hillside below. Silver wind swirled down from the clouds, and there she was. The Wind Princess floated down with her blue hair streaming behind her like a cape. 'She came **early!**' Kate gasped.





The Rainbow Queen stood at the top of her tower, arms wide, as the grand rainbow blazed overhead. 'Welcome, old friend!' she called. The Wind Princess pressed a hand to her heart. 'I have never seen it glow so bright.' Kate stood below and **thought** her heart might burst. A grin spread all the way across her face.

The Wind Princess turned to the fairies. 'What grand work!' she said, gazing up at the rainbow. Kate **thought** of all they had done, and she beamed. She found a soft cloth and wiped the broom down, stripe by stripe, until it shone. 'Clean broom, happy broom,' she said, tucking it back in its place. Then the broom winked.





Sit! Sit! Sit!

The Rainbow Broom is angry, and Kate knows why. When an important visitor is about to arrive, every fairy in the tower rushes to clean, but the one broom Kate needs the most refuses to be touched. Why does the Rainbow Broom growl every time Kate reaches for its handle? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 116: ough /aw/, /ō/), this book practices words like 'thought', 'although', 'brought', 'early', 'fought'.

Phonics Focus: ough /aw/, /ō/

although, brought, early, fought, thought, thoughtless

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.

