

Fright at Midnight



Boom. Boom. Boom.

Skel sits up in bed. It
is **midnight**. A thing
shakes the walls. Not
a quake. Not a storm.
A beat.

A loud, thumping beat.
And it comes from
outside.



When the sun is up, Skel stomps **outside** to see the bad lot. Three llamas stand on the farm in the **bright daylight, like** they own it. They kick up dirt and stomp to a beat.

'Shoo!' yells Skel. 'Go home!' The llamas glance at him. Then they keep on stomping.



Skel lifts his chin. He points to the gate. 'I will count to three,' he says. 'One...' One llama **sighs**. One llama sits down. One llama turns and chomps on the crops.





The next day is bad. So bad.

The three llamas **invite** pals. The pals **invite** more pals. Llamas fill the yard, the path, and the grass **by** the fence. What a **sight!**

Skel **tries** to count them all. He gives up.

'Zom! The yard is a **sight!**' says Skel. But his pal Zom must feed his pigs. 'They are just llamas, Skel. What harm can they do?' 'They eat and eat,' says Skel. 'The grass. The crops. I think one is chewing a fence post!' Zom just grins. 'I will fix it after lunch.'





After lunch, Skel goes back to the farm. The crops are a mess. Llamas chew and chew in the **sunlight**, glad as can be. '**My, my,**' Skel says. 'That is a big herd.'

Zom has a plan. He **ties** ropes on three llamas and starts to march. 'Where the lead llama goes, the rest will follow,' he says, cool as can be. And they do! One **by** one, the llamas get in **line** and march off the farm. Skel just gazes. 'Zom! How do they all follow **like** that?' Zom grins a **sly** grin. 'Llamas just **like** me.'





The farm is hushed.
Skel stands **by** the
pond. No stomps. No
chomps. No llama beat.
'It will not last,' Skel
says with a **sigh**. A
frog goes, 'Rib-it!'
'See?' says Skel. 'The
frog thinks so.'

It does not last. The next day, the llamas are back. All the old ones, plus new ones Skel has never seen. The herd surges onto the grass in **high** glee, pushing and pressing. The farm is the herd's best spot. And a llama will never give up the best spot.





'That is it!' yells Skel. He marches into the herd, waving his arms. 'I am all bones! I am a big **fright!** Run from me!' The llamas gaze at him. Then one spits. Then all the herd spits. Green, sticky, stinky spit! Skel slips and plops down in the goo.

Zom comes **by**. 'Skel?
What is all that green?'
'Hush,' says Skel. 'The big
fright plan was a flop, I
bet,' says Zom. 'I said
hush.' Zom **tries** not to
grin. But he grins. 'Come
on,' he says, pulling Skel
up. 'Skel, that smell! It is
like a llama's mouth!'





Inside, Zom brews a mix **by** lamp **light**. Skel sits still and sulks as Zom dabs the green gunk off him. 'We can not make them run,' says Zom. 'We can not lead them off. They just come back.' 'So what do we do?' asks Skel. Zom lifts the glowing jar and grins a slow, clever grin. 'We do not send them off. We make them help us!' Skel leans in. 'Tell me more.'



Fright at Midnight

Skel wakes at midnight to a strange beat shaking his room, and outside he finds three llamas dancing like they own the farm. More llamas keep arriving, day after day, eating everything in sight, until Skel tries something scary to chase them off. Will his big fright plan finally work? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 6: /ie/ mixed), this book practices words like 'fright', 'sight', 'tries', 'bright', 'midnight'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

bright, by, daylight, fright, high, invite, light, like, line, midnight, my, outside, sigh, sighs, sight, sly, sunlight, ties, tries

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