

How Do They Get In?





Tom makes the best pumpkin pies in all the land. At least, that is what Tom says. Each day. **Aloud.** He bakes fresh pies each morn in his little bakery in **town.** The bake box is so hot that steam fogs up the glass. **Crowds** come just for the sweet smell. Tom stands **outside** and grins. He is a **proud, proud** man.

The **town** has a plan. Jill mines the iron. The Mage uses pumpkins and iron to make iron men. All night they clank **around town** and keep the creeps **out**.

Then one morn, Tom, Jill and the Mage step **outside** and see each iron man smashed on the **ground**.

'No, no,' says Jill. 'No, no, no!' says the Mage. 'No no no no no,' says Tom, thinking **about** his bakery.





The Mage makes new iron men fast. But Tom paces and paces. 'We have torches all **around** the **town**,' he says to Dr. Can Do that night, peering **out** into the dark. 'So **how** do the creeps get in?' 'They come from the dark land far **out**, where no torch can reach,' says Dr. Can Do. 'But do not fret, Tom. The iron men will stop them.' Tom does not stop fretting.

That night, Tom lies in bed,
gazing up into the dark.

Creeps sneak. They do not
growl. They do not **howl**.

They do not even clank
about like the iron men.

They just creep. And creep.
And then... boom.

Tom pulls his blanket up
high. 'Not my bakery,' he
pleads. 'Not my bakery.'





Boom! The blast rattles each **window** in **town**. Tom jumps from his bed, sprints **down** the path, and skids to a stop. His bakery. His grand pumpkin-pie bakery is in flames, bright as a red sunset. Dr. Can Do and the rest come running. 'That is it!' Tom **shouts**, his face red. 'If the iron men can not stop a few creeps, I will pack my pies and go find a safe **town** far from here!'

Jill stands by Tom. 'Stay, Tom. We want the pies. Well... we want the man who makes the pies.' Tom gazes at the ash. His bakery is just ash **now**. 'How **about** a wall?' says Dr. Can Do. 'A **stout** stone wall, right **around** the **town**. No creep gets in. No creep gets **out**. Well, we will have a gate.' Tom **frowns**. 'How big?' 'Very big,' says Dr. Can Do. 'Fine,' says Tom. 'But this **town** must fix my bakery with me.'





They start the next day. All the **town** helps. Each one brings a stone. Dr. Can Do draws up the plans. The Mage lifts the big blocks into place with his staff. The wall **grows** higher and higher, all **around town**, thick and strong. Dr. Can Do and the Mage stand back, **proud**. '**Now** let a creep get past that,' says the Mage. He taps his staff on the **ground** with a thud.

Tom's new bakery is even more grand. Jill plants **flowers** all **around** it, because she says a bakery should smell like two sweet things at once. '**Crowds** will come from each **town** in the land to eat here,' says Jill. Tom lifts a pumpkin pie up and grins. 'And not one creep **about!**' He stops. 'But if a creep does **show** up, I will **shout** at Dr. Can Do!'





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Tom the baker makes the best pumpkin pies in town, and everyone loves stopping by to smell his bakery. But when the iron men that guard the village turn up smashed on the ground, Tom starts pacing and worrying about his safety, wondering how the creeps keep sneaking past the torches at night. What can the townsfolk build to finally keep the danger out for good? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 9: /ou/ mixed), this book practices words like 'town', 'around', 'ground', 'proud', 'shout'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

about, aloud, around, crowds, down, flowers, frowns, ground, growl, grows, how, howl, now, out, outside, proud, shout, shouts, show, stout, town, window

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