

An Unofficial Minecraft Series

Dr. Can Do





Jill **stumbled** in, **dazed** and **grimy**, like she had been fighting all night. Her battle kit was cracked. Her eyes were almost shut. 'Skeleton spawner,' she groaned. '**Used** up every last golden carrot just to make it home.' Can Do reached into the chest and held out a handful of **shining** carrots. 'Last ones,' he said. Jill took them, and they both **stared** at the empty chest. Growing golden carrots took forever. Without them, Jill's next **mining** trip could be her last.

Can Do did what he always did when there was a problem. He grabbed paper and started **writing** fast. 'Bone meal,' he muttered, **noting** it down and sketching. 'Bone meal makes crops grow in seconds. And you know what makes bone meal? Cactus! Cactus in a compost box, **lined** up with hoppers, **using** redstone. Bone meal forever!' He slapped the bench so hard the redstone dust jumped. 'I just need one tiny thing. Cactus. How hard can that be?'





Can Do stood at the edge of the village, **gazing** out. Far past the green hills, he could just make out a strip of yellow. The desert. 'Right then,' he said, **facing** the hot sun. 'I'll pop over, grab some cactus, and be home for dinner.' He packed no food. No water. No map. Just his tools and his guts. He was never short of guts. How hard can that be?

Jill's donkey was nibbling grass by the village gate. Can Do climbed into the saddle, **wobbled** sideways, grabbed the donkey's mane, **wobbled** the other way, and at last sat up tall. '**Easy,**' he said, but no one saw. The donkey gave him a long look and set off. Can Do patted its neck. 'We'll be there by sunset, old friend. Grab a cactus. Home for lunch. Nothing can go wrong.'





Something went wrong. The cactus was not the small, friendly plant Can Do had **hoped** for. It was so tall. Thick green blocks towered over him, **spiked** with needles as long as his fingers. Even the donkey took one look and **shuffled** back. 'Well,' said Can Do, reaching out a hand. 'It can't be that prickly, can it...' Ouch! He yanked his hand back. 'Yes. Yes it can.'

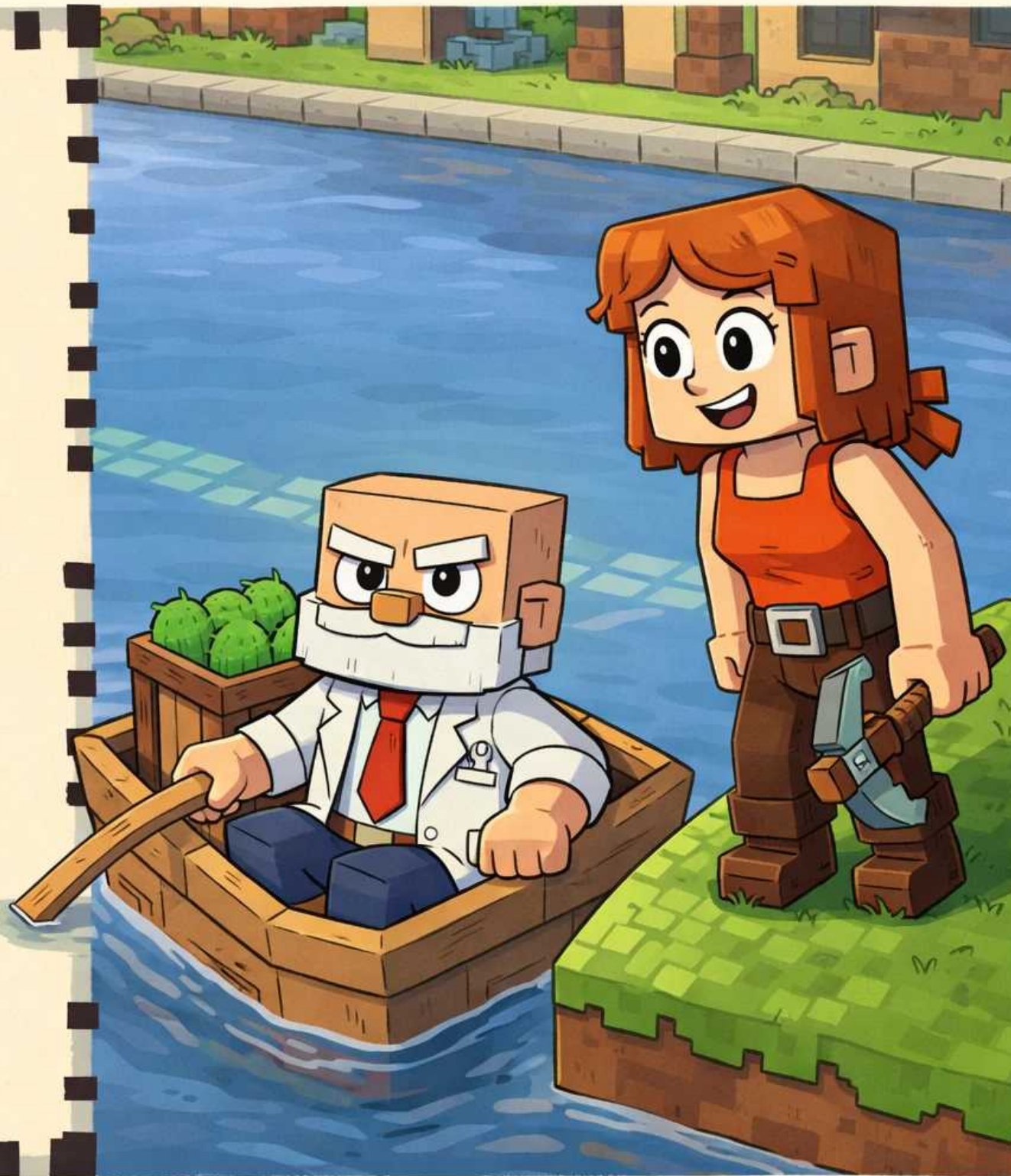
'A new plan,' said Can Do. He wrapped his lab coat around the cactus like a blanket and pulled. The needles **poked** right in. 'Ouch! Ow ow ow ow ow!' He **stared** at his coat, full of holes, then at his **shaking** hands. He grabbed his tool and dug a long ditch in the sand. If he could not lift the cactus, he would float it home. He dug until blisters formed on every finger. But he kept going.





Three days **later**, the ditch stretched from the desert to his home. Can Do filled it with water, set a boat at one end, and **placed** a chest inside the boat. He **lined** the chest up right under the tallest cactus, **raised** his hammer, and swung. Chop! The cactus blocks **tumbled** right into the chest without **poking** his hands once. Can Do grinned. 'So much cactus to last a lifetime. And not one more ouch.'

The little boat **glided** down the ditch, with Can Do sitting tall and a chest full of cactus behind him. Jill was waiting on the bank with her mouth wide open. 'You dug a ditch all the way to the desert?' 'Had to,' said Can Do. 'I could not haul them home, could I?' Jill grinned. 'Now we can float sand back home, all the sand we want!' She rubbed her hands. 'We are going to need more boats.'





Back in his shop, Can Do **wired** up his **amazing** rig. Compost boxes, hoppers, redstone, all clicking into place. He flipped the switch. The rig hummed. Cactus dropped in at one end. White bone meal came out the other. The village farmer **raced** over, scooped up an armful, and ran to the carrot beds. 'It works!' Can Do whispered. Then louder. 'It works!' His hands were safe at last. Totally worth it.

Jill bit into the first golden carrot made with Can Do's bone meal. Crunch. Her eyes went wide. 'So good,' she said. 'Almost as good as a slice of cake.' She took another big bite. 'Now I need to mine lots of gold, from deep underground, where it is dark and...' She looked at Can Do. He was already at his bench, **writing** like **crazy**. 'Do not tell me,' said Jill. 'You have a plan.' Can Do **smiled**. 'How hard can that be?'





How Hard Can That Be?

Dr Can Do has just used up the last of his golden carrots keeping Jill safe underground, and growing more takes forever. He's sure he's found the answer: cactus, turned into bone meal, will make crops grow in seconds. There's just one small problem standing between him and his brilliant plan. What could possibly go wrong on a quick trip to the desert? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 109: Drop -e Rule), this book practices words like 'stumbled', 'dazed', 'gazing', 'wobbled', 'raised'.

Phonics Focus: Drop -e Rule

amazing, crazy, dazed, easy, facing, gazing, glided, grimy, hoped, later, lined, mining, noting, placed, poked, poking, raced, raised, shaking, shining, shuffled, smiled, spiked, stared, stumbled, tumbled, used, using, wired, wobbled, writing

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.

