

I Chase Dad!



Each day, Dad hops on his big green bike. "See **you** tonight!" he calls, and pedals off down the **avenue**. That is his **routine**, day after day. Tonight? That is many hours away.

Girl kneels on the sidewalk and pushes her tiny toy bike along the ground. It goes about as fast as a sleepy snail. "Wait for me, Dad," she whispers. "I just need something faster."





A scooter! Girl grabs the handlebars and zooms down the road so fast the wind makes her eyes water. Her helmet wobbles. Her knees wobble. But Girl does not wobble. Up ahead, a **blue** car rumbles along. Girl leans low and **pursues** it. She pumps harder and harder until she is right on its bumper. But the car keeps pulling away. "Let me see," says Girl. "I need something with a motor."

Girl grips the steering wheel of a shiny yellow car. She checks her mirrors, buckles her belt, and presses the pedal. Vroom! She zooms down the **avenue**. She could do this all day. But then a big green bus rolls up right beside her. It is the biggest thing on the road, and it is the brightest green Girl has ever seen. Her eyes go wide. "Wow," she whispers. "Wow, yes."





Girl sits tall in the driver's seat of the green bus. She honks the horn twice, just because she can. Beep beep! The bus rumbles past roadworks where a huge digger sits waiting, its bucket gleaming in the sun. Girl has seen a **few** big trucks before, but not like this. She hits the brakes. "Sorry, bus," she says. "But that looks way more fun."

The digger is epic. Girl pulls the levers and it lurches across the grass toward the water. Chunk. Chunk. Chunk. A man on a jet ski spots her from the waves. "No way!" he shouts. "Are **you** driving a digger?" "Yes!" yells Girl. "And it is epic, but kind of slow." The man looks at the digger. Girl looks at the jet ski. They have the same plan at the same time.



"**You** take the digger. I take the jet ski," says Girl. "Deal!" they both shout. Girl jumps on the jet ski and twists the throttle. Water sprays all around her as she shoots off at full speed. Her life vest flaps in the wind. It is the fastest ride she has ever had. Then she spots a speedboat bobbing on the waves just ahead. Girl grins and **pursues** it. "Sorry, jet ski. No hard feelings."





The speedboat smashes through the waves. Splash! Crash!

Splash! Each wave is bigger than the last. Girl holds on tight and laughs right into the wind.

Then, far out on the water, she sees it. A ship. A huge ship.

The kind that can sail across the sea and back. Girl's heart

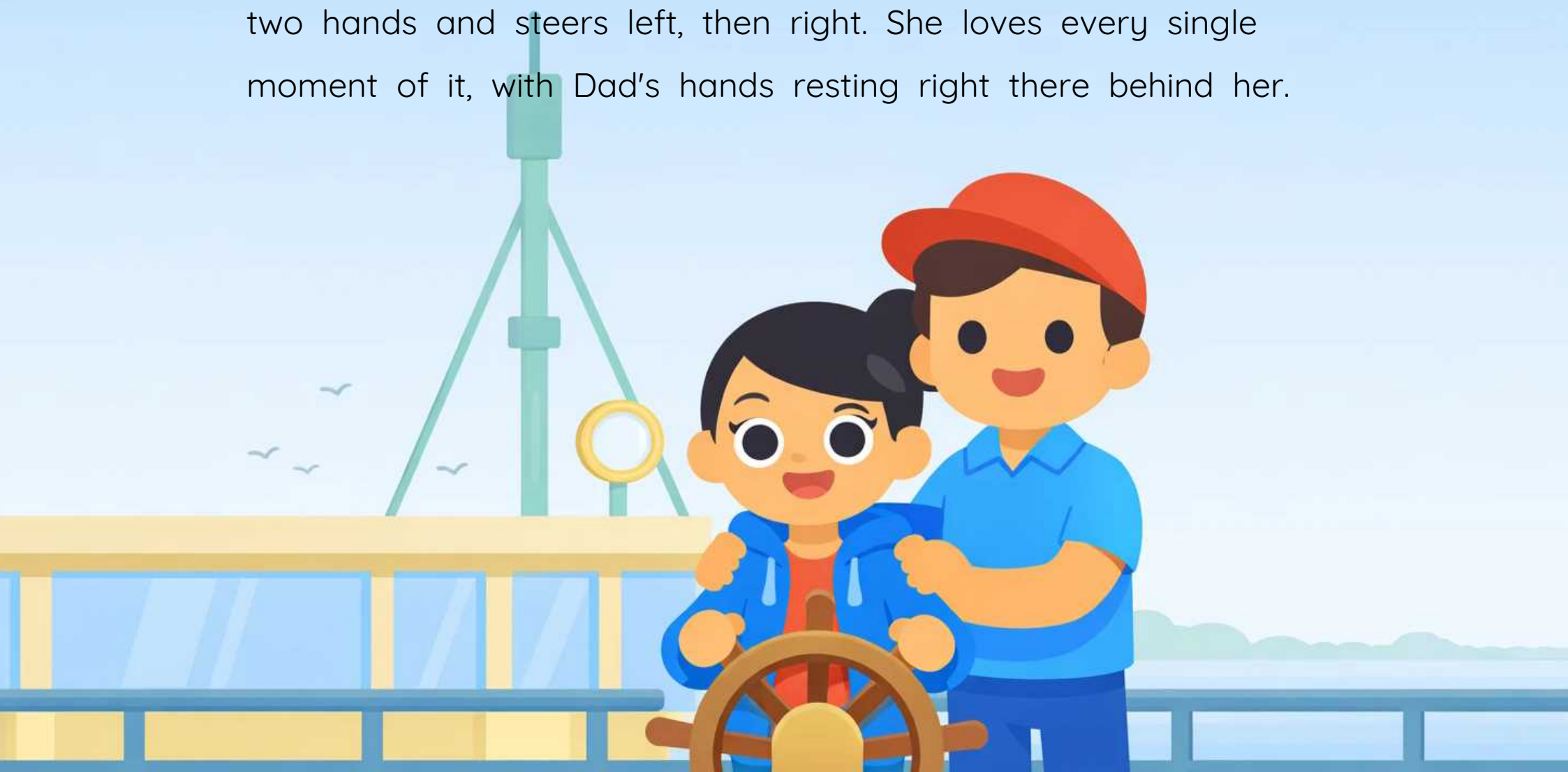
thumps. She has just a **few**

seconds to choose. "That is

where Dad is," she says out

loud. "I know it. I just know it."

She makes it. She really makes it. Dad stands right there on the bridge of the huge ship, smiling like he has been waiting for her all along. "What took **you** so long?" he says with a grin, and lifts her up to the big wooden wheel. Girl grips it with two hands and steers left, then right. She loves every single moment of it, with Dad's hands resting right there behind her.





A scooter, a car, a bus, a digger, a jet ski, a speedboat, and one mighty ship. That is seven rides, zero giving up, and one girl who never, ever quits.

Each day, Dad says, "See **you** tonight." Now Girl grins.

Tonight is not a long, long time away. It is just seven rides away. So which one would **you** ride first?



I Chase Dad!

Every morning, Dad pedals off down the avenue on his big green bike, and it's their same routine, day after day. A girl wants to chase after him, but a tiny toy bike is way too slow. What could possibly be fast enough to catch him? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 115: Alternate Long U (ew, eu, ue /yū/; ou /ū/)), this book practices words like 'you', 'avenue', 'few', 'pursues', 'routine'.

Phonics Focus: Alternate Long U (ew/eu/ue/ou)

avenue, blue, few, pursues, routine, you

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