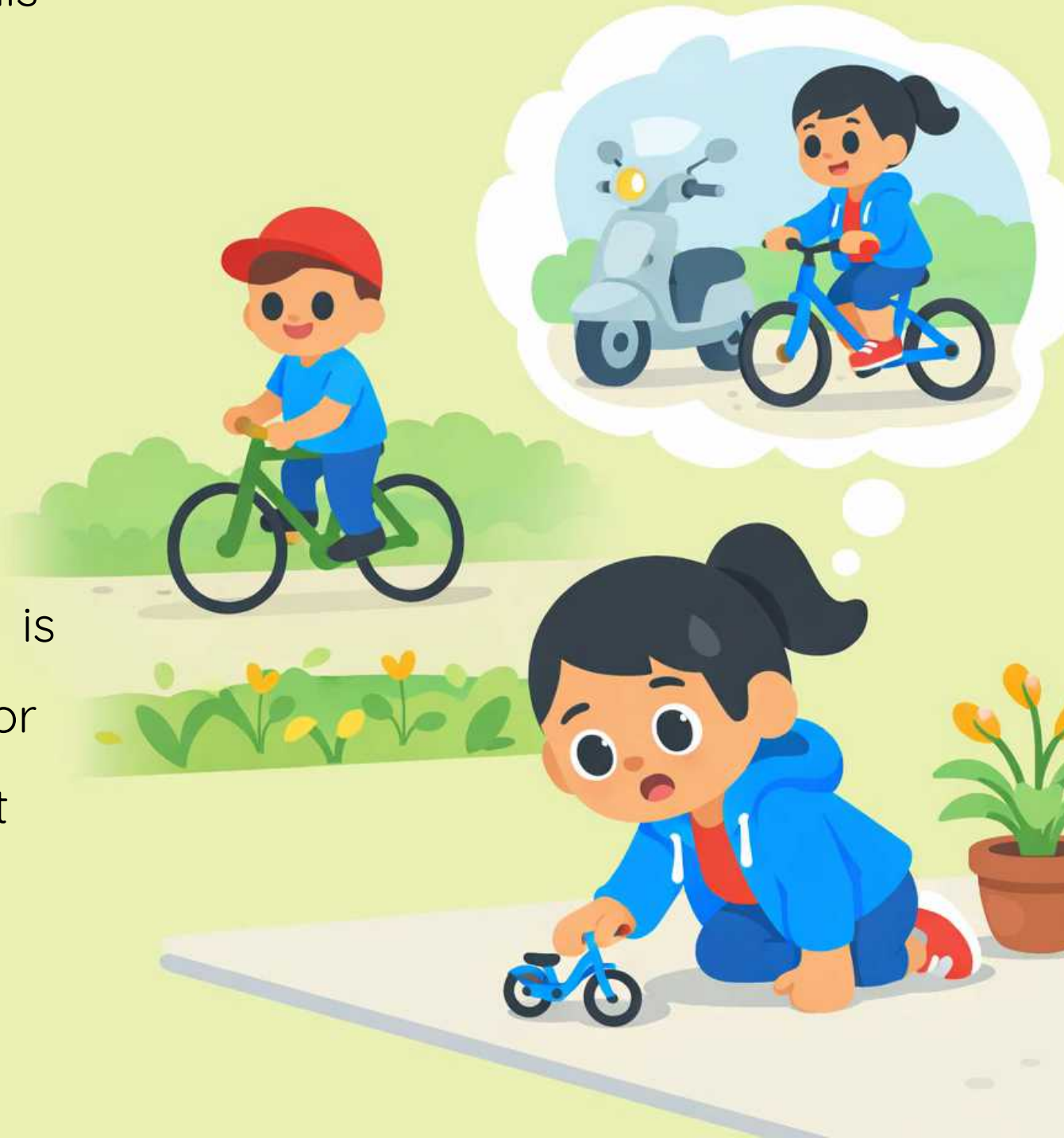


**I Need A
Faster Thing!**



Each day, Dad gets on his big green bike. 'Back tonight!' he calls, and he zooms away down the road. Tonight? Tonight?! That is a hundred days away. **Girl** is on the path and rolls **her** tiny bike. It is slow. So, so slow. 'Wait for me, Dad,' she says. 'I just need a thing that is **faster.**'





A **scooter!** **Girl** grips the bars and zooms down the road, so fast the wind makes **her** sight **blur**. But **Girl** does not tilt. Not one bit. A blue car hums in **her** path. **Girl** leans in and pumps **harder**, until she is right by its **bumper**. But the car still pulls away. 'Hmm,' says **Girl**. 'I need a thing with more **power**.'

Girl grips the helm of a shiny yellow car. **First** she checks left and right.

Then she clicks **her** seatbelt. She presses down hard and vroom!

But then a big green bus rolls up beside **her**, and it is huge. It is grand. **Girl** gasps. 'Yes,' she says.

'Yes, yes, yes!'





Girl sits tall in the seat of the green bus. She honks the horn twice, just because she can. Beep beep! The bus chugs past a big orange dig rig at the side of the road. It sits in the **dirt**, and its bucket gleams in the sun. **Girl** hits the brake. 'So long, bus,' she says. 'That looks like way more fun.'

The dig rig is **super** fun. **Girl** pulls the sticks, and the rig lurches across the land to the sea. Chunk, chunk, chunk! A man on a jet ski spots **her** from the waves. 'No way!' he yells. 'Is that a kid in a dig rig?' 'Yes!' **Girl** yells back. 'It is grand. But it is a bit slow.' The man gazes at the dig rig. **Girl** gazes at the jet ski. They both grin.



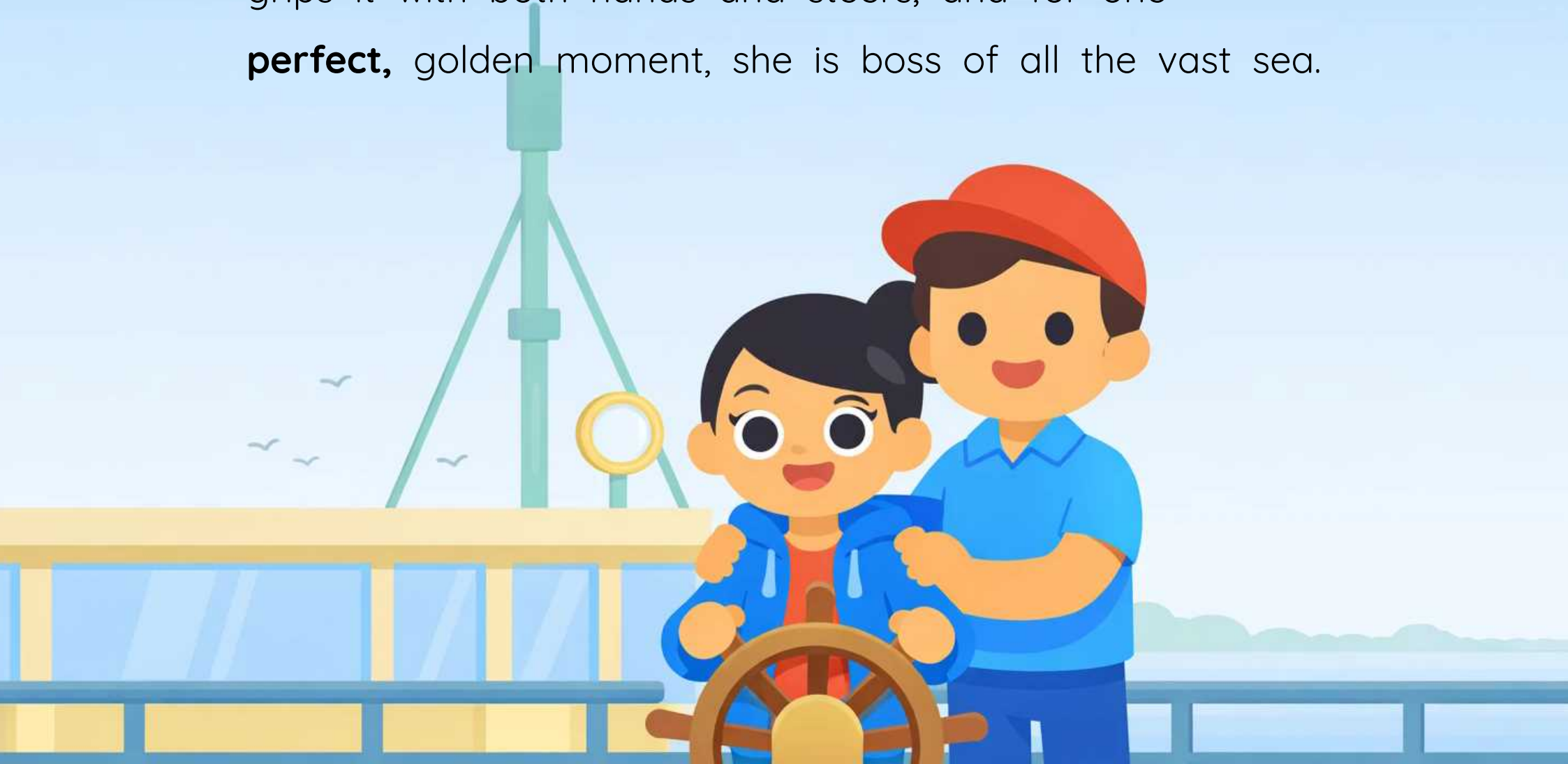
'Deal!' they both yell. **Girl** leaps onto the jet ski and **turns** the grip. Zoom! The sea sprays up and swirls around **her**. No ride is as fast as this! Then she spots a speedboat in **her** path. It bobs on the waves. 'So long, jet ski,' says **Girl** with a **smirk**. 'I must **hurry**.'





The speedboat smashes across the waves. Splash! Crash! Splash! Each wave hits **harder** than the last. **Girl** holds on and cheers into the wind. Then, far away, she sees it. A ship. A huge ship, so big it can sail across the globe. **Girl** gasps. 'That is where Dad is,' she says. 'He must be there.'

Girl makes it. She really, truly makes it! Dad stands right there on the huge ship. He smiles a big smile. 'At last!' he says, and he lifts **Girl** up to the big helm. She grips it with both hands and steers, and for one **perfect**, golden moment, she is boss of all the vast sea.





A **scooter**, a car, a bus,
a dig rig, a jet ski, a
speedboat, and one
mighty ship. That is
seven rides, and one **girl**
who **never, ever** gives
up. So tell me. If you
must chase Dad across
the globe, which ride
would you pick **first**?



I Need A Faster Thing!

A girl's dad rides off on his bike every morning, and tonight feels a hundred days away. Her tiny toy bike is too slow to follow, so she grabs a scooter and zooms faster than ever, chasing anything with more power. But a car, a bus, even a digger might not be enough. Which ride would you pick first? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 11: /er/ mixed), this book practices words like 'faster', 'harder', 'power', 'never', 'perfect'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

blur, bumper, cheer, dirt, ever, faster, first, girl, harder, her, hurry, lurch, never, perfect, power, scooter, smirk, steer, super, swirl, turns

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