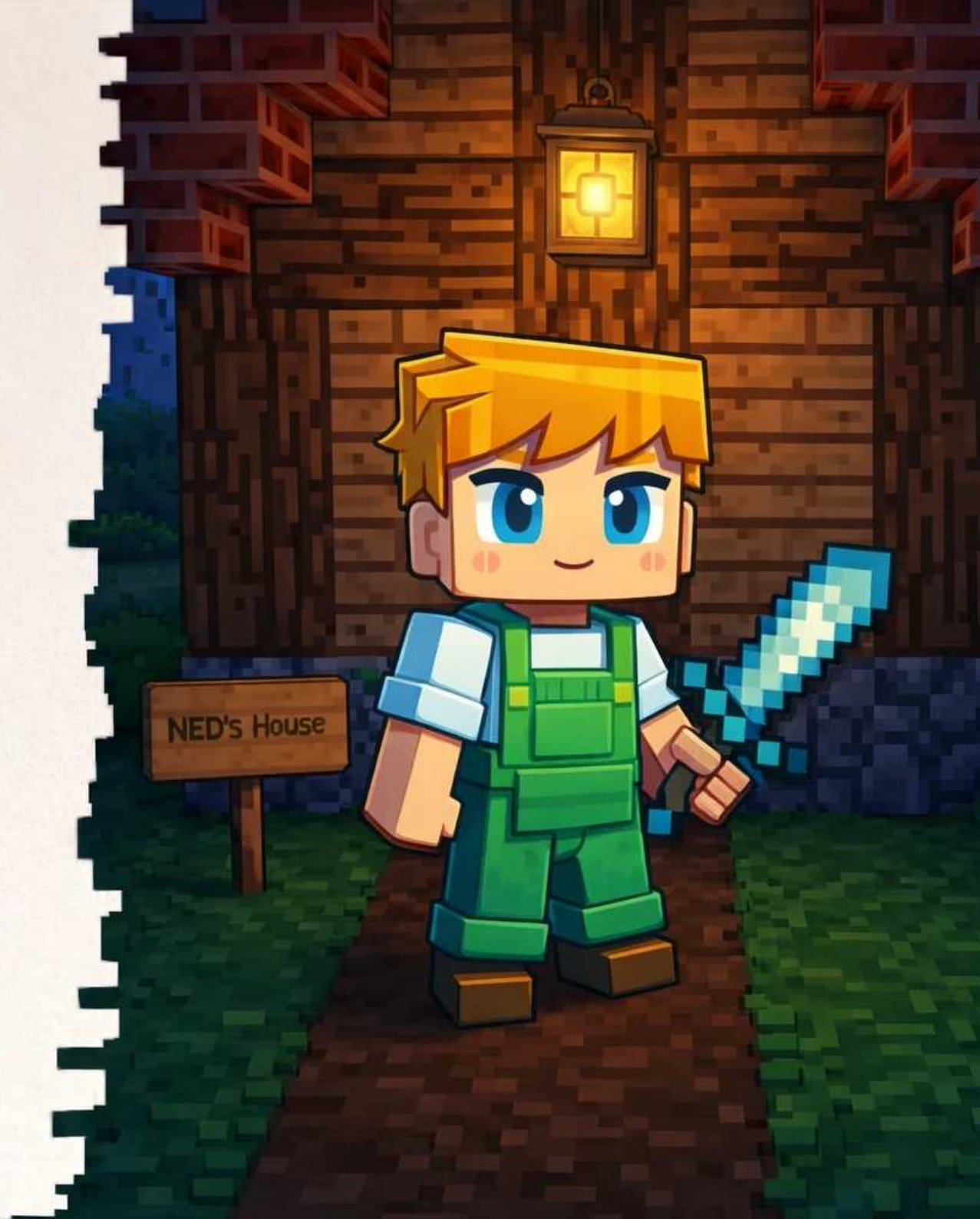


Monsters Lurk in the Murk!



It is dusk at Ned's home. Each night the **monsters** come out, and each night Ned hides in bed.

Not tonight. Ned stands firm with his blade and yells, 'Not tonight, **monsters!**'





A big zombie
lurches at Ned in
the dark. It groans
and grabs at him.
Ned grips his
blade, but Zombie
is so big. 'No,' says
Ned. 'This is bad.'

Ned turns and swings his glowing blade. Pop! Zombie bursts, and smoke swirls up. 'Ha!' Ned yells at the dark. 'Come and get me, monsters!'





Ned picks up a green lump. 'This is ugly,' he says. 'But I can use it.' He does not see Skeleton lurking in the murk with a bow. Click, click, click.

Thwack! A shot hits the dirt at Ned's feet. Skeleton steps out by the fire with its bow. 'A shot like that can hurt!' Ned yelps, and he darts to hide.





Ned hides by a big
birch trunk and
keeps still. Skeleton
hunts for him,
turning this way
and that. Click.
Click. Click. It gets
close to the birch.

Ned bursts out and swings his blade. Smash! Skeleton cracks, and its bones drop in a pile. Ned picks up a bone and waves it. 'I win!' Ned yells with a grin.





Ned waves his
bone and smirks.
'Give up, monsters!'
he yells. But a big
monster mob
creeps up in the
dark. Ned turns
and sees them all.

Ned runs! The monster mob pursues him in the dark. His feet churn up the dirt. He has never run so fast in all his life.





Ned can see his
home! But no!

Spider sits by the
way in, and it will
not **stir**.

'No, no, no!' Ned
yells. The mob is
getting close.

Ned runs at
Spider, his blade
burning bright. One
big swing, and pop!
Ned darts inside
and slams the way
in shut. Bang!





Ned pants by the wall. Then he spots some loot glinting on the planks. He picks it up and grins.

His **first** night out is a big win. 'Same time next night, **monsters!**'



Monsters Lurk in the Murk!

Ned has built himself a fine little house, but when night falls, monsters always creep out of the dark, and he always hides. Tonight, he grabs his glowing sword instead. A lurching zombie, a skeleton lurking in the murk, and a giant spider stand between him and his own front door. Will Ned make it home before the whole monster mob catches him? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 2, Unit 11: er, ir, ur as in her, bird, turn), this book practices words like 'lurking', 'murk', 'spider', 'bursts', 'turning'.

Phonics Focus: <er> <ir> <ur>

birch, burning, bursts, churn, dirt, firm, firs, first, hurt, lurches, lurking, monster, monsters, murk, never, pursues, smirks, spider, stir, swirls, turning, turns

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