

My Curly Rule



Girl has a rule. A big rule,
for all **time**. Curly is the
best, and straight is not.

She hangs **upside** down
and lets her hair show it.
Her curls bounce **high**, and
each curl springs back with
a pop. 'See that?' she says
with a smug grin. 'Straight
hair can not do that.'





Her sister **lies** flat on her back. Her straight hair **shines like** gold in the **light**.

'**My** hair stays where I put it,' says her sister. 'Can curls do that?'

'Dull,' says the Girl. But she thinks the gold shine is a **fine sight**. Just a wee bit.

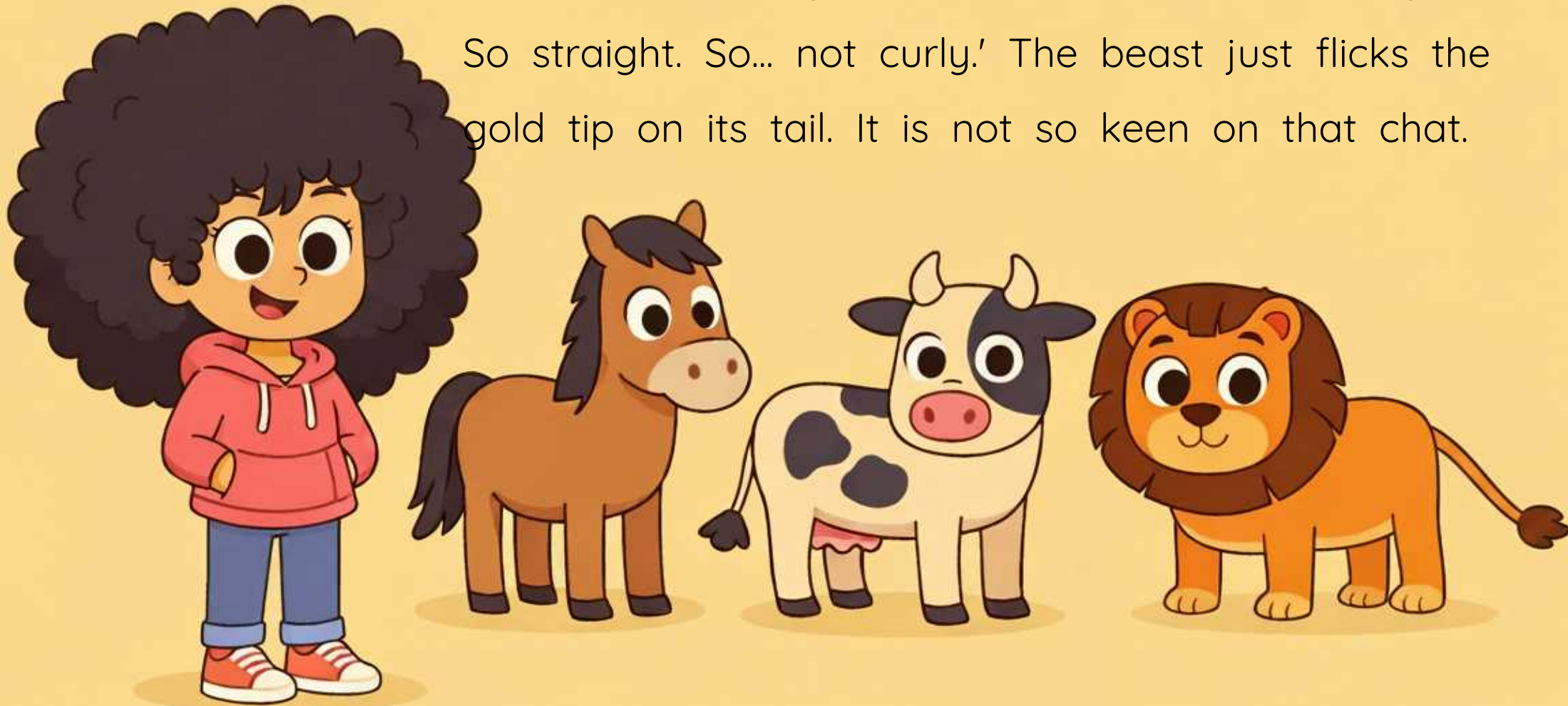
Girl sets out to test her rule.
Her cat comes too, tail in a
tight curl. A beast hangs
upside down, tail coiled
tight. A little beast sits **by**
with a tail **like** a sweet bun.

'Team Curl!' Girl calls, and
gives her cat a pat. 'See?
Curly is best.'

The cat purrs. That counts
as a yes.



Then the Girl meets a horse, a cow, and a big beast. All three tails hang straight down. 'Good day, big beast,' the Girl says, because it is best to be sweet to a big beast. 'That tail is a **fine sight**. So straight. So... not curly.' The beast just flicks the gold tip on its tail. It is not so keen on that chat.



The Girl **finds** steps that twist up and up and up. She grips the rail and starts up. 'What a **sight!**' she says low. 'Steps can be curly too!' Each step bends into the next. 'Straight steps could not be so grand.' Down below, she thinks, her sister just takes the lift.





The Girl sits and rests
her chin on her hands.
Her cat curls up **by** her
side like a soft sweet
bun, tail in a **tight** twirl.
'What else is curly?' she
asks. 'What else is
straight? And is the curly
thing best all the **time?**'
She thinks. 'Yes,' she
says. 'It is. It just is.'

A pic in a frame shows it. There is the Girl up on a **high** peak, with her big grin. The path she took twists all the way up. 'A straight path would go up the cliff,' the Girl says. 'I would drop off it. That curly path kept me safe.' She nods. That is a fact.



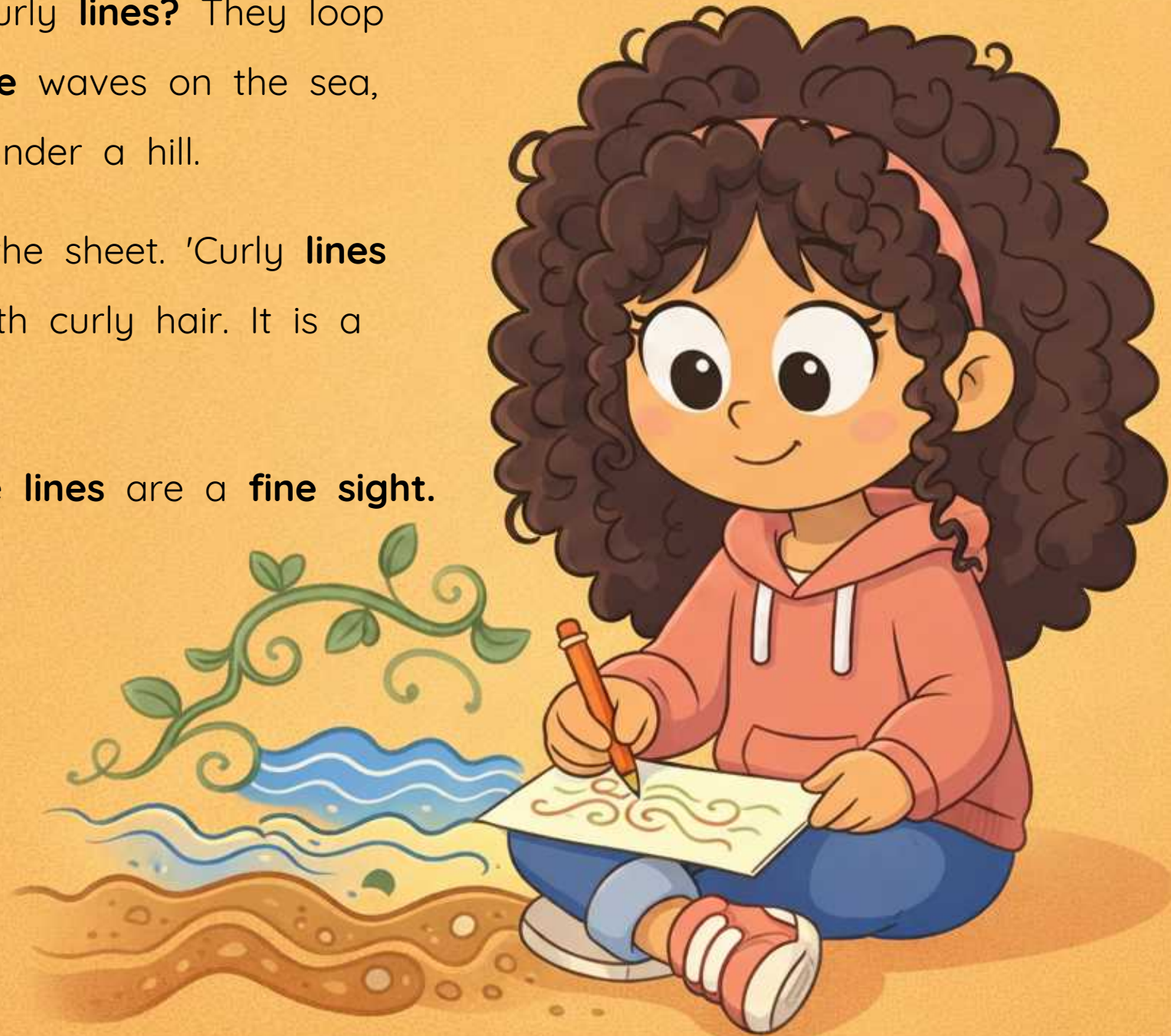


Then the Girl grabs a pen and **tries** to make straight **lines**. The **lines** bend. The **lines** twist. She **tries** and **tries**. Each **line** ends up more bent. One **line** turns into a curly mark! 'This is **fine**,' the Girl says with a frown. 'Straight **lines** are just hard because they are not as good. Yes. That must be **why**.'

But when she makes curly **lines?** They loop
and swirl **like vines, like** waves on the sea,
like a track that dips under a hill.

'See?' The Girl lifts up the sheet. 'Curly **lines**
come easy to a girl with curly hair. It is a
fact.'

It is not a fact. But the **lines** are a **fine sight**.





The Girl **finds** two big buns, gold and curled up **tight**. Each bun is so big she **might** put one on as a hat. 'Curly food!' she gasps. 'The best **kind!**' Her cat peeks out from one bun and licks its lips. '**Sly** little cat!' the Girl **cries**. 'Buns are for eating, not for **hiding** in!'

Three curly buns sit in a neat **line**, each one a **tight** swirl. The Girl peers at them. Hard. This is big. One bun **might** be more curly. One **might** have the best swirl. 'What if I do not pick the best one?' she asks. Picking the best curl is the hardest thing she has done all day.





Then the Girl checks the shelf and stops. Curly snacks. Straight sticks. Swirly puffs and flat crackers. Each shape, each **kind**, all in one spot. And they all look so good.

The Girl grins. '**Fine,**' she says. 'Maybe straight things are not so bad. But just when they are snacks.'

She grabs the lot. 'I should ring **my** pals. We can all eat **tonight**. **My** sister can bring the straight ones.'



My Curly Rule

Mara is sure of one thing: curly is always better than straight, and her bouncy curls prove it every time. But when she sets off to test her rule on cats, lions, and even a spiral staircase, will everything curly really win? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 6: /ie/ mixed), this book practices words like 'tight', 'sight', 'might', 'high', 'cries'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

by, cries, finds, fine, hiding, high, kind, lies, light, like, line, lines, might, my, shines, side, sight, sly, tight, time, tonight, tries, upside, vines, why

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