

# My Duck Races the Flock!



'This,' says Girl, holding up her duck, 'is the fastest duck in town.' Duck opens its wings and puffs out its chest. Her friends lean in for a close **inspection**. Boy bends down and squints hard. They all stare at Duck. Duck stares back. 'That duck?' says Boy. 'It does not look fast. Not one little bit.'



'Watch this,' says Girl. Duck flaps. Duck kicks. Duck wiggles and wobbles and lifts one foot off the ground. Then the other foot. Then Duck hangs in the air. Its wings flap in slow **motion**, but Duck is up. Her friends gasp. Boy points. 'See?' says Girl. 'Flying.' 'That,' says Boy, 'is not flying. That is falling. Just very, very slowly.'





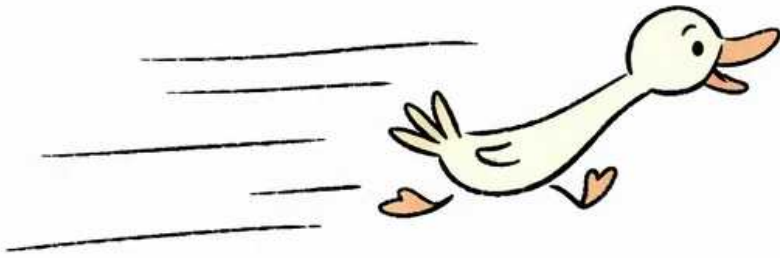
But Girl does not listen.  
Every morning, she and  
Duck run the hills. Girl  
sprints. Duck sprints harder,  
wings out, beak open,  
honking with each step.  
They race up slopes. They  
race down slopes. Girl is on  
a **mission**. She is going to  
win. 'Faster,' Girl pants. 'The  
Big Flock Race is this  
weekend.'

It is race day. Girl rubs Duck gently on the neck. It is their **tradition** before each big race. Duck lifts its head and stands very still. Girl leans in close. 'You can do this,' she whispers. 'You are faster than you look. A lot faster than you look.' Behind them, Boy waves his arms and yells, 'Girl thinks her wobbly duck is going to beat the flock! My **prediction?** The flock wins!' The other kids giggle. Girl just smiles and keeps her eyes on Duck.





The starting horn blows. A flock of sleek racing ducks shoots into the sky. Right behind them, wings pumping hard, beak out, Duck launches after them. 'Go, Duck, go!' Girl yells, arms open. The other kids yell too. Then they gasp. Boy's **prediction** is wrong! Duck is not falling behind. Duck is getting faster.



Duck does not just catch the flock. Duck passes the flock. One duck. Two ducks. Five ducks. Ten. Duck zips past them all. 'No!' says Boy. His jaw drops. Girl pumps her fist and points at the sky. 'That is my duck!' The crowd jumps to its feet and gives Duck a huge **ovation**. Because the wobbliest duck in town is the fastest duck in the sky.



Duck crosses the finish line first. The other birds are not close. Duck wins! First place! Girl jumps so high she almost flies too. The crowd goes wild. Kids chant, 'Duck! Duck! Duck!' It is one grand **celebration**. Boy just stands there and blinks. 'But... but that duck is so slow and wobbly,' he whispers.





Girl scoops Duck up into a huge hug. Her friends rush over, laughing and cheering, and reach out to pat the winner. Boy pumps his fist and grins the biggest grin of all. 'Fine,' he says. 'Fine. My **prediction** was wrong. That duck is fast. That duck is the fastest duck in town.' Girl laughs and laughs. That is better than any prize. She holds Duck tight and whispers, 'Told you so.' Duck quacks.



# My Duck Races the Flock!

A girl is sure her wobbly, waddling duck is the fastest bird in town, even though her friends can't stop laughing. Every morning she and her duck race up and down the hills, training hard for the Big Flock Race. Can this odd little duck really keep up with the sleek racing birds on Saturday? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 119: -sion, -tion), this book practices words like 'prediction', 'mission', 'tradition', 'celebration'.

**Phonics Focus:** -sion, -tion

celebration, inspection, mission, motion, ovation, prediction, tradition

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