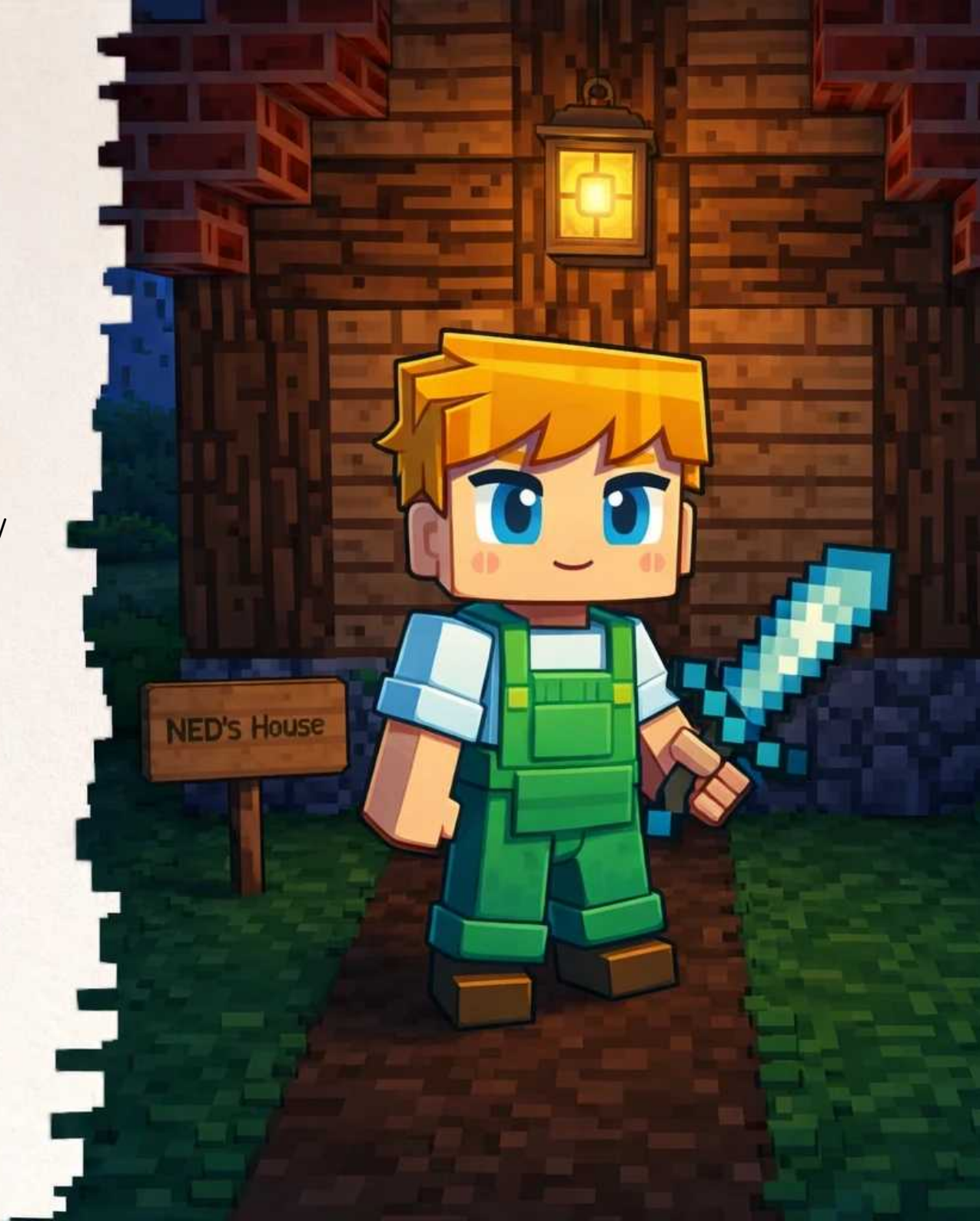


Neo
and the
MAGIC BOOK

Neo Charges the Dark



Ned had a good life. He had a house he made himself, a farm full of carrots, and a name tag by the door that said 'Ned's House' so no one could steal it. But every night, when the sun went down and the shadows grew long, monsters came. And every night, Ned hid **inside**, pulled the blankets over his head, and pretended he was a spud. Not tonight. Tonight, Ned grabbed his **magic** sword, marched to the door, and said, 'I am done being a spud.'





Ned did not have to wait long.

A zombie lurched out of the dark, groaning like a broken door **hinge**. The zombie was **huge** and ugly, and it smelled like old socks left in a swamp.

'Oh,' said Ned. His sword suddenly felt very small.

The zombie swung its big green arms. Ned ducked, spun, and slashed with his **magic** sword. The blade lit up with a flash of light, and in one clean cut, the zombie burst into a puff of rotten nothing.

'Yes!' Ned shouted. He pointed his glowing sword at the dark trees ahead.

'Who is next? Come on! I can do this all night!'





The zombie had left behind a lump of mushy, green, truly disgusting flesh. Ned picked it up between two fingers. He wrinkled his nose. 'Yuck. But this might be useful.' Ned did not **notice** the **gentle** click-click-click coming from the dark behind him. Something bony was creeping closer. And closer. And closer.

An arrow shot past Ned's ear and stuck in the grass right between his feet.

A skeleton stepped out from the trees, already reaching for another arrow. Its bones rattled like a bag of sticks.

'Hey! That nearly hit me!' Ned yelled. He **dodged** sideways and scrambled behind a big birch tree. His heart was pounding so loud he was sure the skeleton could hear it.





Ned pressed his back against the tree trunk and held his breath. The skeleton searched near the house, its bony head turning left, then right, then left again. Click. Click. Click. The world went silent. Just the breeze and Ned's **racing** heart. Then the clicking got louder. The skeleton was right on the other side of the tree.

'Now!' Ned burst out from behind the tree with his sword blazing. The skeleton grabbed for its bow, but it was too slow. Ned swung with all his **force**, and the skeleton exploded into a pile of bones. 'Two down!' Ned grinned. He picked up a bone and waved it like a trophy. 'I can't be beat!'





'Soon I will have a **large** pile of monster bits!' Ned yelled into the dark, waving his bone. 'Give up now, monsters!' Ned was having such an **exciting** time being brave that he did not **notice** the groaning behind him. Or the shuffling. Or the **huge** mob of monsters that had crept up so close he could have put a hand on one. Ned turned around.

There were too many to count. Zombies and monsters, side by side, stretching back into the dark. Ned was brave. But Ned was not silly. 'I have **decided,**' Ned **announced,** 'that running can be brave.' And he ran. He **raced** faster than he had ever run in his life, with the groaning, shuffling mob **surging** after him.





Ned could see his house!
He could see the door! He
reached for the handle and
then stopped. A **giant**
spider was sitting right by
the door. It had **huge** red
legs and mean little eyes,
and it looked at Ned like
he was a fly. 'Come on!' Ned
shouted. Behind him,
the monster mob was
getting closer.

There was no time to think.
No time to plan. No time to
be scared. Ned **charged**
straight at the spider with
his sword blazing bright.
One powerful swing, and
the spider popped like a
hairy balloon. Ned grabbed
the door handle with
shaking hands, threw
himself **inside**, and slammed
the door shut behind him.





Ned leaned against the wall, breathing hard. The bright torchlight flickered on the wooden walls. Outside, he could hear the monsters groaning as they shuffled away.

Then a tiny **gem** caught his eye. It was glinting gold on the floor. Ned picked it up, and a grin spread across his **face**.

'Same time tomorrow, monsters.'



Ned Charges the Dark

Ned has built a good life for himself, but every night monsters come, and every night he hides under the blankets. Tonight, sword in hand, he decides to fight back instead. Will Ned finally stand his ground against the dark? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 117: Signal Vowels (c /s/, g /j/)), this book practices words like 'huge', 'charged', 'gentle', 'giant', 'racing'.

Phonics Focus: Signal Vowels (c /s/, g /j/)

announced, charged, decided, dodged, exciting, face, force, gem, gentle, giant, hinge, huge, inside, large, magic, notice, raced, racing, surging

Bookbot is not endorsed by or affiliated with UFLI (the University of Florida Literacy Institute) or Jolly Learning Ltd. UFLI Foundations and Jolly Phonics are trademarks of their respective owners.

Learn to read with confidence

The Bookbot app and its carefully designed decodable books help children practise the sounds and words they are learning, building strong phonics and reading skills one step at a time. In the app, children can listen to stories read aloud, follow highlighted words as they are spoken, and read independently when they are ready. Together, the decodable books and oral reading support help develop accuracy, fluency, confidence and a love of reading. Learn more at www.bookbotkids.com.

