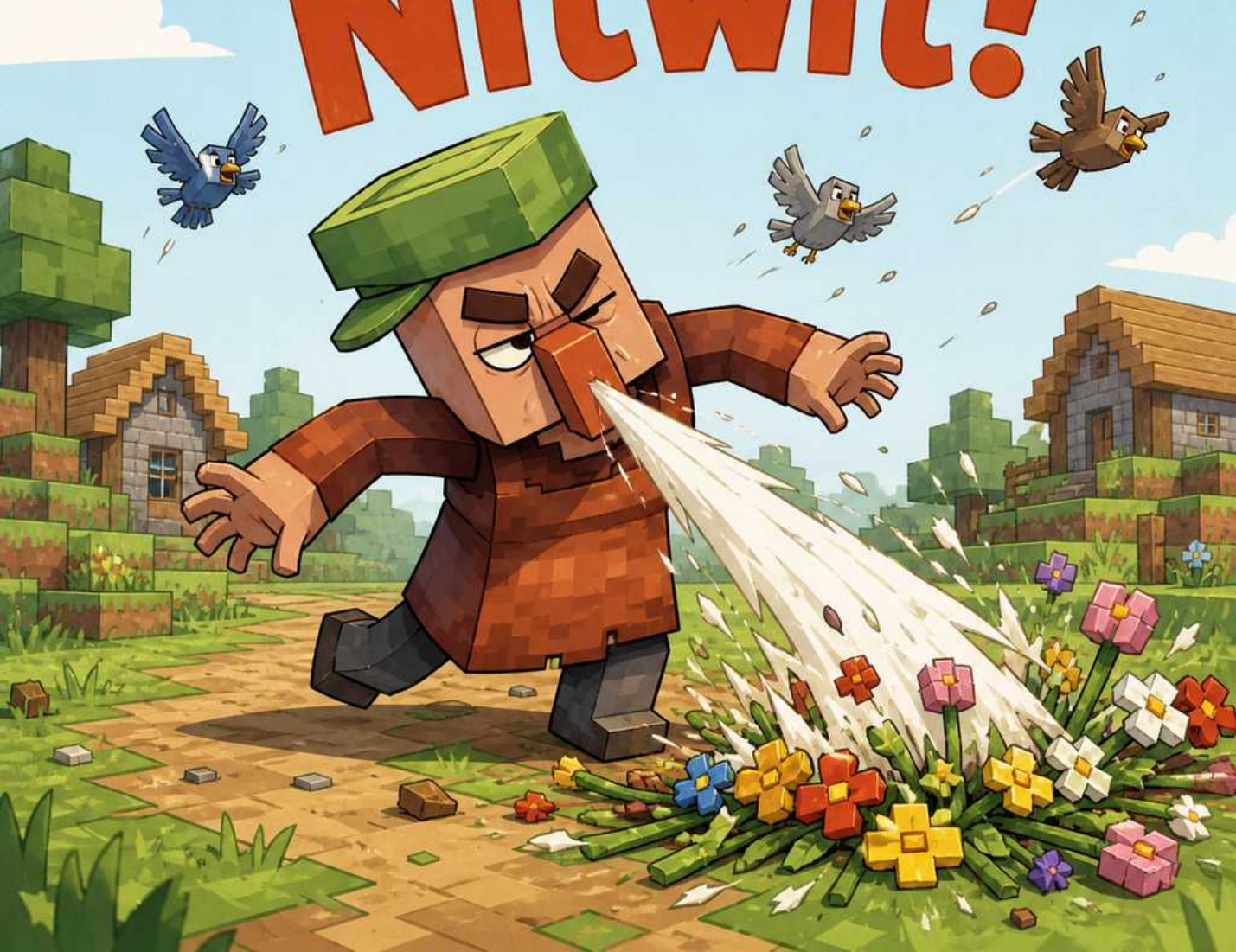


Not Now, Nitwit!





Nitwit's nose jigs. His face is wet. His throat feels hot and sore. But will Nitwit stay home in bed? No way. Not **now**. 'I am fine,' Nitwit tells his chum **down** by the bell. 'Fine, fine, all the way fine.' He crosses his arms and **scowls** to **show** it.

Nitwit marches **down** the track. **Flowers** sway.

Bees hum. And Nitwit's nose jigs. 'I will not go achoo,' he says. 'I will not. I will not...' A... A...

ACHOO! The **flowers** fall flat. The bees buzz off. Nitwit acts as if nothing is up.





Fine. A quick rest at home, just for a bit. Nitwit steps into his hut. Cat sits on the floor. 'Do not fret,' Nitwit sniffs. 'I am not sick. I just need to...' A... A... ACHOO! Cat gets a shock. She **frowns** at Nitwit. Nitwit shrugs. 'Dusty in here.'

Nitwit trots to Dog's **house**. But Dog is not well. His nose jigs, his face is wet, and his body shakes. 'Oh no,' says Nitwit. A... A... ACHOO! Dog lets **out** a big, wet blast, and blue goo sprays all **around**. Nitwit flinches and wipes his face. 'Yuck! Go to bed, Dog!'





Back in his **own** hut,
Nitwit leans on the wall.
His arms feel weak. He
is **drowsy**. His nose
feels full of bees. 'Dog
needs rest,' Nitwit says.
'But I do not need rest.
I am fine, I am...' A... A...
ACHOO!

Nitwit's bed is right there. Soft red blanket. Fluffy **pillow**. It begs him to hop in **now**.

Nitwit looks at the bed. The bed looks at Nitwit. He folds his arms and lifts his chin. 'I am. Fine.'





Not Now, Nitwit!

Nitwit feels awful, but no way is he staying home. He tells his chum he's fine, marches off past the flowers, and sneezes so hard he scares the birds. Even Cat scowls at him and Dog looks worse than he does. Will Nitwit ever admit he needs his own soft pillow? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 9: /ou/ mixed), this book practices words like 'flowers', 'around', 'scowls', 'pillow', 'frowns'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

around, down, drowsy, flowers, frowns, house, now, out, own, pillow, scowls, show

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