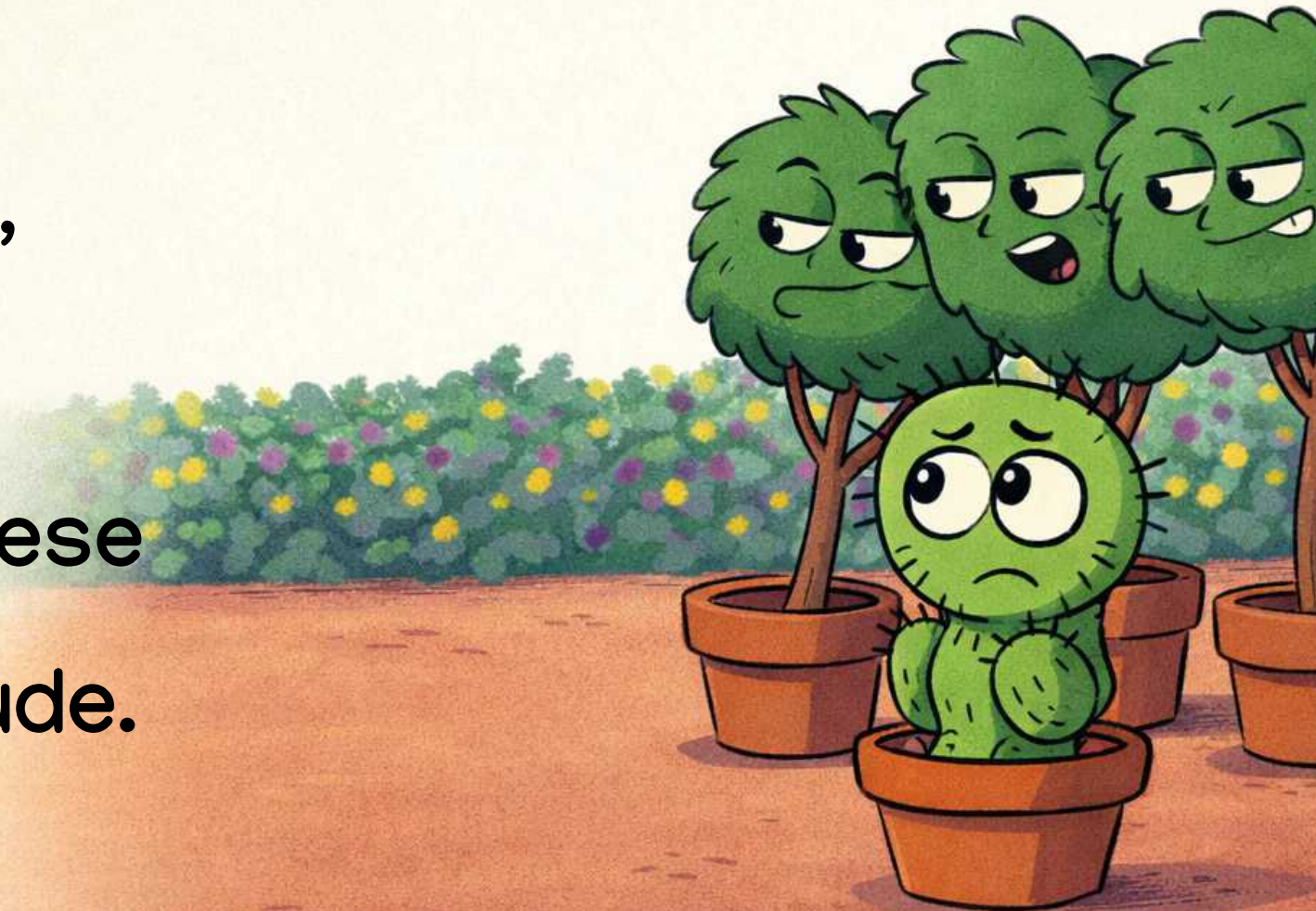


Rude Trees Exclude Spike



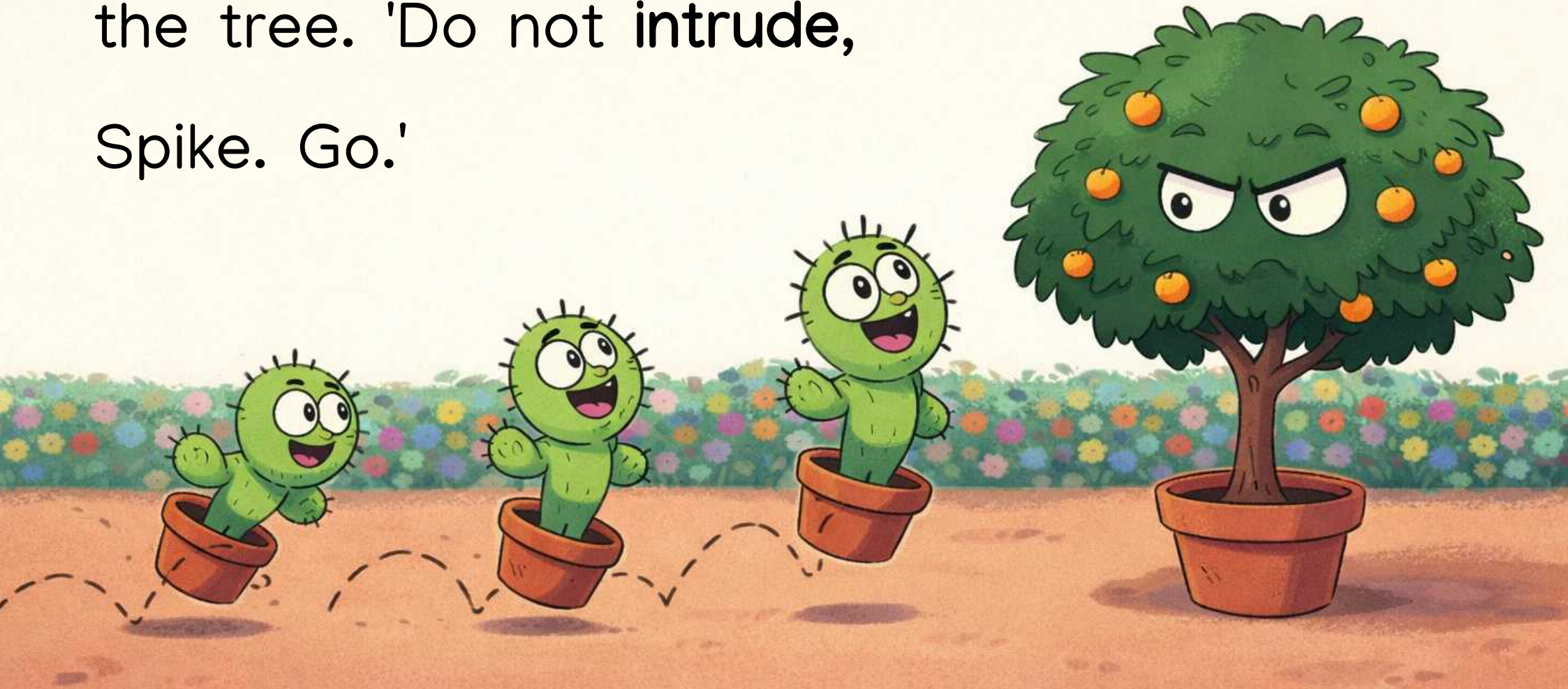
Spike has no
friend. Not one.
'Can we hug?'
asks Spike. 'No,
dude! Go!' the
trees scoff. These
trees are so rude.



Spike is not sad. He hops off
and hums a **tune**. 'Some plant
will be my friend,' he sings.



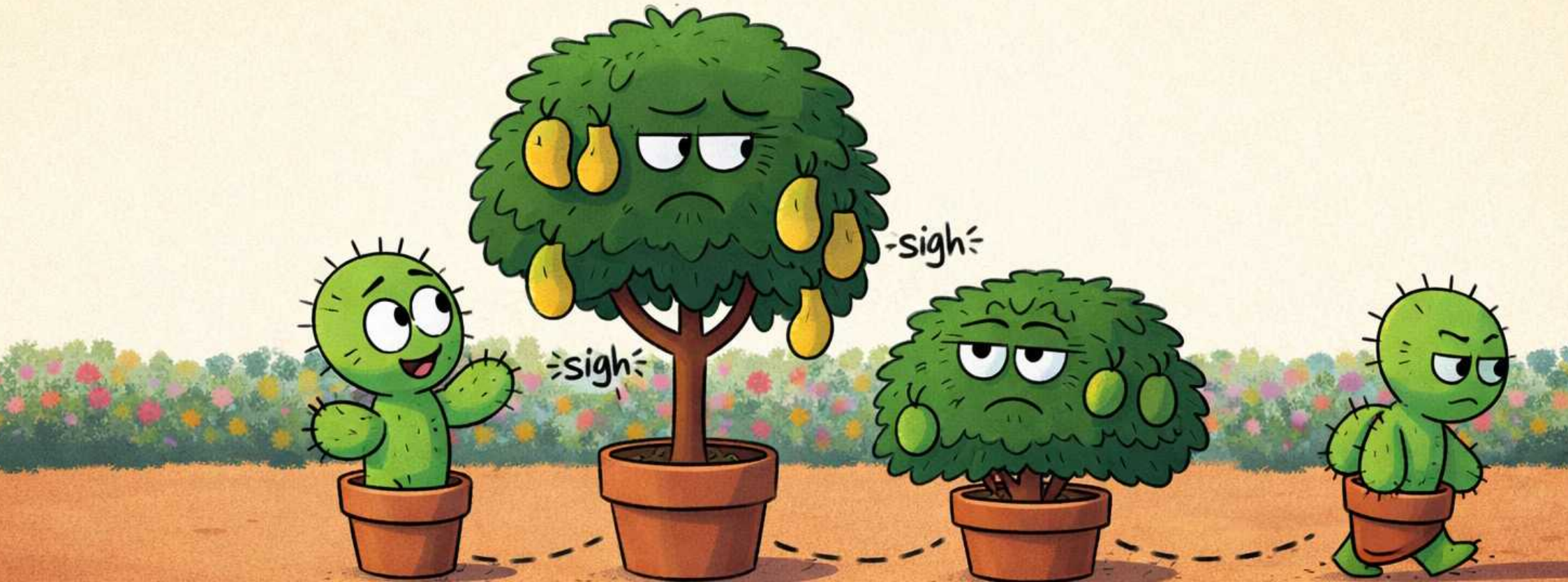
Spike sees a tree. 'Can we
chat?' he asks. 'No,' snorts
the tree. 'Do not intrude,
Spike. Go.'





Spike meets a tree
with a big pot.
'Pointy!' yells the
tree. 'So pointy!' The
wee plants dash off.
The yells confuse
Spike. 'I am a bit
pointy,' he tells the
tree. 'Just a bit.'

'Can we chat?' Spike asks a tall tree.
It groans. He asks a bush. It groans
too. **These** plants are all so rude.
Spike is glum, and his **tune** stops.





One big tree is left.
Spike looks up at it.
'Spike, I **assume?**'
asks the tree. 'The
plant that seeks a
friend?' Spike nods.
'Well then. Come,
Spike. I am not
scared.'

The big tree
smiles. 'The rest
are so rude. I am
not rude. Come,
Spike. Sit with
me and rest.'
Spike is so glad.





Spike hums a tune
as they chat and
joke. It is fun. Then
pop! His spine
pricks a leaf.
'Ouch!' yells the
tree. 'That was my
leaf!'

The tree fumes
and shakes.
'Go, Spike! Go!'
he yells. Spike
hops off, sad
and mute.





Spike sits all alone.

Then he has a
plan.

'I will seek a pointy
friend!' He looks at
the road and the
dunes.

Spike hops to
the dunes. In the
sand sits Ted, a
thorny bush. 'I
am Spike. Can
we hug?' 'Yes,
dude!' calls Ted.





They hug. No yelps
at all! Spike and
Ted set off on the
dunes. They sing
tunes and joke and
grin. A wee bloom
pops up on Spike!
He is happy at last.



LONG VOWELS

Rude Trees Exclude Spike

Spike the cactus just wants a hug, but every tree in the garden laughs at his spines and tells him to get lost. He bounces off anyway, humming a happy tune, sure someone out there is right for him. But who could ever want a friend this pointy? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 2, Unit 6: long vowels), this book practices words like 'rude', 'dunes', 'tune', 'mute', 'confuse'.

Phonics Focus: <long> <vowels>

assume, confuse, dude, dunes, fumes, intrude, mute, rude, these, tune, tunes

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