

Something Lurks in the Dark



Nib sits on her rug with her red yarn. She spins and spins at her rig.

Her brother calls in at the gap in the wall. 'Nib, we must go far up the hill. Turn the lock!'

'I am fine,' says Nib. She never turns the lock.





The brothers march
far up the path.
Then a big furry
thing slips from the
forest. It has dark
fur and a tuft of
hair on top. It lurks
by the bushes and it
grins.

The Troll slips up to the hut. He looks in at the gap in the wall. A girl! Nib sits at her rig with her red yarn. She has her back to him. 'A small girl,' he says with a smirk.

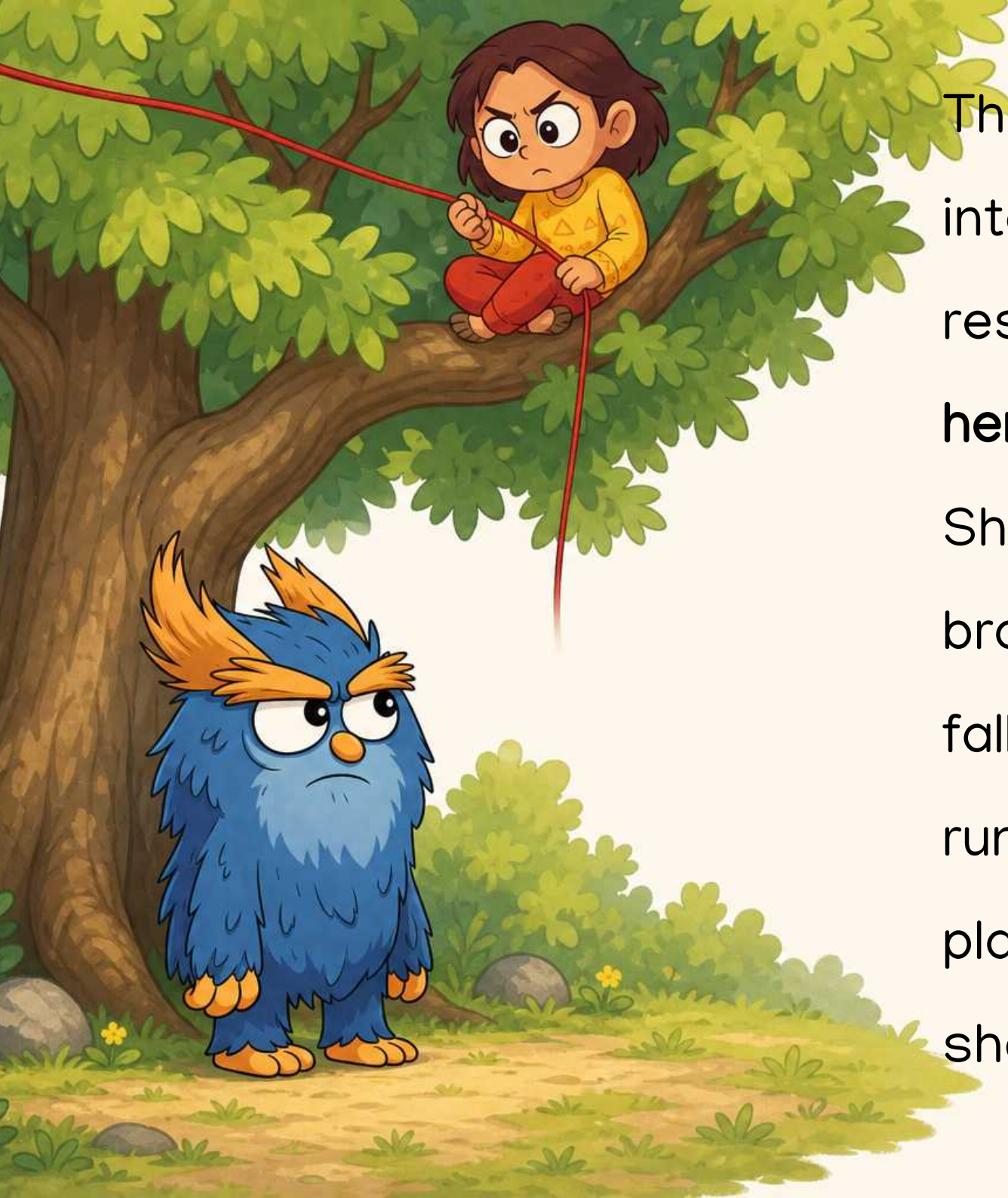


The Troll shoves in at the gap in the wall. Smash! But he is stuck fast. The gap is small, and the Troll is so big! Nib yelps and falls back. The Troll grunts and pulls hard. Pop! 'Fine,' he snarls. 'I will find **another** path in.'



The hut is not locked. A large furry arm darts in. It holds Nib by her top and lifts her up. Nib yelps. But she hugs her ball of red yarn to her chest.





The Troll lifts Nib up into a tall plant. He rests in the dirt under her. But Nib is smart. She fixes her yarn to a branch. The thin red line falls to the dirt and runs far off past the plants. 'Find the yarn,' she says. 'Find me.'

The brothers stop on the path. 'Look at that!' A thin red line turns past the huts and into the forest. 'That is Nib's yarn!' says her brother. 'Hurry! Run!'





The red yarn runs
up the rock and into
a dark cave.

'Nib is in there,' says
the first brother.

The other one nods.

They step into the
dark.

In the cave, the Troll sits at the wall, snoring hard. A big gold key hangs from his belt. One brother steps up, slow and soft, and lifts the key. 'Hush,' says the other. 'Not a word.'





Small kids press at the bars. The **brother** slides the key into the lock and turns it. Click! The gate swings open, and the kids **burst** from the cage.

The Troll wakes
up with a jerk.

His cage is open!

Where is his key?

'That is my
supper!' he snarls.

'Run!' yells a
brother. 'Run fast!'





The Troll charges **after** them, from the cave and into the sun. But **red yarn** is on his legs and his belly, ring **after** ring of it. Nib's **yarn**! He turns, he whirls, he trips. Boom! He falls **hard** on the rock.

Nib stands with a big grin. Her brothers
clap. 'Smart girl, Nib!' says one brother.
'That yarn trick saved us all. But next
time, turn the lock!' Nib just grins more.





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Something furry lurks near the forest, and a girl named Nib sits alone spinning red yarn, ignoring her brothers' warning to lock the door. When a hungry creature slips through the gap in her wall, will her red thread be enough to lead her brothers back to her, or will it be too late? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 83: R-Controlled Vowels Review), this book practices words like 'yarn', 'dark', 'girl', 'hurry', 'smart'.

Phonics Focus: R-Controlled Vowels Review

after, another, arm, bar, brother, brothers, burst, charge, dark, dart, dirt, far, first, forest, fur, furry, girl, hair, hard, her, hurry, jerk, large, lurk, march, more, never, other, smart, smirk, snarl, snore, supper, there, turn, under, whirl, word, yarn

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