

AN UNOFFICIAL MINECRAFT SERIES

DR. CAN DO



STICK
WITH ME!



Jill stood with her crew in the moonlight at the edge of the village. 'I need netherite,' she said, and gave her pickaxe a tap on her boot. 'The only place to find it is the Nether.' The Mage's face lit up like the blue jewel on his staff. 'The Nether! I have been there loads of times!' He puffed up his chest. 'Stick with me. I will lead the way.'

'All we need is some black stone, and then I will make a portal,' the Mage said. Dr. Can Do held his hammer and his eyes went wide. 'The Nether is where things walk right on top of lava,' said Dr. Can Do. 'It is true, and I have wanted to study them for a long time!' Jill blinked. 'Dr. Can Do, does that not upset you at all?' Dr. Can Do looked baffled. 'Upset me? It thrills me!'





'The Nether has Striders,' said the Mage with a grin. 'Big, flat-faced things on a **few** funny little legs. They roam on top of the lava, and the best part is you can ride them!' Jill looked at him. 'You ride them on the lava?' 'Yes, just hop on and off you go,' said the Mage. 'It is very, very hot, but you will not feel it much.' 'I would feel it,' said Jill, and the Mage gave a shrug. 'You will not like the Nether much, then.'

No one spoke. Then Jill said, 'What if we did not ride on the lava at all? What if we put bridges over it?' Dr. Can Do gasped. 'I could make one with cogs and levers and a crank handle!' Jill held up her hand with a grin. 'Solid, true bridges over the lava. I am all for it.'





They agreed to gather black stone and meet at dusk the next day. As the others went home, the Mage stood by his door and held his book. It had been a long time since he had friends to go on a quest with. A long, long time. A smile **grew** across his face. Soon they would make a portal. And the Nether was never the same place twice.

By dusk, Jill had a wide grin. She held up her water bucket like a prize. 'I put water on the lava and dug up a **slew** of black stone,' she said. 'Just what we need.' Dr. Can Do gave a nod and said, 'I put the portal frame far from the village fence, and portals rumble and whoosh a lot.' Jill turned to face him. 'Have you been in there before?' 'Ask me after,' said Dr. Can Do with a smirk.





The Mage did not sleep that night. Not one wink. The green lantern glowed on the wall as he lay with his arms flung wide. He had a big grin on his face, like a kid on his birthday. This would be his first trip into the Nether with a **crew**. You could never, ever tell what would be waiting on the other side.

The Mage was up before the sun and ran to the cave where the portal frame stood waiting. Jill and Dr. Can Do were there. Jill held her pickaxe. Dr. Can Do clutched his hammer. The Mage lifted his staff and **threw** a fire spell at the frame. The portal burst to life with a swirl of purple light. 'Off we go,' said the Mage. One by one, they went in. Just before the portal took them, Jill called, 'If I end up on a Strider, I am blaming you both.'





Stick With Me!

Jill and her crew gather at moonlight's edge, ready for the Nether. Dr. Can Do wants to study the lava-walking Striders up close, but the Mage says the real thrill is riding them. Jill isn't so sure lava and legs mix well. Could there be a safer way across? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 91: ew, ui, ue /ū/), this book practices words like 'crew', 'true', 'grew', 'slew', 'threw'.

Phonics Focus: ew, ui, ue /ū/

blue, crew, few, grew, jewel, slew, threw, true

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