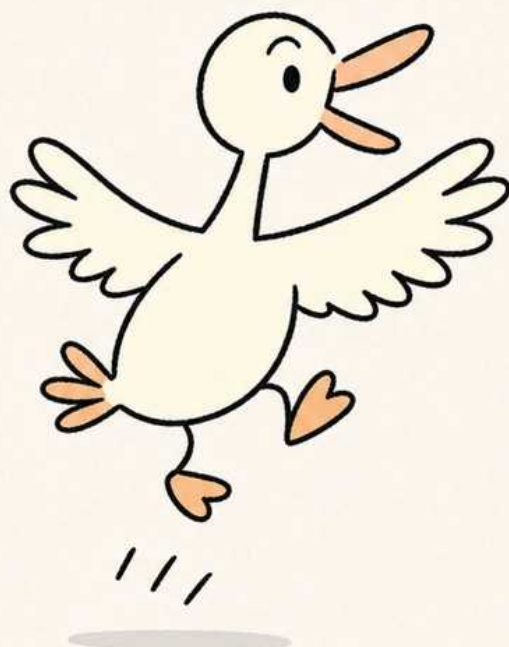


That Duck Cannot Fly



'This is the fastest duck,' said Girl as she held up Duck with a big grin. Duck puffed its chest and held its wings wide. The kids all leaned in to look at Duck. 'That duck?' said the tall kid. 'It does not look fast. It looks a little **goofy**.'



'See this,' said Girl with a huge grin.
Duck bent its legs and gave a big kick.
Duck lifted one foot, then the next
foot, and hung in the sky like a balloon.
The tall kid bit her lip. 'See?' said Girl.
'Duck can fly!' 'That,' said the tall kid,
'is not flying. That is a slow fall.'

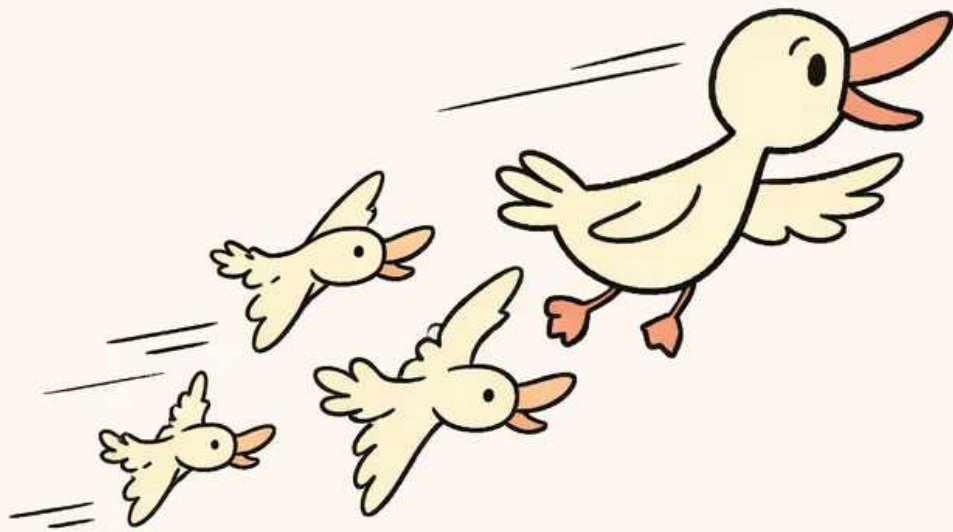




But Girl did not stop. Every morning, Girl and Duck ran the hills. Girl sprinted fast, and Duck sprinted faster, with wings wide and beak open, honking like a tiny trumpet. They raced up the green slopes and back, up and back. 'Faster,' Girl called to Duck. 'The big flock race is Saturday, and Saturday is soon!'

Saturday came at last. Girl gave Duck a soft pat on the neck and held Duck close. Duck stood very still. 'The race starts soon,' Girl whispered. 'You can win it. You are much faster than **you** look.' Behind them, the kids waved and called, 'Duck will race the big flock!'



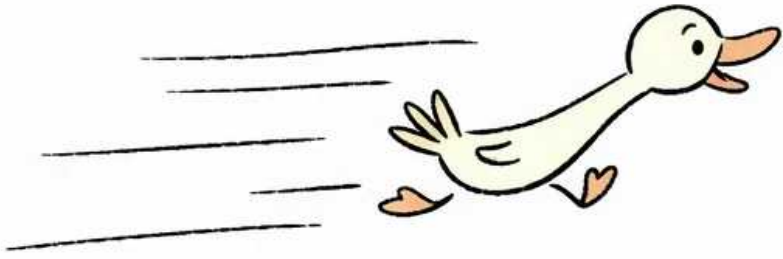


A horn honked, and the big flock shot up into the sky like arrows. Right behind them, Duck lifted off and went **zooming** after the flock.

'Go, Duck, go!' Girl screamed with her arms open wide.

The kids screamed **too**, because Duck was flying faster and faster.





Duck did not just catch the flock. Duck passed the flock. One duck, then five, then ten, and Duck **zoomed** past them all. Girl lifted her arm up high and looked at the sky. 'That is my duck!' she screamed. The kids jumped up **too**, screaming, because the wobbly duck was flying like a rocket.



Duck raced past the white line first, and the other birds were still far back on the path. Girl jumped up so high that she looked like she could fly, too. All the kids waved banners and whooped, and a horn honked and honked. Then the kids yelled, 'Duck! Duck! Duck!'





Girl **scooped** Duck up and gave it a very big hug. The kids ran over to pat Duck on its neck. They waved their arms up high and yelled, 'Hooray! Hooray for Duck!' One kid pumped his fist with a big grin. Girl held Duck close and said in a soft whisper, 'Told you so.' Then Duck burped.



That Duck Cannot Fly

A girl is sure her wobbly, goofy duck can win the Big Flock Race, no matter how much the other kids laugh. Every morning she and Duck race up and down the hills to get faster and faster, and soon Saturday arrives. Will Duck really be fast enough to beat the whole flock? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 90: oo /ū/), this book practices words like 'too', 'soon', 'balloon', 'zooming', 'whooped'.

Phonics Focus: oo /ū/

balloon, goofy, hooray, huge, scooped, soon, too, whooped, you, zoomed, zooming

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