

The Shadow Growls



Tonight the **town glows**
bright. Light beams rise up
from the tall landmark and
paint the sky **yellow**. A
boy sits up on his dad
and waves a little flag.

'Best night ever!' he **shouts**.
All **around**, the **crowd**
waves flags and grins. But
a **shadow** looks on from
the dark, and it **growls**.





From high up in the sky,
the **town glows**. **Yellow**
light spills from all the
homes and shops, from
all the windows.

And up in the dark sky,
The Dark is not happy.
'Look at that **town!**' it
huffs. 'Lights all **around!**
Nighttime is my time!'

So The Dark creeps into a little home and flicks off the lights. Click! Just like that.

Inside, a boy blinks. He can not see his plate. He feels **around** in the dark and bumps into a seat. Then he dives into bed and hides. 'Who turned off the lights?' he says.





The Dark slips from home to home and flicks off the lights. One family sits by one little flame. A kid peeks at a book by the dim **glow**. Two kids get in bed. There is no fun **now**. The cat **prowls** the room and **frowns**. 'This is **how** night should be,' says The Dark. It is so **proud**.

But **outside**, the streets still blaze. Road lights blink and hum. Cars and buses roll by, safe and **sound**. A kid sits on the curb with a little dog and looks at it all. By them, The Dark **scowls**. 'No, come on. More lights?'





Click! The Dark shuts off
all the road lights at
once.

Cars bump into buses.

Trucks jam up the road.

The **crowd** can not see a
thing. They wave their
arms and **shout**, 'Who
turned off the lights?' But
The Dark just grins and
prowls on.

The fun rides are next,
and **wow**, they **glow**! Kids
grin and **shout** on the
round ride, up and **down**,
around and **around**. The
big ride glitters high up
by the stars.

The Dark takes one look
and **frowns**. 'So bright!' it
hisses. 'It has to go.'





Click! The big ride stops.
The **round** ride goes still.
A kid in a ride car looks
up, upset. On the
ground, two kids just
stand in the dark. No
song. No fun. No rides.
Just dark. 'Who turned
off the lights?' one kid
says. And **now** no one is
grinning.

Out on the sea, one light still shines. It is a tall red and white light **tower**. Its beam sweeps the dark waves. It keeps ships safe from the rocks. A big ship and a little **rowboat** sail by, safe in the **glow**. The Dark spots it and **growls**. 'That is the last one.'





The Dark snuffs **out** the light **tower** beam. A huge ship cuts the waves, and it aims right at a little **rowboat**. The boy inside grips his **row** tools and screams.

On the dark coast, the light **tower** is still. No beam. No help. And **now** The Dark feels a twist in its belly. A chill. 'No, no,' it says. 'What did I do?'

The Dark can not think. It just lets go. All the lights in **town** blaze back at once. The train beams cut the night. Cars roll **down** the roads, safe and **sound**. Homes **glow**, and the fun rides glitter far off. The **town** hums and shines. But The Dark stays back in the sky, all on its **own**, feeling small.





Then four kids come **out** to play. One waves a bright star wand. One grins under glittering string lights. One holds a little lamp, and one spins a green **glow** stick **around**. They play in the dark! 'Stars can not shine **without** the dark!' calls the kid with the lamp. The Dark blinks. Then it smiles. The best lights do not drive the dark **out**. They **glow** with it.



The Shadow Grows

Tonight the town glows for the festival, and a boy cheers from his dad's shoulders. But a shadow lurks at the edge of the crowd, growling at every light it sees. What will it do when nighttime doesn't belong to it anymore? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 9: /ou/ mixed), this book practices words like 'town', 'crowd', 'frowns', 'shout', 'ground'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

around, crowd, down, frowns, glow, glows, ground, growls, how, now, out, outside, own, proud, prowls, round, row, rowboat, scowls, shadow, shout, shouts, sound, tower, town, window, without, wow, yellow

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