Wait! Don't Go!

This is Sen, and he is not your **average** boy.

Well, normal for a **giant!** Sen and his family live in a **huge** cave underground, near the **edge** of a **village.** They do not come out often. But today, Sen wants to explore. He grips the rocky **edges** of the cave and crawls out, eyes wide with excitement.

The world above is bright and **strange,** and Sen cannot wait to see it all!

Not far from the cave, three **village** children are playing near the **edge** of the woods. Kem spots something **strange** moving in the distance. 'Look!' he whispers.

They all crouch behind the thick green **hedge** and peek out through the leaves. Lan's eyes go wide. 'What is that?' she asks. Through the leaves, they can see something enormous coming their way.

Sen trudges into the **village,** grinning from ear to gigantic ear. Then he spots something wonderful by a cottage, with two wheels, a seat, and shiny yellow handles.

'Ooooh!' Sen gasps, since he has never seen such a gadget before. He gives it a **gentle** pat, **gentle** for a **giant,** and waves at the empty street.

'Hello? Anybody? I am very friendly!'

The children have been watching from behind their **hedge.** Kem, the oldest, shrinks back at the sight of the **giant** so close to their home. "Is it a monster?" he says.

Suddenly, the **giant** grins wide and presses his **huge** hand down on one of their bikes. The wheel crunches flat beneath his palm as he laughs with delight. "Oh no! He's smashing our bike! Run!" Kem shouts.

Kem grabs the bike and charges toward the **village** house, with the others scrambling after him. 'Wait! Don't go!' Sen calls.

But a giant's voice is **huge.** His shout rattles the windows and sends pigeons screaming from the trees, and the children run even faster.

Sen stands alone in the yard, fist clenched, and not one child turns around.

Sen looks down at his **huge** hands. Those same hands had bent the bike like a twig.

'I just wanted to play,' he says. His voice comes out tiny, smaller than a mouse, smaller than a whisper, which sounds **strange** coming from someone so big.

Then **giant** tears roll down his cheeks and splash on the ground like buckets of rain.

Inside the house, the children huddle together. They hear a **strange** noise outside, like heavy rain falling on the **village.**

"Is it raining?" asks Lan. Kem **edges** toward the door. "I wonder if he has gone," he says. He wants to check, but he is not brave enough yet.

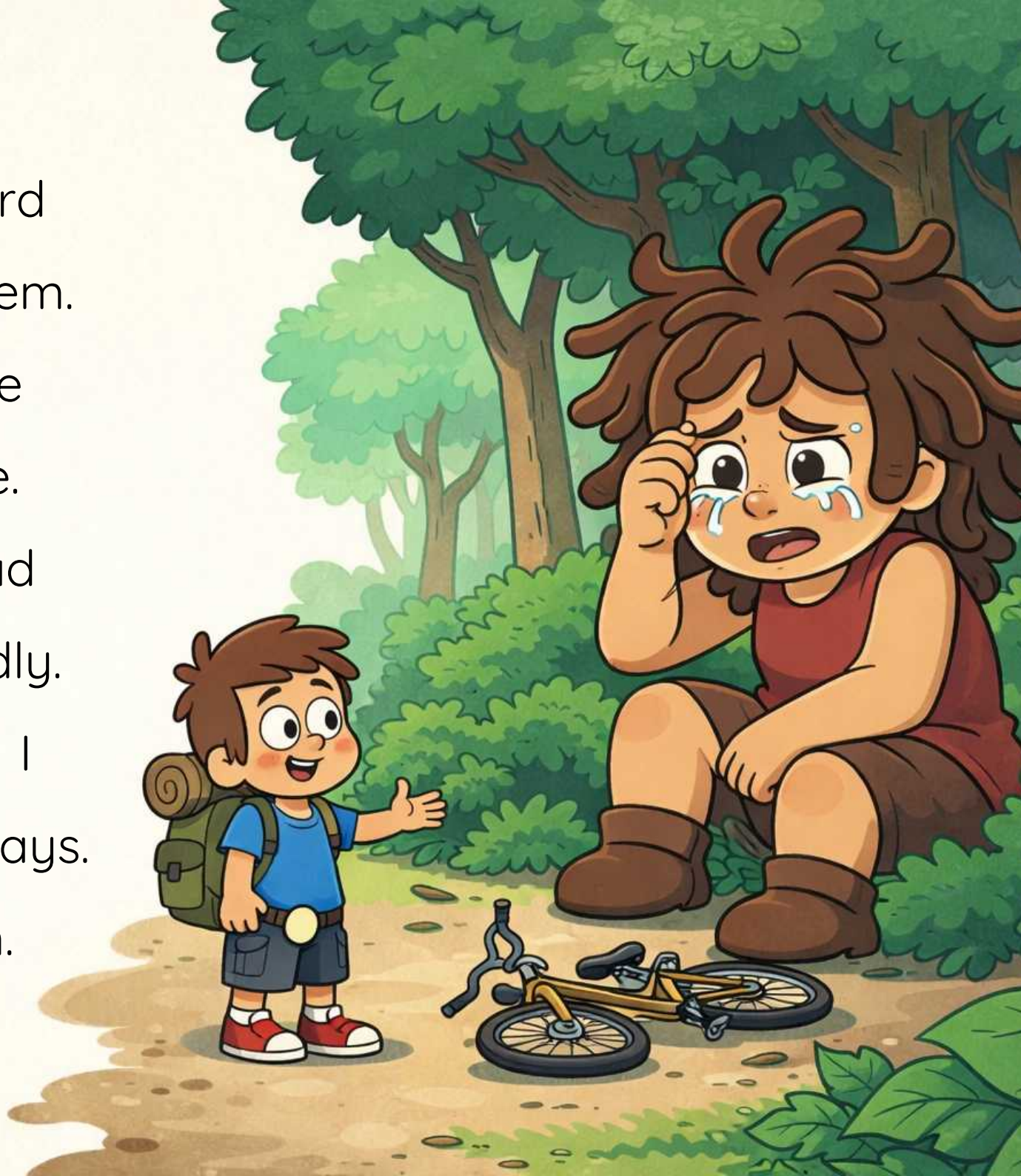
After a while, Kem slips outside and sits by the **edge** of the house. He holds the broken bike wheel in his hands and looks toward the woods.

The **giant** boy is out there somewhere, crying. "He is not a monster," Kem says. His voice is **gentle.** "I think he is just a boy. A **giant** boy who wanted to play with us."

Kem can see Sen now, sitting on the grass at the **edge** of the woods with his face buried in his **huge** hands. With every sob, the trees shake and leaves swirl through the air.

"He is really upset," Kem says. "The **giant** just wanted to make friends. I should go and talk to him."

Kem sets the wheel down and walks toward Sen. 'Hey there! I'm Kem. What's your name?' he calls in a **gentle** voice. Sen lifts his **large** head and looks at Kem sadly. 'I am Sen. I am sorry I broke your bike,' he says. Kem smiles up at him. 'Don't worry about it.'



'Would you like to play with me and my friends?' asks Kem.

Sen's mouth opens in a **huge** grin, and his eyes squeeze shut with joy. His fists clench as he tries not to jump and shout. This is just what he wished for back in his **giant** cave. A wild dance might scare his **gentle** new friend, so he holds still.

'Yes, I would love to,' says Sen.

After a long day of playing, Sen takes his new friends back to the **giant** cave. Inside, there is a big feast of food piled high on every **ledge.**

"Wow, there is so much food here!" Kem says from up on Sen's shoulder. Lan stands on a rock, arms raised with excitement. "Have as much as you like," says Sen. "You are my friends now, and I am so glad I found you!"

G

Wait! Don't Go!

What happens when a giant boy crawls out of his cave hoping to make a friend? Sen is gentle and kind, but his hands are HUGE and his voice shakes the rooftops! When the village children spot something enormous behind the hedge, they run for their lives. Can Sen show them he isn't a monster before it's too late? This decodable reader practices the soft g sound in words like 'gentle,' 'giant,' 'village,' 'huge,' and 'edge.'

Reading Skills: Soft g

average, damaged, edge, edges, gentle, giant, hedge, huge, large, ledge, strange, village

Learn to read with confidence

The Bookbot app and its carefully designed decodable books help children practise the sounds and words they are learning, building strong phonics and reading skills one step at a time. In the app, children can listen to stories read aloud, follow highlighted words as they are spoken, and read independently when they are ready. Together, the decodable books and oral reading support help develop accuracy, fluency, confidence and a love of reading. Learn more at www.bookbotkids.com.

CC BY NC SA

www.bookbotkids.com