

Who Bit Our Guava?



Kim **grabbed** Kale's hand and **pulled** him off the porch. 'Quick, Kale! The **guavas** are ready!' She was already in the yard, pulling him behind her like a wagon. 'Slow down!' Kale **cried**. 'My legs are **shorter!**' But Kim just kept **smiling** and **pulled faster**, because today was **guava** day, and nothing could stop her.





They had not even reached the best tree when Kale **stopped**. He pointed up at the **biggest guava hanging** from a branch. 'Kim! A thing bit it!' Kim peeked out from behind the tree trunk. A huge chunk was **missing** from the **guava**, with teeth marks and all. 'Who,' Kim **whispered**, 'bit our **guava**?'

'Maybe it was that!' Kale **cried, pointing** at a fat green caterpillar on a leaf. 'Look how **hungry** it is!' Kim **crossed** her arms. 'Kale, that caterpillar's mouth is **tinier** than a grain of rice. It would take a hundred years to make a bite that big.' 'Maybe it chews **quickly?**' Kale said. 'No,' said Kim. 'Next **guess.**'





'What about a fairy?' Kale **grinned**. 'A **hungry** one with tiny teeth?' 'Do not be **silly**, Kale. Fairies are not real.'

'Fine!' He **spotted** a grasshopper on a branch.

'There! The grasshopper did it!'

Kim just **stared**. 'A grasshopper made a hole the size of your fist? Do you even know what grasshoppers eat?'

'**Guavas?**' said Kale. 'Grass, Kale. It is in the name.'

Then Kale **spotted** a chicken and gasped in **excitement**. 'The chicken! One peck, boom, a big hole!' Kim was already up in the tree, **checking** for **clues**. She **grinned** down at Kale. 'That **guava** is way up high. Can that chicken fly?' They **both looked** at the chicken. The chicken **pecked** the dirt. 'Three **guesses**, and every single one was wrong!' Kim **laughed**.





The sky turned pink, and still no **answers**. 'Maybe we should just go home,' Kale said. 'We can **buy guavas** at the shop.' But Kim's eyes went wide. She spun with **both** fists up. 'Wait! We have not seen a single **creature** big **enough** to make that bite. What if the biter only **wakes** up at night?' Kale went pale. 'Night?'

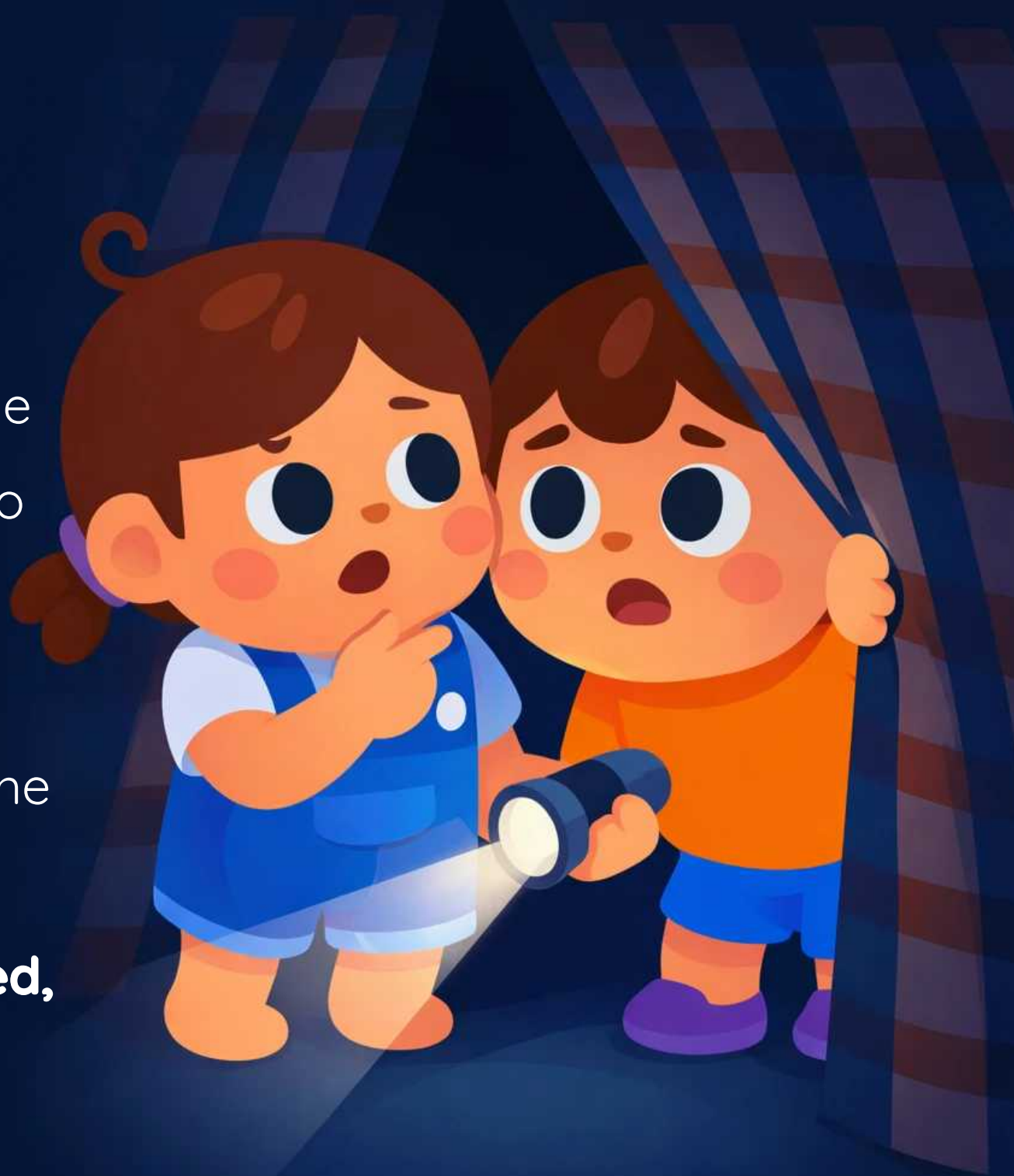
Kim stood in the doorway with a blanket. 'We camp by the tree,' she said. 'We watch. We wait. We catch the biter.' Kale sat outside with his arms **crossed**, **sleepy** and **yawning**. 'I hope the biter shows up fast. I am going to fall asleep in five minutes.' 'Sleep with one eye open,' Kim said, and **marched** into the dark.





The yard **looked** odd in the **darkness**. Kim swept her flashlight over the tree. Kale stayed so close he kept **stepping** on her heels. 'What if fairies are real,' Kale **whispered**, 'and they only wake up at night?' 'Fairies are not real!' Kim hissed. A branch creaked and they **both jumped**. They **checked** every branch. Every leaf. Every shadow. Nothing.

Back in the tent, Kim **pressed** her face to the flap and **stared** into the dark. 'It will show up,' she **whispered**. 'I just want to sleep,' Kale **whispered** back. Then. Flap! Flap! Flap! Big **wings**, out in the **darkness**. Kim **grabbed** Kale's arm and **whispered**, 'Did you hear that?'





They **poked** their heads out of the tent and **looked** up. There, **hanging** upside down from a branch, was a dark, **furry creature** with **wings** spread wide. And it was **biting** into a **guava**, juice **dripping everywhere**. 'It is **eating** another one!' Kale gasped. 'Right by our tent!' 'We found it,' Kim said. 'But what is that thing?'

'Small and **furry,**' Kale
whispered. 'Wings. Big round
eyes.' Kim pointed **proudly,**
smiling her **biggest** smile.
'There is one animal that looks
like that. It is a bat!' 'A bat!'
Kale smacked his forehead.
'That is why we did not see it
all day! Bats wake up at night!'
'Not a caterpillar,' said Kim. 'Not
a grasshopper. Not a chicken.
Not a fairy.' 'You do not have
to list them all,' Kale said.





Up in the tree, Bat hung upside down with a belly so round it **looked** like a tennis ball. Bat blinked at the moon, **happy** as can be. Not a caterpillar. Not a grasshopper. Not a chicken. Not a fairy. Just one **hungry** bat who thought **guavas** were the **sweetest** food of all.

Kim and Kale were back inside, fast asleep. The little home glowed in the moonlight, and two **sleepy** clue **finders dreamed** of the next riddle.



Who Bit Our Guava?

Kim and her brother Kale race to pick guavas, but someone has already taken a giant bite out of the biggest one on the tree! They guess a caterpillar, a grasshopper, even a fairy, but every guess turns out wrong. As night falls, Kim wonders: what if the guava biter only comes out in the dark? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 128: Affixes Review 2), this book practices words like 'guava', 'creature', 'stopped', 'checking', and 'wakes'.

Phonics Focus: Affixes Review 2

answers, biggest, biting, both, buy, checked, checking, clues, creature, cried, crossed, darkness, dreamed, dripping, eating, enough, everywhere, excitement, faster, finders, furry, grabbed, grinned, guava, guavas, guess, guesses, hanging, happy, hungry, jumped, laughed, looked, marched, missing, pecked, pointing, poked, pressed, proudly, pulled, quickly, shorter, silly, sleepy, smiling, spotted, stared, stepping, stopped, sweetest, tinier, wakes, whispered, wings, yawning

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