

# Who Sits in That Seat?



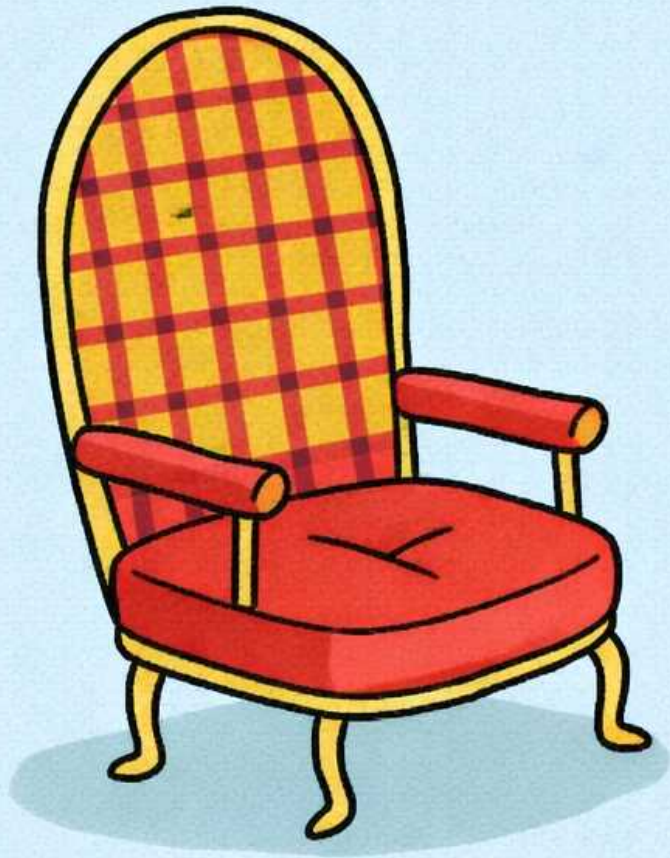


My granddad tells the best  
bedtime tales in all the  
land. No book can **beat**  
them. Nothing can **beat**  
them.

**Each** night he sits on my  
bed with his big red mug,  
and **each** night I say,  
'Tell me a tale, Granddad.'  
And **each** night, he does.

Tonight Grandad **leans** in so close I can smell the **sweet steam** from his mug. 'Tonight,' he says, 'my tale is about Eve, a girl no one can **see**.' 'A girl no one can **see**?' I say. 'That is not **real**. That is a tall tale.' Grandad just grins. 'Tell me at the end.'





No one can **see** Eve. She has no face to **see**, and no name to call. She can sit just by you in a big red **seat**, and no one can tell.

The one clue? A **wee** dip in the **seat**. But who peeks at **seats**? Nobody. That is who.

When it rains, you  
can almost **see** Eve.  
**Each** raindrop curls  
around a shape that  
is not quite there.  
But the crowd rushes  
past her. Nobody  
**sees** her at all.





Snow is **sweeter**.

Snowflakes land on Eve  
and stay, so she looks  
like a snow-girl.

**Three** kids stop. They  
point. 'Do you **see** that?'  
they say.

Eve keeps very, very still.  
She wants them to **keep**  
looking.

One morning, Eve is brave. She sneaks into a class, sits at a desk, and picks up a **green** wax stick. The boy next to her yells so loud that the teacher drops her **coffee**. Because from his **seat**, a **green** wax stick is making a shape all by itself!





'I am Eve,' says a voice from the empty **seat**. 'Do not be afraid. I just want to make art.' The boy looks at the empty **seat**. Then he asks, 'Can I paint a face? A face I can **see?**' Eve keeps very, very still. The boy dips his brush in yellow paint and paints dots and a **sweet** smile on her. Now Eve has a face!

'More!' says Eve. 'Paint my curls with the things I like best!' So the boy paints a shape, a star, and a fat cat. Notes that **seem** to hum. And **sweet** red dots on top, because why not. 'How do I look?' asks Eve. The boy grins. 'Like a song.'





After that, Eve paints herself **each** morning. Shapes on her arms. Stars on her fingers. Bright footprints where she steps, so all the land can follow her trail. Eve does not hide now. She wants **each** one to **see** her.

Eve stands on a hill,  
filled up with all that  
she likes best. And  
at last, they can all  
**see** her! It is not the  
paint. Eve **gleams**  
with her **real** self,  
and nobody can  
miss her.





Grandad sips the last drop from his mug. 'So?' he asks. 'Tall tale? Or true?' I tuck my blanket up to my nose and think deeply. A **real** girl no one can **see?** That is silly. 'Not true,' I say. 'It is just a tale.' Grandad grins and kisses my brow. '**Sweet dreams,**' he says.

Grandad turns off the lamp.  
He goes out. He shuts the  
door.

Then, very slowly, the door  
**creaks** back open. Light  
spills in from the hall. But  
nobody is there. I tuck the  
blanket up to my chin.

Don't open that door. Don't  
open that door. Don't open  
that door!





## Who Sits in That Seat?

Grandad tells the best bedtime tales in all the land, and each night he leans in close with his mug of sweet steam to begin. Tonight's tale is about a girl no one can see, sitting right in a big red seat beside you. Could something as real as a wee dip in the cushion ever give her away? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 5: /ee/ mixed), this book practices words like 'seat', 'sweet', 'keep', 'green', 'peek'.

**Phonics Focus:** <mixed>

beat, coffee, creaks, deep, dreams, each, gleams, green, keep, leans, peek, real, seat, seats, see, seem, sees, sneak, steam, sweet, sweeter, teach, three, wee

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