

# The Ant and the Carrot, Level 2

Front inside cover



## About the story

An ant finds a carrot but it is too big for him to carry. A rabbit nibbles the top off the carrot, and then a fox bites off the bottom. The carrot is now small enough for the ant and his friends to carry.

## Before reading

### Talk together

Look at the cover and read the title together. Ask: *What do you think the Ant wants to do with the carrot?*

### Story words

These words may be challenging but they are important for the story. Read them together and talk about what they mean.

**wanted** – wished for something (p4)

**farmer** – someone who looks after a farm (p12)

**saw** – the past tense of 'see' (p13)

## During reading

If your child has difficulty with a particular word while reading the book:

- break it down into sections, help them to sound it out and blend the sounds together, e.g. c-a-rr-o-t
- tell them the whole word if necessary.

### Tricky words

These words are common but your child might find them difficult to read: he, my, she, was, her, all

These are tricky high frequency words, which are not phonically decodable but children learn them by sight as part of Letters & Sounds at Phase 3, so they are considered decodable.

These are the non-decodable story words, pre-taught here. This is the only non-decodable language in this book. The story words expand vocabulary, enrich the stories and add interest.

Back inside cover

## After reading

- Invite your child to retell the story in their own words. Encourage them to look back at the pictures if they need to and prompt them if necessary.
- Read p7 of the story again. Ask: *How do you think the ant felt when the rabbit bit the top off the carrot?*
- Look at the picture on p12 together. Ask: *What do you think the farmer is saying to the fox?*
- Look again at p16. Ask: *How do you think the ant feels now?*

### Story words

Read the story words that were introduced in this book together, then ask your child to find them within the book. Ask them to tell you what each word means, prompting if necessary.

**wanted** (p4)      **farmer** (p12)      **saw** (p13)

## Talk about the story

- Encourage your child to tell you what they know about ants. Ask: *Why are lots of ants carrying the carrot away?*
- Read p7 again and point out the word 'bit'. Ask your child to suggest one or two other words that the author could have used instead of 'bit'. (Answer: e.g. chewed, nibbled, gnawed.)

The story words are revisited at the end of the book to consolidate learning.

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