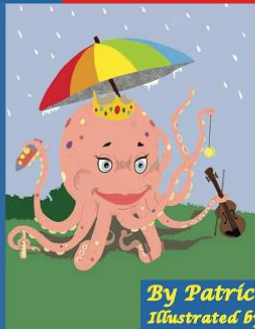




How the Ant Met the Zebra

*Teach Your Child the Alphabet and How to
Read Using Phonics and 42 Magic Words*



*By Patricia A. Stryker
Illustrated by James Balkovek*

This is a charming children's story about a city ant that goes to the country to visit his friends, a cat and a dog, and other fun animals. This book also teaches the alphabet and how to teach children to read using phonics.

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A FUNNY ENGLISH READING TEST

About 2/3 of English words follow the two phonics rules, 1/3 don't. Here is a fun riddle about unusual English words:

How do you pronounce the following word?

ghoti

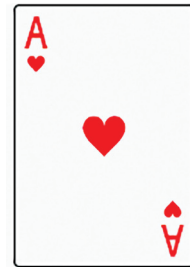
(The answer is on page 33.)



A a a
One day an **ant** that lived in a city picked
short a

A a a
up an **ace** card and put it in one pocket
long a

A a a
and put an **acorn** in his other pocket.
long a



An ace card



An acorn

ant (ǎnt) – ǎ is the short a sound.

ace (ās) – ā is the long a sound. (See page 9 for Phonics Rule #2.)

acorn (ā'-kōrn) – ā is the long a sound.

Phonics Rule #1: When you see one vowel in a word, usually use the short vowel sound. This rule works for about 2/3 of English words. (The vowels are **a, e, i, o, u** and sometimes **y**.)

ant, ace, acorn



42 OAK ST.

886

METRO

B b

Then he got on a bus and went to the country

C c

D d

to visit his friends, a cat and a dog .

hard c



bus (būs) – ū is the short u sound.

cat (kāt) – k is the hard c sound; ā is the short a sound.

dog (dōg) – ō is the short o sound.

ant, ace, acorn, bus, cat, dog

The **cat** and the **dog** were very happy to see
their friend, the **ant**. The **cat** had been talking

C c
on her red **cellphone**, but she got off her
soft c

phone when she saw her friend, the **ant**.



cellphone (sĕl'-fōn) – s is the soft c sound.

4 ant, ace, acorn, bus, cat, cellphone, dog

42 OAK ST.

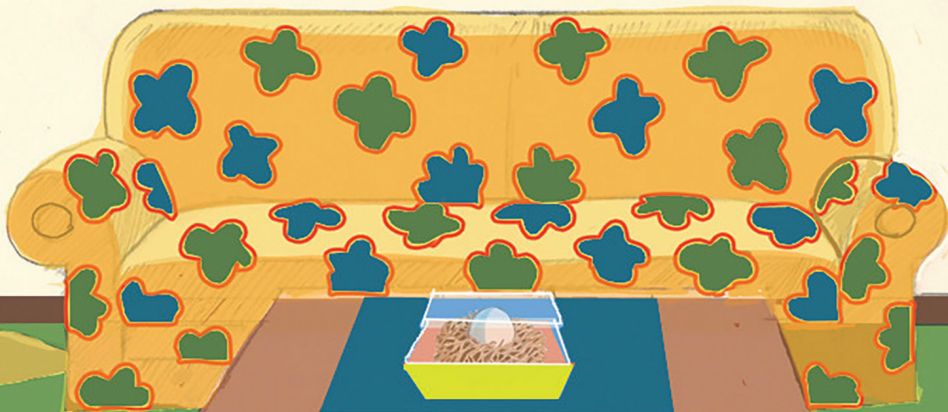
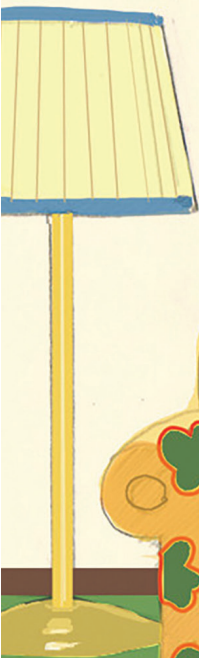
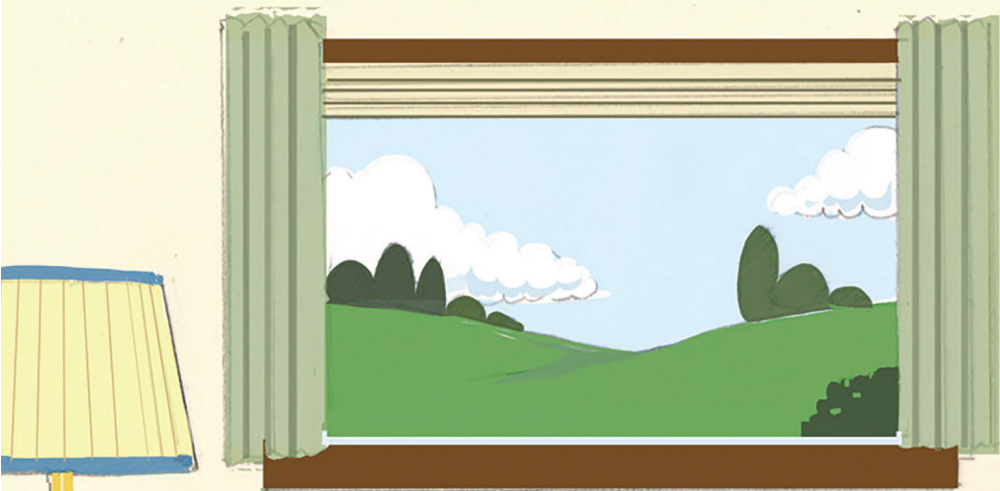


The **cat** and the **dog** showed the **ant** their little
old house and an **E e** **egg** that they were keeping
short e
warm because they were waiting for the **egg** to
hatch and for a baby bird to come out.

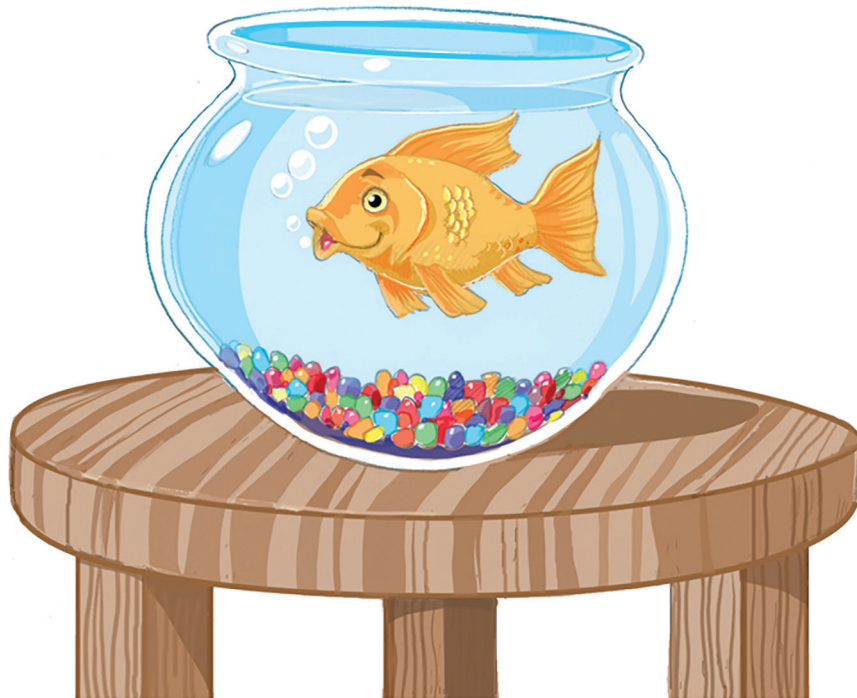


egg (ĕg) – ĕ is the short e sound.

6 ant, ace, acorn, bus, cat, cellphone, dog, egg



Then they showed him their pet **F f** fish, happily swimming around in its bowl.



fish (fish) – i is the short i sound; sh is the sh sound.

ant, ace, acorn, bus, cat, cellphone, dog, egg,

All of a sudden the **dog** looked out the window

and said, "Look! See that **E e eagle** flying up high
long e

in the sky? Isn't it beautiful? When an **eagle** is
born, it hatches out of an **egg** too."



Phonics Rule #2: When you see two vowels in a word or a syllable including a word ending in an "e," usually use the long vowel sound of the first vowel, which is the same as the name of the letter. (The second vowel is silent.) This rule works for about 2/3 of English words. (The vowels are **a, e, i, o, u** and sometimes **y**.)

eagle (ē'-gŭl) – ē is the long e sound.

ant, ace, acorn, bus, cat, cellphone, dog, egg,
eagle, fish



It was a warm, sunny day. The ant, the cat and the dog went outside and took a walk. They walked past a fence and saw a horse out in a field.



horse (hōrs)

ant, ace, acorn, bus, cat, cellphone, dog, egg, eagle, fish, horse

G g g
They opened a **gate**, and the big **horse**,

G g g
named **George**, came over to the three and
soft g
greeted them.



gate (gāt) – g is the hard g sound; ā is the long a sound.

George (jōrj) – j is the soft g sound.

ant, ace, acorn, bus, cat, cellphone, dog, egg,
eagle, fish, gate, George, horse

I i
"Look," said the cat, "there's an inchworm on
short i
my leg. Let's put it in a jar ." The ant, the cat
and the dog went back to the house, and the cat
put the inchworm into a jar.



inchworm (ĩnch'-werm) – ĩ is the short i sound.

jar (jŏr) – the letter **a** sometimes says **ŏ** (ŏ = the ah sound = ä).

ant, ace, acorn, bus, cat, cellphone, dog, egg,
eagle, fish, gate, George, horse, inchworm, jar 13

The **dog** said, "I'm hot. I want some **ice cream**.
long i

Do you want some too?"

"Yes, we want some **ice cream** too!" the **ant** and
the **cat** shouted. They made some **ice cream**
cones for themselves. It was cold, refreshing,
and delicious!



ice cream (īs' krēm) – ī is the long i sound.

ant, ace, acorn, bus, cat, cellphone, dog, egg,
eagle, fish, gate, George, horse, inchworm,
ice cream, jar

Suddenly the ant pointed out the window and
K k
said, "Look! There's a kite flying up high in
the blue sky!" They all ran outside to see the
kite.



kite (kīt) – ī is the long i sound.

ant, ace, acorn, bus, cat, cellphone, dog, egg,
eagle, fish, gate, George, horse, inchworm,
ice cream, jar, kite



They looked up at the beautiful kite. Then they
looked down and saw that a lion was flying
the kite, and on his shoulder sat a mouse. The
mouse was sneezing and blowing his nose
because he had a cold – “Achoo!”



lion (lī'-ŭn) – ī is the long i sound.

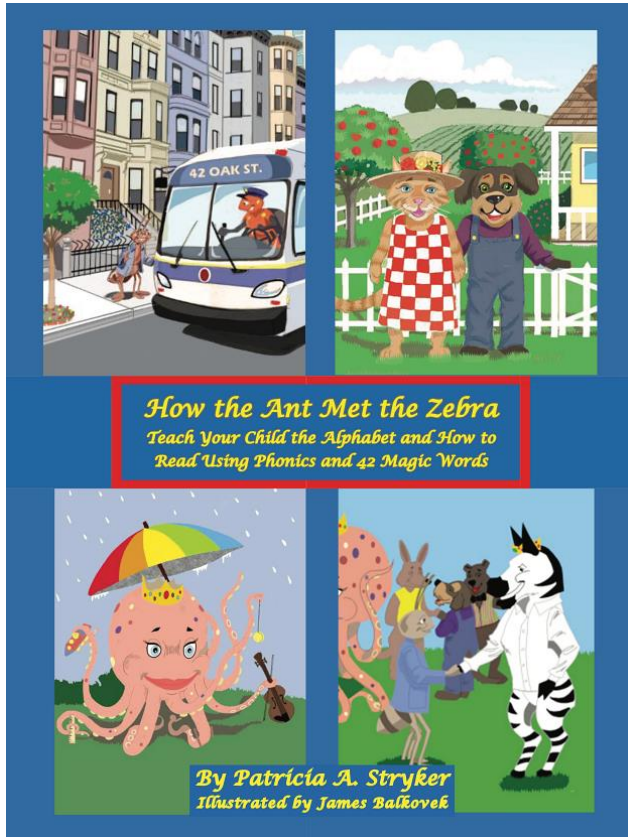
mouse (mōws) – ou and ow often make the ow sound.

nose (nōz) – ō is the long o sound; sometimes the letter s makes the z sound.

ant, ace, acorn, bus, cat, cellphone, dog, egg,
eagle, fish, gate, George, horse, inchworm,
ice cream, jar, kite, lion, mouse, nose

Suddenly it started to rain, so the ant, the cat and the dog ran back into the house.





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