

A Message in Mashed Potato



Level 8 – Purple

BookLife
Readers

A Message in Mashed Potato

Written by
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Illustrated by
Irene Renon

An Introduction to BookLife Readers...

Our Readers have been specifically created in line with the London Institute of Education's approach to book banding and are phonetically decodable and ordered to support each phase of the Letters and Sounds document.

Each book has been created to provide the best possible reading and learning experience. Our aim is to share our love of books with children, providing both emerging readers and prolific page-turners with beautiful books that are guaranteed to provoke interest and learning, regardless of ability.

BOOK BAND GRADED using the Institute of Education's approach to levelling.

PHONETICALLY DECODABLE supporting each phase of Letters and Sounds.

EXERCISES AND QUESTIONS to offer reinforcement and to ascertain comprehension.

BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED to inspire and provoke engagement, providing a variety of styles for the reader to enjoy whilst reading through the series.

AUTHOR INSIGHT: JOHN WOOD

An incredibly creative and talented author, John Wood has written about 60 books for BookLife Publishing. Born in Warwickshire, he graduated with a BA in English Literature and English Language from De Montford University. During his studies, he learned about literature, styles of language, linguistic relativism, and psycholinguistics, which is the study of the effects of language on the brain. Thanks to his learnings, John successfully uses words that captivate and resonate with children and that will be sure to make them retain information. His stories are entertaining, memorable, and extremely fun to read.

PHONICS FOCUS

/o_e/
/oy/

This book focuses on phonemes /o_e/ and /oy/ and is a purple level 8 book band.



Joy was the best painter in the city. She was so good that a very rich man called Lord Pomp had asked her to come to his castle to paint his portrait. Nobody knew much about Lord Pomp. They only knew he was rich.



Joy stood in front of the stone castle. She was alone and scared.



Suddenly the doors swung open. There was Lord Pomp, wearing a big hat and a colourful robe.

"Welcome!" he said. "You must be Joy. Come inside!"



Joy followed Lord Pomp as he showed her around.

"I'm Lord Pomp, but you can call me Pompy," Lord Pomp said as they stepped under a big golden dome.



“I’m glad you are here,” said the fat lord as they walked through the castle. “I need this painting right away. I’m an important man, you know. I know the royal family.”

Joy looked around. The castle looked very fancy. Joy saw a rose garden bursting with reds and blues.



They walked into the dining room. Lord Pomp sat on his throne.

“But first we must eat,” said Lord Pomp.

“It will be a huge dinner, with six courses!”



Lord Pomp clicked his fingers. His loyal servant ran into the room.

“Dinner! Now!” Lord Pomp screamed.

The boy nodded quickly and went to the kitchen.



The boy came back with the first course. It was seaweed and turnip soup. Joy poked at the slimy soup with her spoon. The soup looked like an unhappy face.



"I have very fancy things from all over the globe," droned Lord Pomp, showing off. Joy rolled her eyes as Lord Pomp spilt soup on his clothes.



Soon it was time for the second course. It was porridge, mashed potatoes and peas. Joy was pretty sure those things weren't meant to be eaten together. Then she saw something in the mashed potato.



Someone had put the peas in a strange shape. They spelled out a word. The word was HELP. Joy ate quickly before Lord Pomp saw.





The boy brought the third course. It was alphabet pasta and bits of tree bark. Before Joy said anything, she saw something strange. There was a code in the pasta! She swapped the letters around quietly.

WE ARE TRAPPED, spelled the pasta. Whoever was cooking the food was sending Joy messages. What would the next course say?



The fourth course was chicken legs cooked in soy sauce. Lord Pomp was busy telling a story with his mouth full.

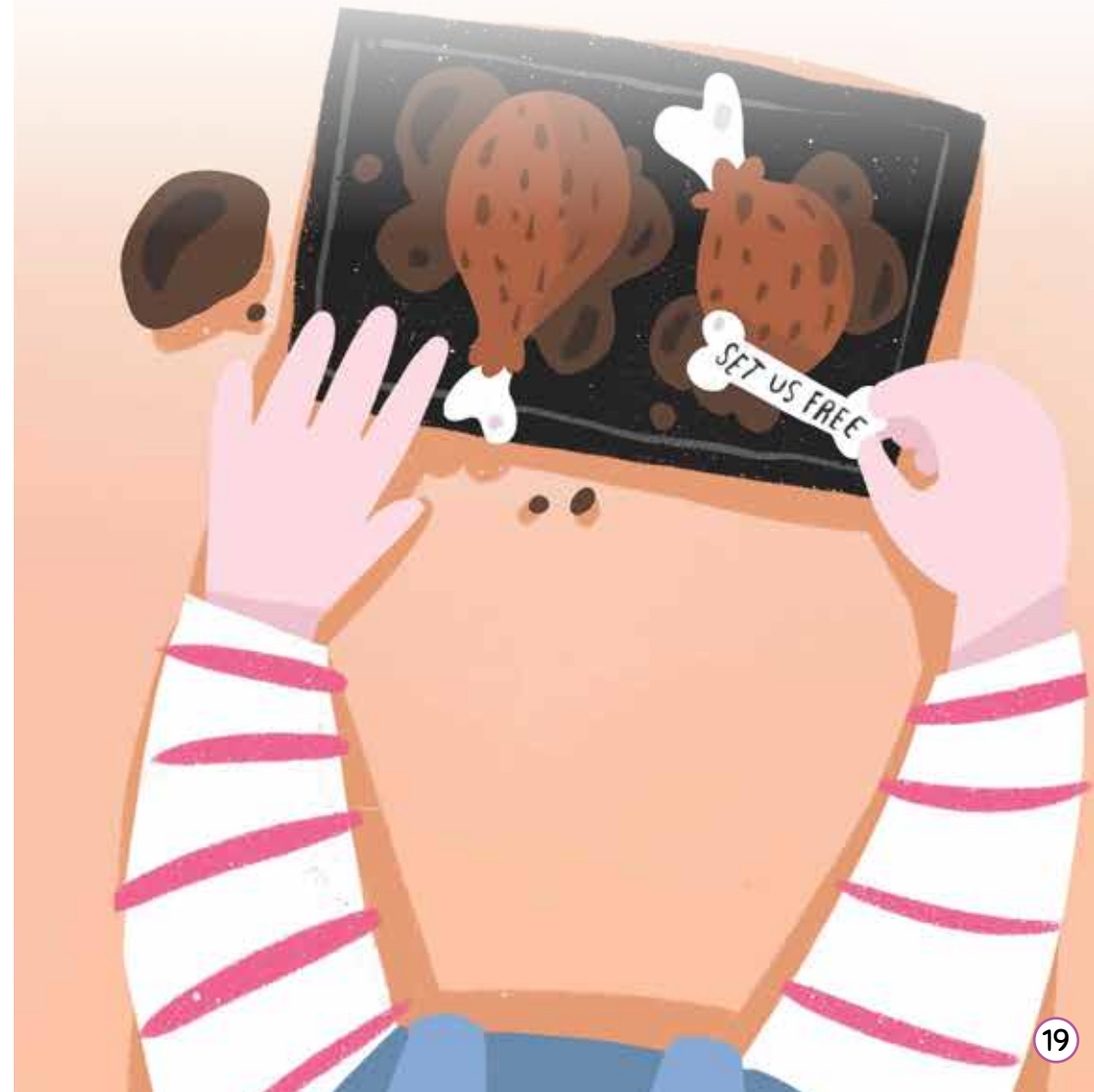
Joy pretended to listen to the annoying lord while she looked for a message.



There it was! Something was written on the bone.

SET US FREE.

The cooks were prisoners of Lord Pomp! Joy had to do something.



Lord Pomp burped loudly as the fifth course came in. It was Brussel sprout pie.

“Brussel sprouts make me gassy,” said Lord Pomp. Sprouts sprayed out of his mouth as he spoke.



Joy pinched her nose and cut into the pie. Inside there was a note.

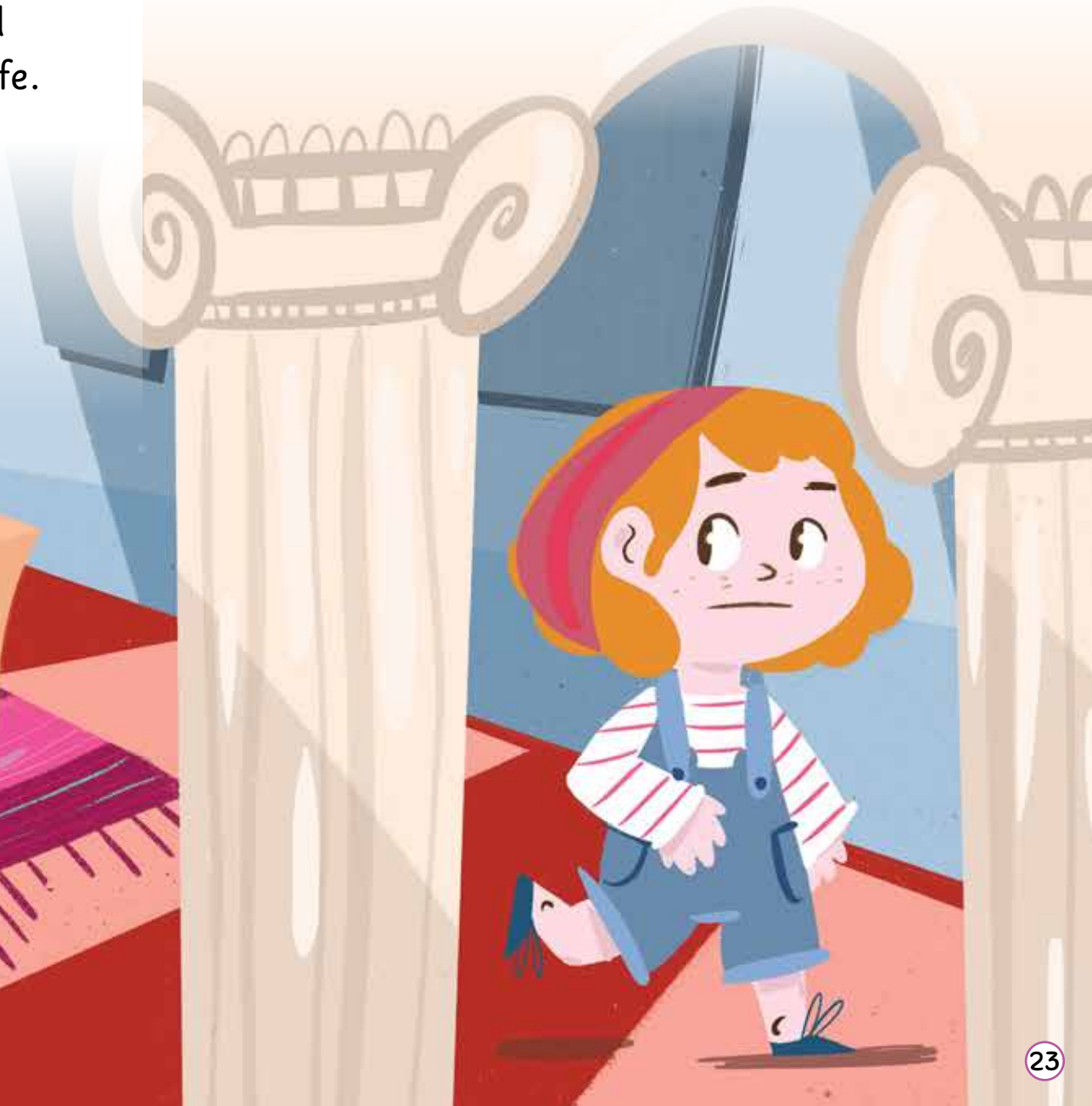
THE KITCHEN IS DOWN THE HALL, the note read.



“Excuse me, may I go to the toilet?” asked Joy.
“But dessert is coming,” said Lord Pomp. “It is a chocolate cake. You’ll enjoy it!”
“I won’t be long,” said Joy, and she dashed down the hall. She hoped the cooks were safe.



She found the kitchen. The door was tied with rope. Joy undid the knot and looked inside.



There were fifteen monkeys. As soon as they saw Joy, they ran over and hugged her. "You poor things," said Joy, as she stroked their fur. "We need to get out of here. Follow me."



But when Joy turned around, Lord Pomp was there at the door! "Nobody gets away from Pompy!" he yelled.



Before Lord Pomp could close the door, the monkeys grabbed the big chocolate cake. They threw it at the fat lord. It sailed through the air and landed right in his mouth.



For once, Lord Pomp was completely quiet. Then he rubbed his belly, smiled and fell backwards. Lord Pomp crashed into the rose garden!



Joy and the monkeys hopped over the broken flowers and ran outside. Joy closed the door behind her, and then they all went to the woods.

Joy jumped on one monkey's back and they set off towards the city.

"Nobody at home is going to believe this," Joy said, as she swung through the trees with her new friends.



A Message in Mashed Potato

1. What was Lord Pomp wearing when Joy arrived at his castle?
2. What is Lord Pomp's nickname?
3. What food was brought out for the third course?
4. Where did the note say that the kitchen was?
 - (a) Up the stairs
 - (b) Down the hall
 - (c) On the roof
5. Would you have set the monkeys free? Did Joy do the right thing?

Helpful Hints for Reading at Home

The focus phonemes (units of sound) used throughout this series are in line with the order in which your child is taught at school. This offers a consistent approach to learning whether reading at home or in the classroom.

HERE IS A LIST OF PHONEMES FOR THIS PHASE OF LEARNING, IN THE ORDER THEY ARE TAUGHT. AN EXAMPLE OF THE PRONUNCIATION CAN BE FOUND IN BRACKETS.

| Phase 5 | | | |
|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| ay (day) | ou (out) | ie (tie) | ea (eat) |
| oy (boy) | ir (girl) | ue (blue) | aw (saw) |
| wh (when) | ph (photo) | ew (new) | oe (toe) |
| au (Paul) | a_e (make) | e_e (these) | i_e (like) |
| o_e (home) | u_e (rule) | | |

HERE ARE SOME WORDS WHICH YOUR CHILD MAY FIND TRICKY.

| Phase 5 Tricky Words | | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| school | lamb | write | doubt |
| mosquito | autumn | rhyme | penguin |
| rough | gnat | scent | one |
| who | knock | listen | onion |

BookLife PUBLISHING 

TOP TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ:

- Allow children time to break down unfamiliar words into units of sound and then encourage children to string these sounds together to create the word.
- Encourage your child to point out any focus phonics when they are used.
- Read through the book more than once to grow confidence.
- Ask simple questions about the text to assess understanding.
- Encourage children to use illustrations as prompts.

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