



Usborne Phonics Readers

Fat cat on a mat



Usborne Phonics Readers have been created in consultation with a language expert, taking into account the latest research on the most effective ways of teaching reading. Children who have just learned to read can enjoy the lively stories with very little guidance from an adult, gaining the experience and enthusiasm they need to become fully confident readers.

Stephen Cartwright's delightful illustrations complement the text and are designed to stimulate further interest.

Fold-out pages add to the enjoyment.

£4.99

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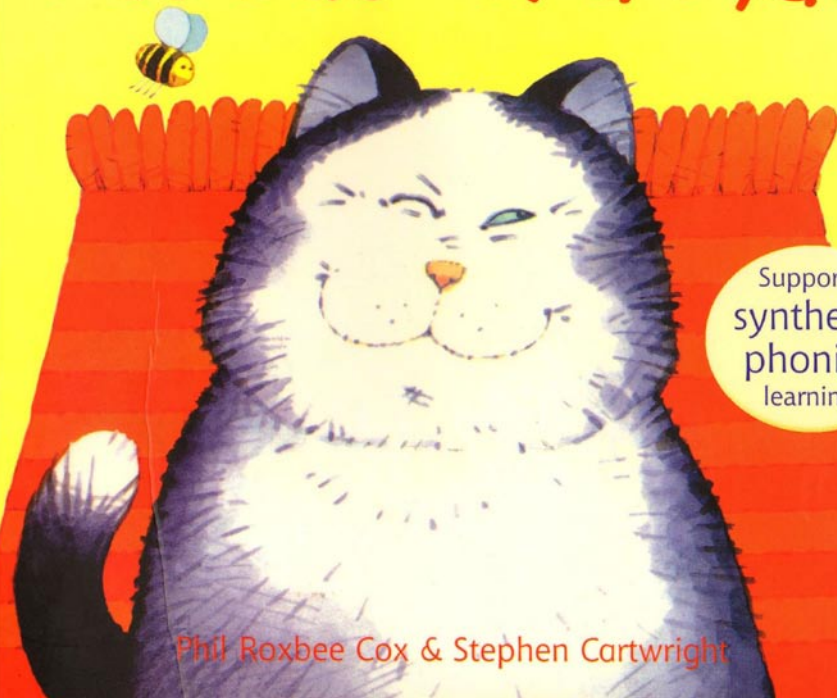
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Supports
synthetic
phonics
learning

Phil Roxbee Cox & Stephen Cartwright

What is synthetic phonics?

Phonics-based reading involves learning to recognize the distinct sounds, or phonemes, that go together to make up words. There are just over 40 phonemes in the English language. Some phonemes correspond to a single letter, like the c-a-t sounds in the word "cat", and others to combinations of letters, such as the sh-ar-k sounds in the word "shark".

Synthetic phonics is the process of reading by *sounding* the individual phonemes in a word, and then synthesizing – running them together – or *blending* them to read the whole word. Children who learn to read using synthetic phonics start by learning the individual phonemes, then soon learn to sound and blend in order to read whole words. This gives them the confidence to read unfamiliar words and tackle new texts, an important step towards independent reading.

Words can be divided into two basic groups: regular phonic words, such as "cat", which can be read by sounding and blending, and words which are wholly or partly irregular. Most words in English are regular, but some very common words, such as "the" and "was", are irregular and have to be learned. When your child meets an unfamiliar word, encourage him or her to read it regularly; children may recognize the irregularity and correct themselves, or you can guide them if necessary.

Read this story with your child, encouraging him or her to sound out the words as you go. Soon, most children will start to sound out the words for themselves. This is an excellent way of helping to develop a fundamental reading skill.

Dr. Marlynne Grant

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Phil Roxbee Cox

Illustrated by Stephen Cartwright

Edited by Jenny Tyler



Language consultant: Marlynne Grant

BSc, CertEd, MEdPsych, PhD, AFBPs, CPsychol



There is a little yellow duck to find on every page.

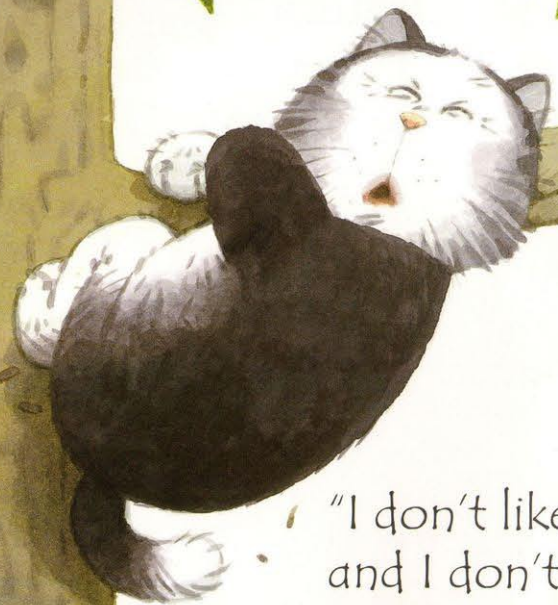
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Fat Cat sees a bee.



Fat Cat flees up a tree.
"I don't like bees!" yelps Fat Cat.



"I don't like bees
and I don't like
trees."

"I don't like bees *or* trees."

"Are you stuck?"
shouts Big Pig.



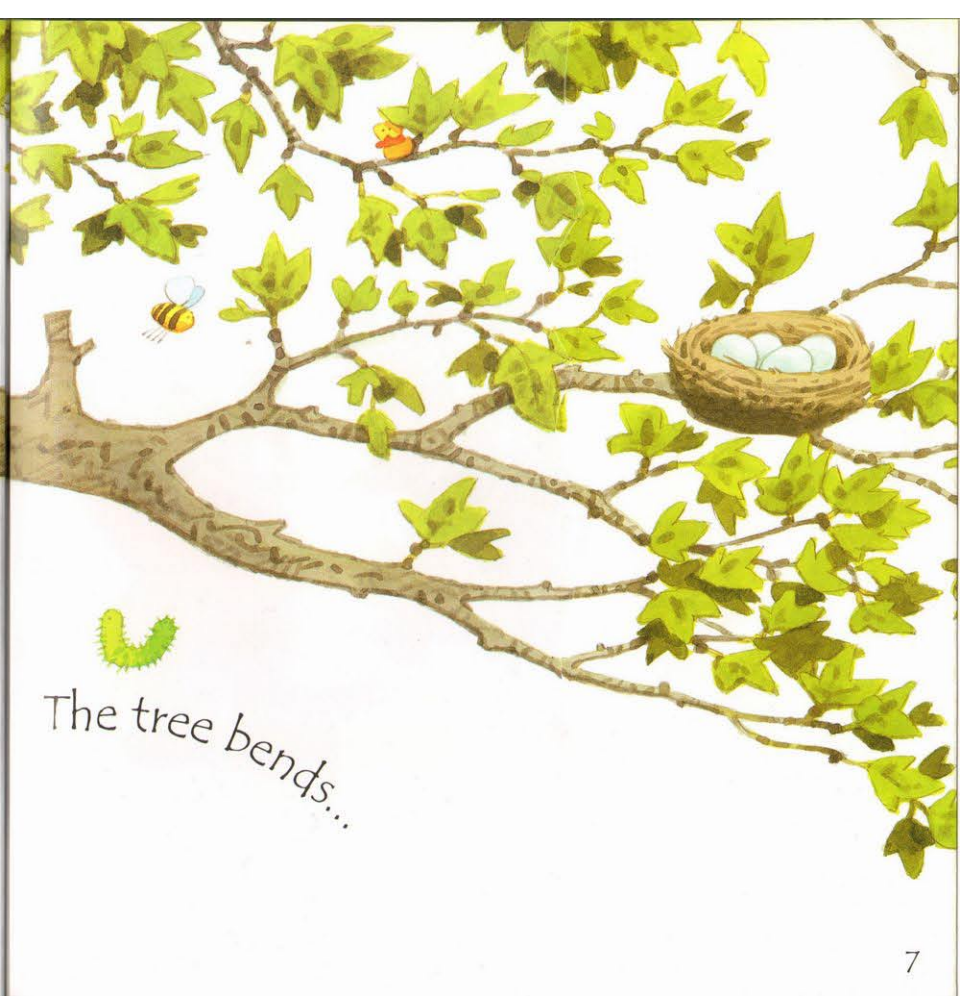
"Bad luck!" shouts Big Pig.



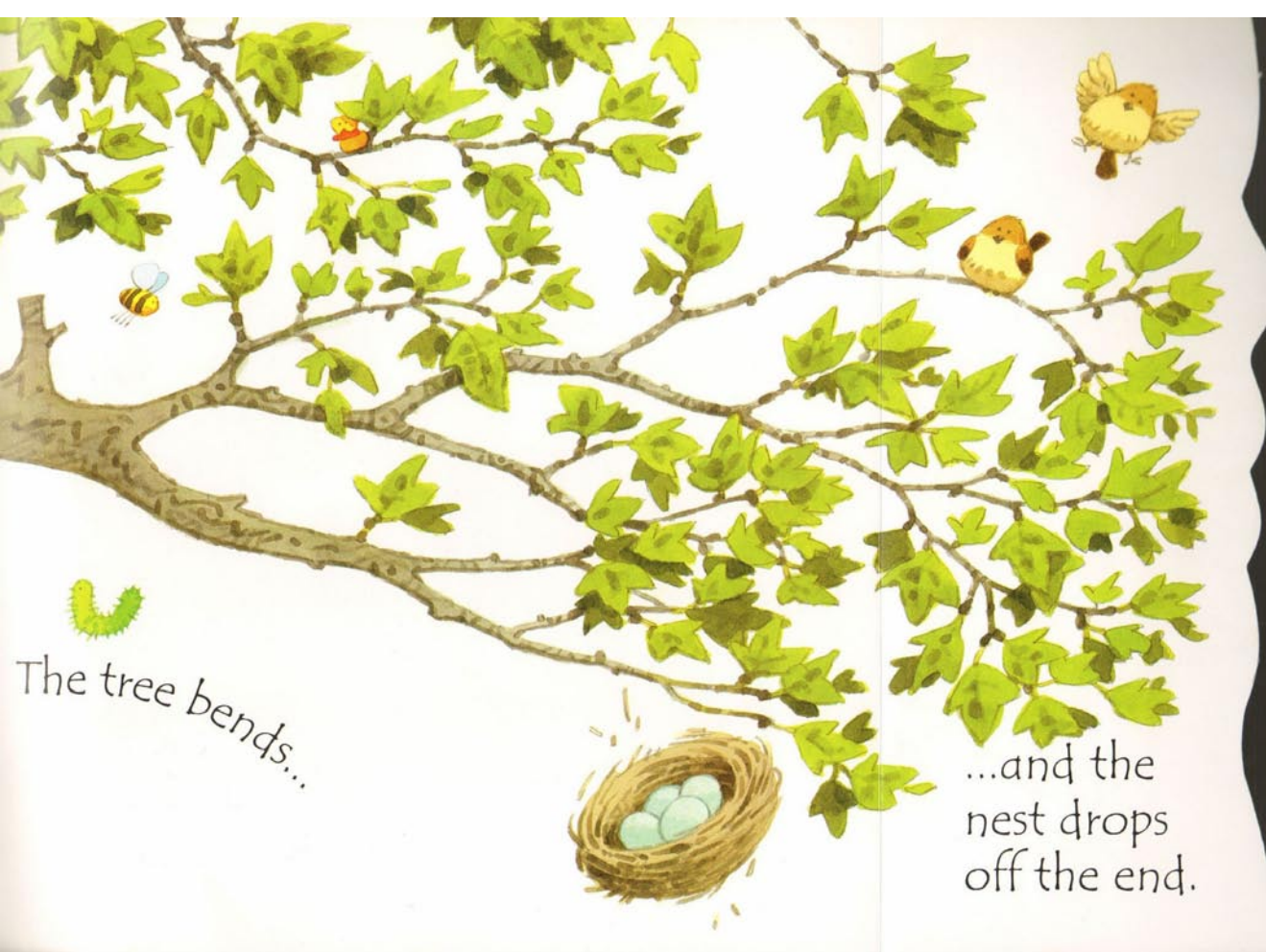


Fat Cat
groans.

"I am stuck.
It is bad luck,"
she moans.



The tree bends...



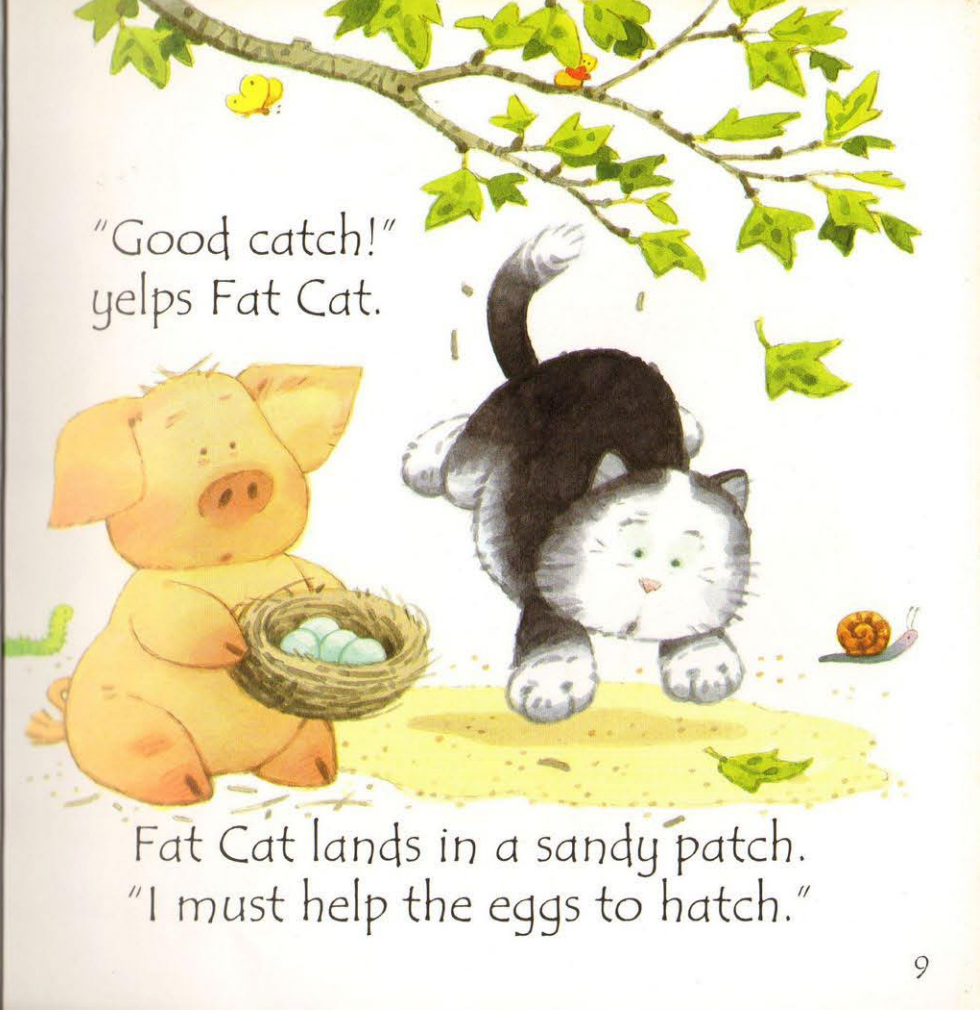
The tree bends...

...and the
nest drops
off the end.

An illustration of a large, orange pig standing on a sandy patch. A black and white cat is falling upside down from a tree branch above. A small nest with three blue eggs is on the pig's head. A snail is on the ground to the right. The scene is set under a tree with green leaves.

The nest drops,
with a plop, on
top of Big Pig.

"Like my new hat, Fat Cat?"

An illustration of the same orange pig sitting on the sandy patch, holding the nest with the blue eggs. The black and white cat is now on its feet, looking at the pig. A snail is on the ground to the right. The scene is set under a tree with green leaves.

"Good catch!"
yelps Fat Cat.

Fat Cat lands in a sandy patch.
"I must help the eggs to hatch."

Next day,



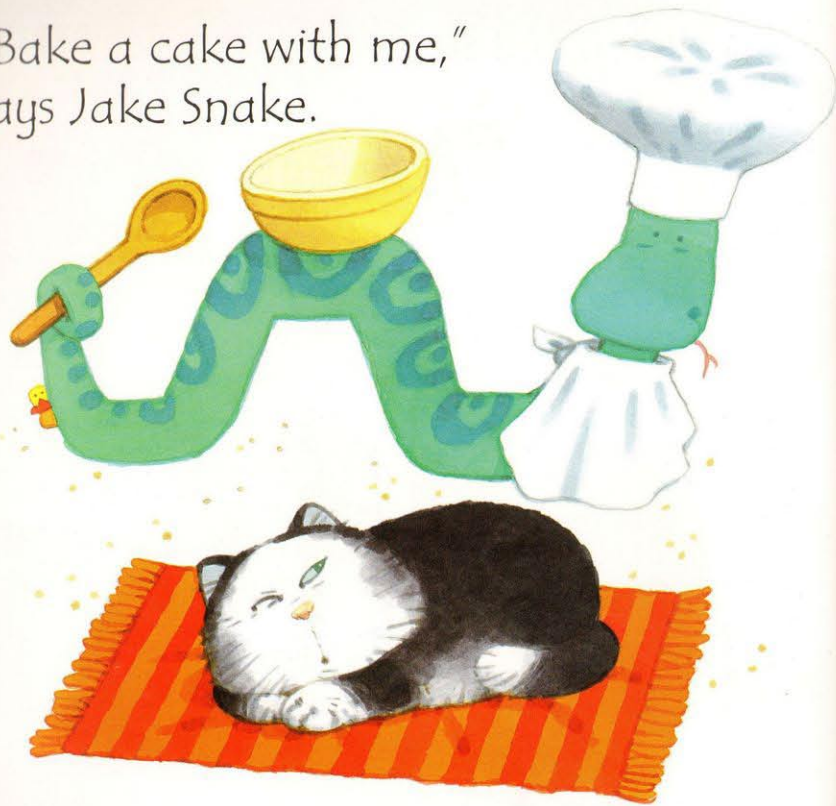
Fat Cat will
not play.

"Play with
me!" says
Big Pig.



"Not today," says Fat Cat on her mat.

"Bake a cake with me,"
says Jake Snake.



"Not today," says Fat Cat on her mat.

"Let's run in the sun for fun," says Ted.



"Not today," says Fat Cat on her mat.

"You are lazy," says Big Pig.
"You are crazy," says Jake Snake.



"You are no fun," says Ted.

"Shh!" says
Fat Cat.



"Stay away,"
says Fat Cat.



She hops up
off her mat.



"It's the eggs
from the nest!"
says Big Pig.



"See the
chicks hatch."

Clever Fat Cat!

