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Opening extract from

Songbirds: The Scrap Rocket and Other Stories

Written by

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Songbirds

The Big Match



Story by Julia Donaldson
Pictures by Chris Mould
Series editor Clare Kirtley

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Tips for reading The Big Match together

This book practises these letter patterns:

ng ck x qu

Ask your child to point to these letter patterns and say the sounds (e.g. *x* as in *fox*, not the letter name *ex*). Look out for these letter patterns in the story.

Your child might find these words tricky:

ball begun come here match the

These words are common, but your child may not have learned how to sound them out yet. Say the words for your child if they do not know them.

Before you begin, ask your child to read the title by sounding out and blending as much as possible. Look at the picture together. What do you think this story is about?

Remind your child to read unfamiliar words by saying the individual sounds separately and then blending them together quickly to read the word. When you have finished reading, look through the story again and:

- Talk about why Max Fox got sent off. Ask your child, *How do you think the ducks felt at the end of the story?*
- Find the words which end with the letter pattern *ck* (*duck*, *quack*, *kick*, *Rick*). Say the sound that these two letters make at the end of words. Can you find some words that end with the letter pattern *x*? (*six*, *fox*, *Max*).

Here come the fans.



Here come the six ducks.



Here come the six foxes.

