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Opening extract from

Songbirds: The Odd Pet and Other Stories

Written by

Julia Donaldson

Published by

Oxford University Press

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OXFORD
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Great Clarendon Street, Oxford, OX2 6DP, United Kingdom

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.
It furthers the Universityís objective of excellence in research, scholarship and education by publishing worldwide. Oxford is a registered trade mark of Oxford University Press in the UK and in certain other countries

Text © Julia Donaldson 2006
Fish and Chips illustrations © Jonathan Allan 2006
The Odd Pet illustrations © Judy Brown 2006
This and That illustrations © Andy Hammond 2006
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First Edition published 2006
This Edition published 2012

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
Data available

978-0-19-279297-6

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

Paper used in the production of this book is a natural, recyclable product made from wood grown in sustainable forests. The manufacturing process conforms to the environmental regulations of the country of origin.

Acknowledgements
Series editor Clare Kirtley
Art edited by Hilary Wright

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Songbirds

The Odd Pet

Story by Julia Donaldson
Pictures by Judy Brown
Series editor Clare Kirtley

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Tips for reading The Odd Pet together

This book practises these sounds:

s m c t g p a o r l d b
f h i u v y z j n k e

Ask your child to point to these letters and say the sounds (e.g. *k* as in *kit*, not the letter name *kay*). Look out for these letters in the story.

Your child might find these words tricky:

have now of the

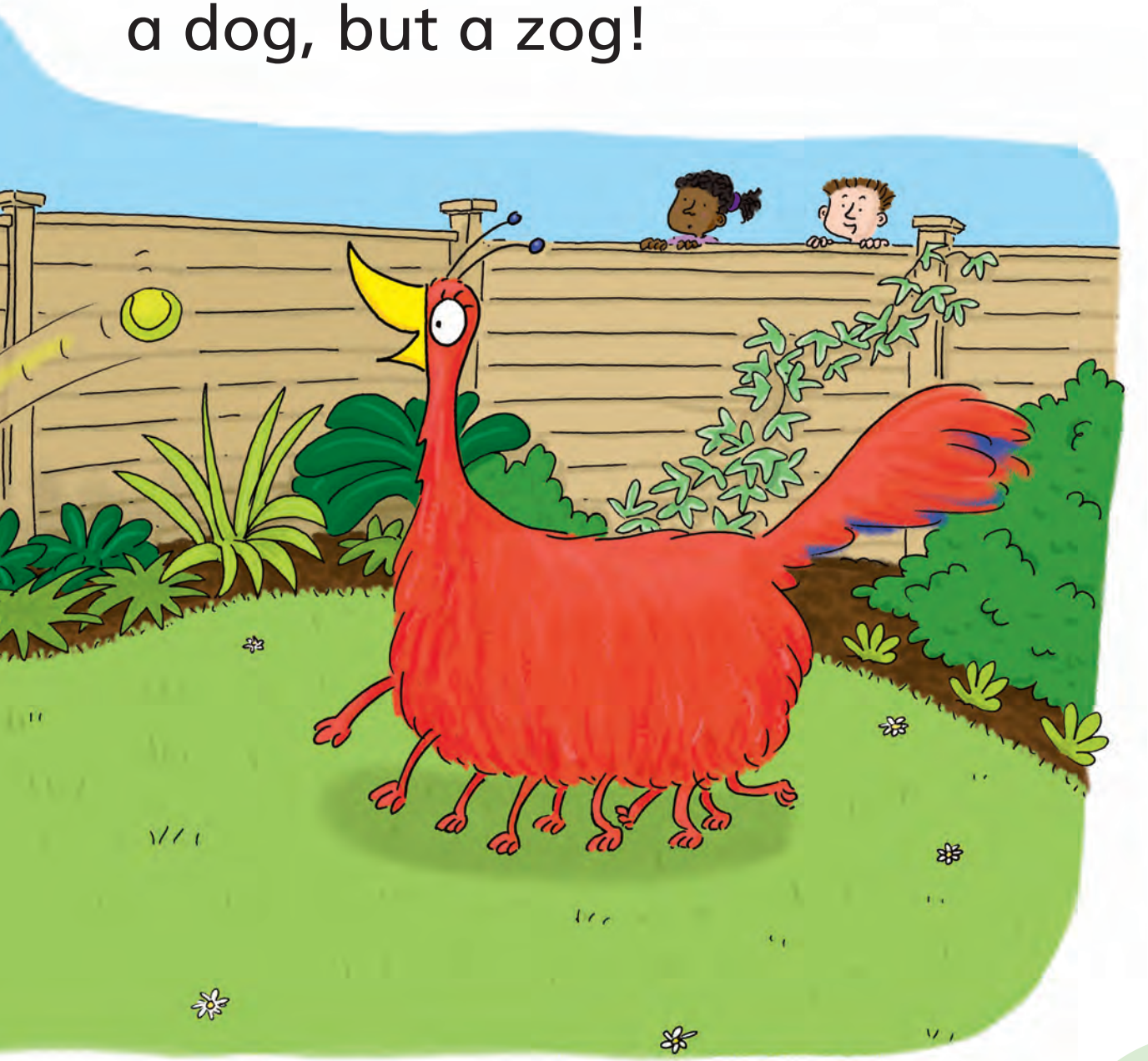
These words are common, but your child may not have learned how to sound them out yet. Say the words for your child if they do not know them.

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 and then blending them together quickly to read the word. When you have finished reading the story, look through it again and:

- Ask your child, *How did Kim and Jim get a zog?* (Viv gave them one of the zogs that hatched from her zog's eggs)
- Find two words that rhyme on the first page of the story (*Kim*, *Jim*). Ask your child to say the middle sound in these words. Find and read some more words with the *i* sound in the middle (*Viv*, *sit*). Try to write some of the words. Say all of the sounds in the word separately then write the letter that makes each sound.

Kim has a cat. Jim has a dog.

But Viv has an odd pet.

It is a zog! Not a cat, not a dog, but a zog!