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Opening extract from

Songbirds: The Ox and the Yak and Other Stories

Written by

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Songbirds

Mr Zed



Story by Julia Donaldson
Pictures by Anni Axworthy
Series editor Clare Kirtley

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Tips for reading Mr Zed together

This book practises these letter patterns:

ll ff zz sh th ng ck
x qu wh

Ask your child to point to these letter patterns and say the sounds (e.g. *wh* as in *which*). Look out for these letter patterns in the story.

Your child might find these words tricky:

he of says she Mr no
gives the to was be

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 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, *Can you remember what comes out of Mr Zed's hat?* (puppet, mug, quill, pen, ten rabbits)
- Find the words that end with the letter pattern *ck (Patrick, tick, tack, tock)*. Try to write the word *tock*. Say all the sounds in the word (e.g. *t-o-ck*) then write the letter patterns that make each sound.

Patrick is six. He is having fun with Jeff, Ellen and Wong-Jin.



Lots of singing and puffing!



Lots of whizzing! Lots of kicking and yelling!

