When Dixie spots a fire, she realises it’s time to get out her magic pocket zoo! Can the animals help rescue everyone from the burning building?

“It is really funny because the firemen didn’t know who really put out the fire!”

Oliver

Written by Pip Jones
Illustrated by Paul Nicholls
This book practises

Words people asked looked oh once called friends house

Alternative spellings*

ce (as in nice)  
ge (as in page)  
sl (as in bustling)  
gi (as in giraffe)  
dge (as in ledge)  
ch (as in chemist)  
ed (as in picked)

* At this level, children will be learning new ways of spelling familiar sounds.

How many times can you spot Dixie’s magic purse in the book?

How many?

Answers

Dixie’s magic purse appears 3 times in the book.

Bug Time

Fun is on the back page!

Bug Notes

How many?

Have a go!

Spelling sounds

Write these sounds on strips of paper:

ck and ch

Encourage your child to think of words with these sounds (e.g. thick, clock, cheese, much)

Skill builder

Look together at the front cover of the book. What do you think the book is going to be about? What do you think a pocket zoo might be?

Bug Time

Pretend to be a fireman putting out a fire. Can you find or make a costume? Think about what a fireman might say. What words might he use?

Do it!

Alternative spellings*

ce (as in nice)  
ge (as in page)  
sl (as in bustling)  
gi (as in giraffe)  
dge (as in ledge)  
ch (as in chemist)  
ed (as in picked)

* At this level, children will be learning new ways of spelling familiar sounds.

Your child may need help with these words:

giraffe giggled fire water before

Whilst reading, encourage your child to talk about the book. Ask them what will happen next, how a character might be feeling or how the book makes them feel.

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Printed and bound in the UK by Bell and Bain

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Bangor Central Integrated Primary, NI; Parkfield Primary School, Manchester; St Matthew’s CE Primary, Stretton; Bishop Henderson CE Primary, Somerset; Bridge Learning Campus, Bristol; Barton NEL Academy; Devon; Southend Primary, Leeds; St John’s CE Primary, Maidstone; Sandling Primary, Maidstone; Leigham Primary, Wimil; Fawdell Infants, Luton; Pennoweth Primary, Redruth; Clifton-Upon-Teme Primary, Broadgreen Primary, Liverpool for their invaluable help in the development and trialling of the Bug Club resources.

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Illustrated by Paul Nicholls, Advocate Art

First published 2016

20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978 0 435 16722 6

Published by Pearson Education Limited, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL.

www.pearsonschools.co.uk

Text © Pearson Education Limited 2016

Design and layout @ Bigtop

Original illustrations © Paul Nicholls

Illustrated by Paul Nicholls, Advocate Art

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Pretend to be a fireman putting out a fire. Can you find or make a costume? Think about what a fireman might say. What words might he use?
Fight the Flames

Written by Pip Jones
Illustrated by Paul Nicholls
Dixie and Mum were at Mr Bick’s book shop. “This book about kittens is nice,” said Dixie, turning a page. “Come on, Dixie, let’s go to the chemist now,” said Mum.
People were bustling about outside. Suddenly, Dixie heard shouting. She could smell something strong.
“Is that smoke?” Dixie asked. Dixie and Mum looked up. The house next to the book shop was on fire!
“Oh no!” said Dixie. “Those people are stuck!”
“I will ring the fire brigade at once!” Mum said. She went into Mr Bick’s shop to use his phone.
Dixie’s animals were inside her purse.

Time to get out my Pocket Zoo!
Dixie picked an elephant and a giraffe.
Magic friends! Wake up! Be quick! Save the people before the smoke gets too thick!
The animals grew and grew and grew ... until they came to life!
Gina the giraffe ran to the window ledge. The people slid down her neck to the ground.
Ed the elephant collected water from the fountain. *WHOOSH!* Ed squirted water at the fire! *WHOOSH!*
Mum came back with three firemen. “Where is the fire?” they asked.
“An elephant put out the fire!” said a man.
“A giraffe helped us down from the ledge!” said a woman.
“Where are they?”
Dixie’s animals were tiny toys again!
She put them back in her purse, patted her pocket ... and giggled.