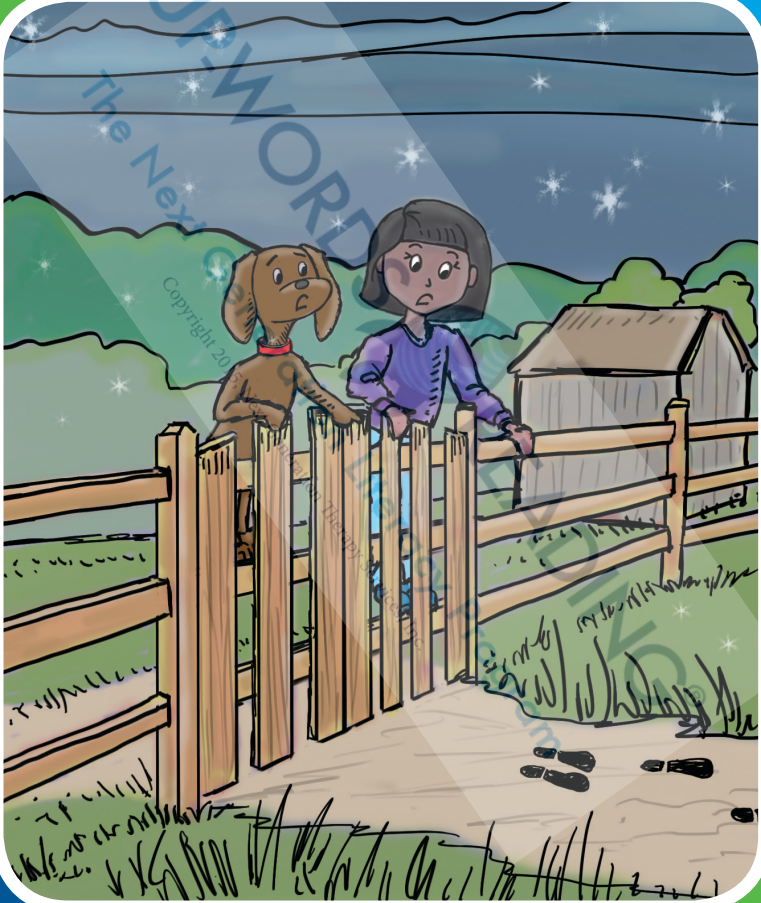


LEVEL 2 · BOOK 10

# Snow Blind



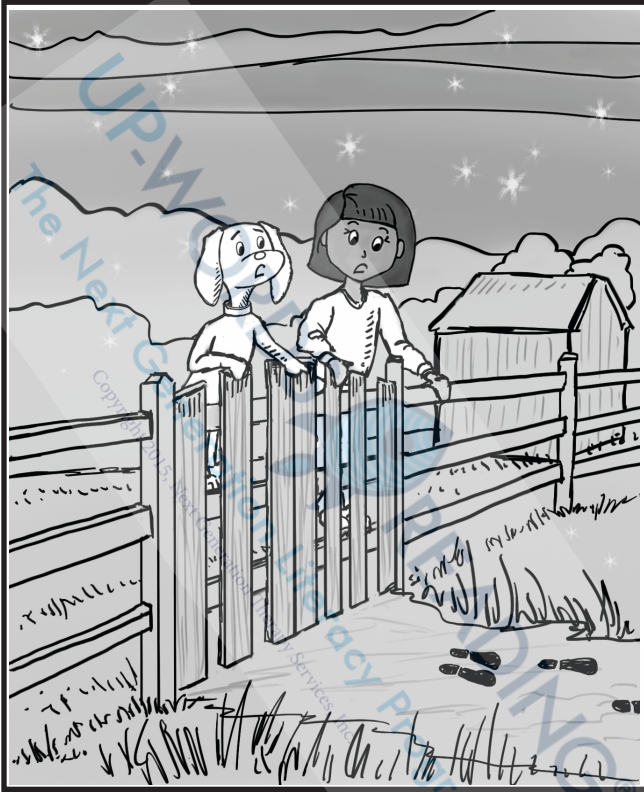
by Russell Eric Allen  
illustrated by Julie Ferris

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# Snow Blind



By Russell Eric Allen  
Illustrated by Julie Ferris

Up-Words Reading™ was developed by  
Lorie Delk and Laura Scheer.

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## Chapter 1: Hide and Find

"Mom, is it okay if Gus and I go ask Kim to play hide and seek with us?" Sam said.

"Yes, but be back in an hour," Mom said. "A snowstorm is going to hit later."

Sam got his coat, then he and Gus ran to Kim's and rang the doorbell. Kim came to the door.

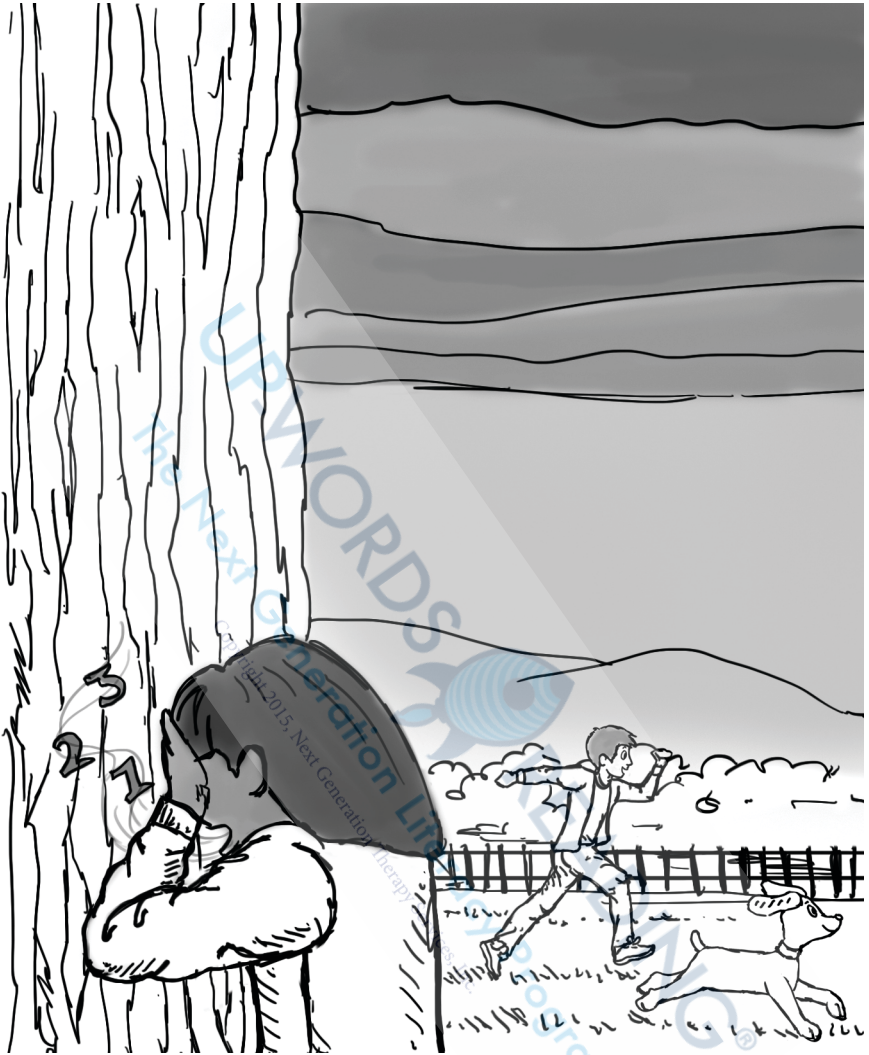
"Kim, do you want to play hide and seek with us?" Sam asked.

"I would love to, but a snowstorm is going to hit," Kim said.

"Yes, but it is mild now," Sam said. "We can play for an hour before the storm gets here."

"Well, do you mind waiting a minute?" Kim asked. "I am grinding some coffee with my Mom. Then I can go."

"No problem," Sam said. He and Gus came inside and only had to wait about five minutes. Then they all ran outside into Kim's back yard.



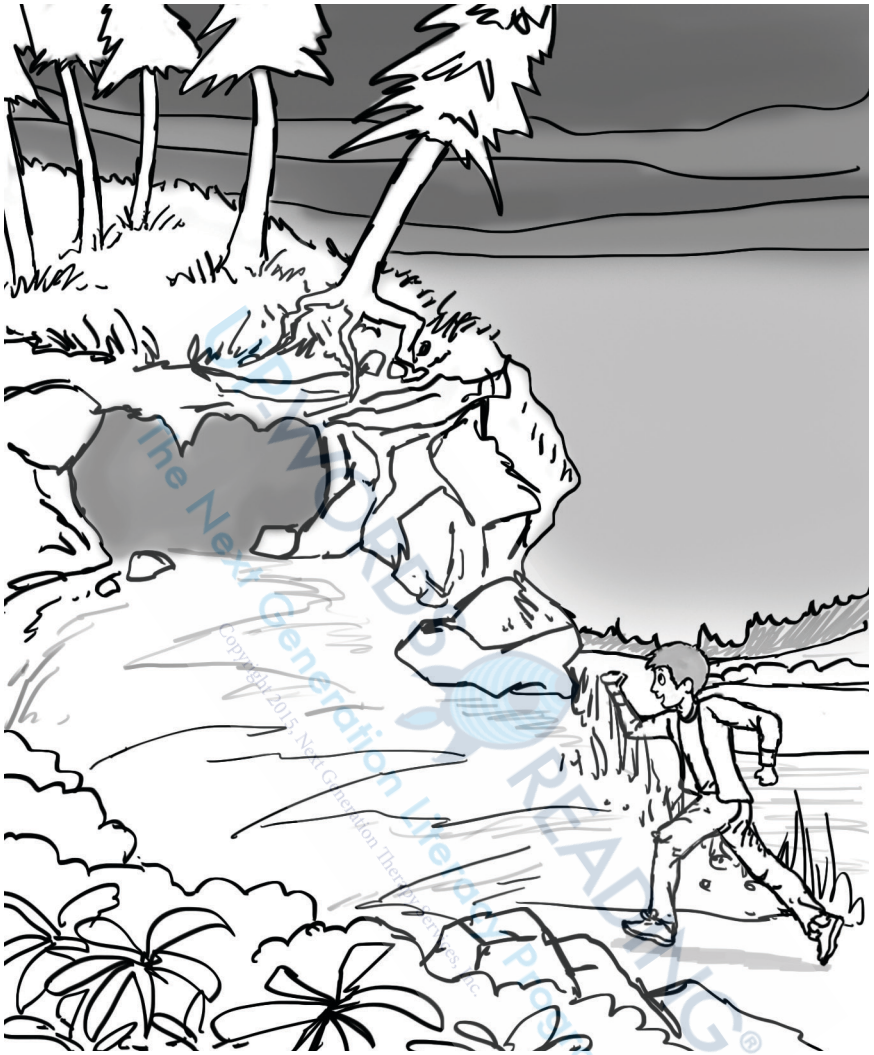
"You two hide first," Kim said. "I will try to find you." Kim put her hands over her eyes and began to call out, "One, two, three," and so on. Sam ran off to hide.

Now Sam loved hide and seek, and he wanted to find a spot where it would be very, very hard for Kim to find him. He ran this way and that, looking for a bush to hide under or a hole to slip into, but he could not find the kind of spot he was looking for.

Then he pulled himself up and looked over the top of the gate leading out the back of Kim's yard. Back there, he saw a big, wide lot that looked wild, with all kinds of bushes and saplings growing on it. A child could hide back there for hours and no one would find him.

"Perfect!" Sam said. He jumped over the gate and into the vacant lot. He ran here and there again, looking for the perfect spot to hide, but when he got to the back of that lot, he saw another lot. It was at least as big as this one, and had big rocks and tall trees on it. He ran to that lot, and then saw still another lot.

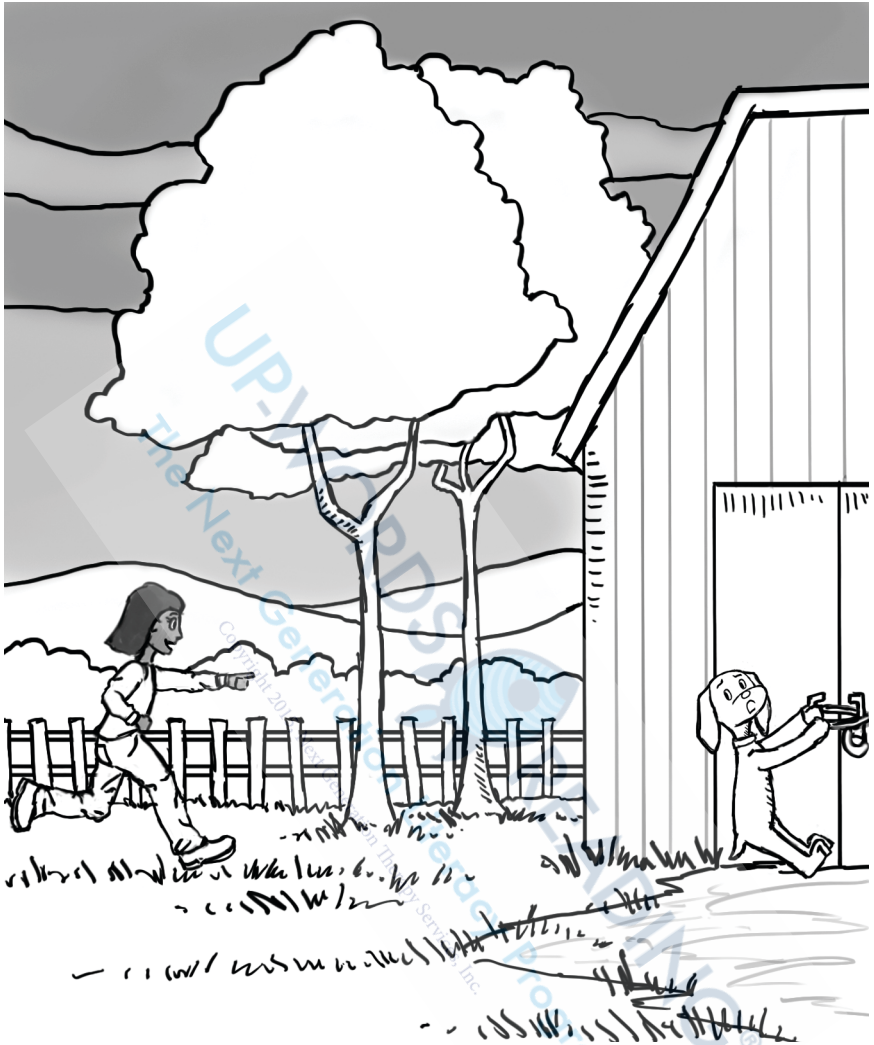




This one looked as big as a ranch! It had trails and a pond and rock bluffs. Best of all, he saw a cave on it, about half way up a hill on the far side of the pond.

"A cave!" Sam said. "I know Kim will not find me in there!" Sam ran up the hill and into the cave and ducked down on the far side of a rock. By this time, he had lost track of how far he had gone on his route from Kim's home to the cave, or how long he had been gone on his journey.

Then the first snowflakes started to fall.



## Chapter 2: "I Should Have Told Him"

Kim went looking for Gus. She saw him trying to unlock the bolt on the door of a shed in the corner of her yard so he could hide inside.

"I see you!" she called.

Gus turned. "That was fast," he said.

"That was less than two minutes. I did not even get to hide. I could not open this bolt."

"I should have told you, that bolt is old. It is hard to open," Kim said. "Now you have to help me hunt for Sam."

"Okay," Gus said. They both started looking for Sam. Kim's dad had a boat in the yard with a tarp over it and a "For Sale" sign on it. The hull of the boat was painted gold with silver stripes.

"Daddy has sold this boat, but the man has not come to pick it up yet," Kim said. "That is why it is still here." Kim and Gus folded the tarp back and looked in the boat, but they did not see Sam.

They looked for Sam for more than an hour, but they did not find him.

"Where could he be?" Kim asked. "I know all the spots to hide in this yard, and he is not in any of them."

Gus pulled himself up to the top of the gate leading out the back of Kim's yard and looked



down at the other side.

"I think we have a problem," he said.

"What?" Kim asked.

"Look," Gus said.

Kim got a hold on the top of the gate and pulled herself up too. Looking down, she saw

shoe prints in the mud on the other side.

"Do you think Sam went back here?" she asked.

"He loves hide and seek, and he is very bold," Gus said. "He could have."

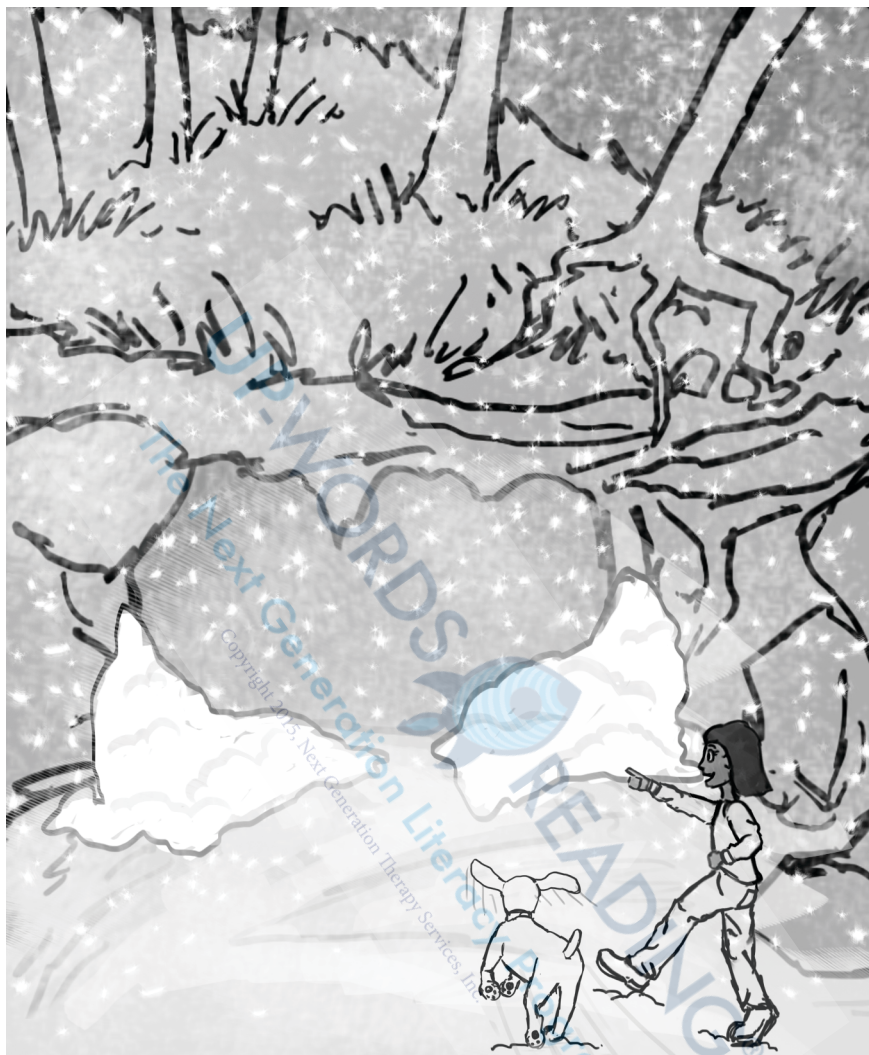
"I should have told him not to go out of our yard," Kim said.

Just then, the first snowflakes started to fall.

"That snowstorm is on the way," Kim said. "It will turn cold. We need to find Sam fast, or he will get stranded in it."

Kim and Gus set off to find Sam as more snow fell. Their journey took them on a winding route back and forth from one bush to another. The snow started falling hard, and a cold wind picked up. In no time, snow was blowing so hard they could not see where they were going. The wind gave them a jolt every time it blew.

"We had best find Sam fast, or *we* will be stranded in the snowstorm!" Gus called.



### Chapter 3: The Cave of the Troll

"We need to get inside!" Kim yelled over the storm. "There is a cave back here that we can hide in until the storm passes!"

Kim and Gus started for the cave as the

snow blinded them. Snow was blowing into big piles in front of the cave when they walked in.

Once they got inside, Kim saw Sam ducking down on the far side of a big rock.

"Sam!" Kim called. "What are you doing in here?"

"Oh no, how did you find me?" Sam said.

"Are you still playing hide and seek?" Kim asked. "Sam, a snowstorm is rolling in! We are in a bad spot here!"

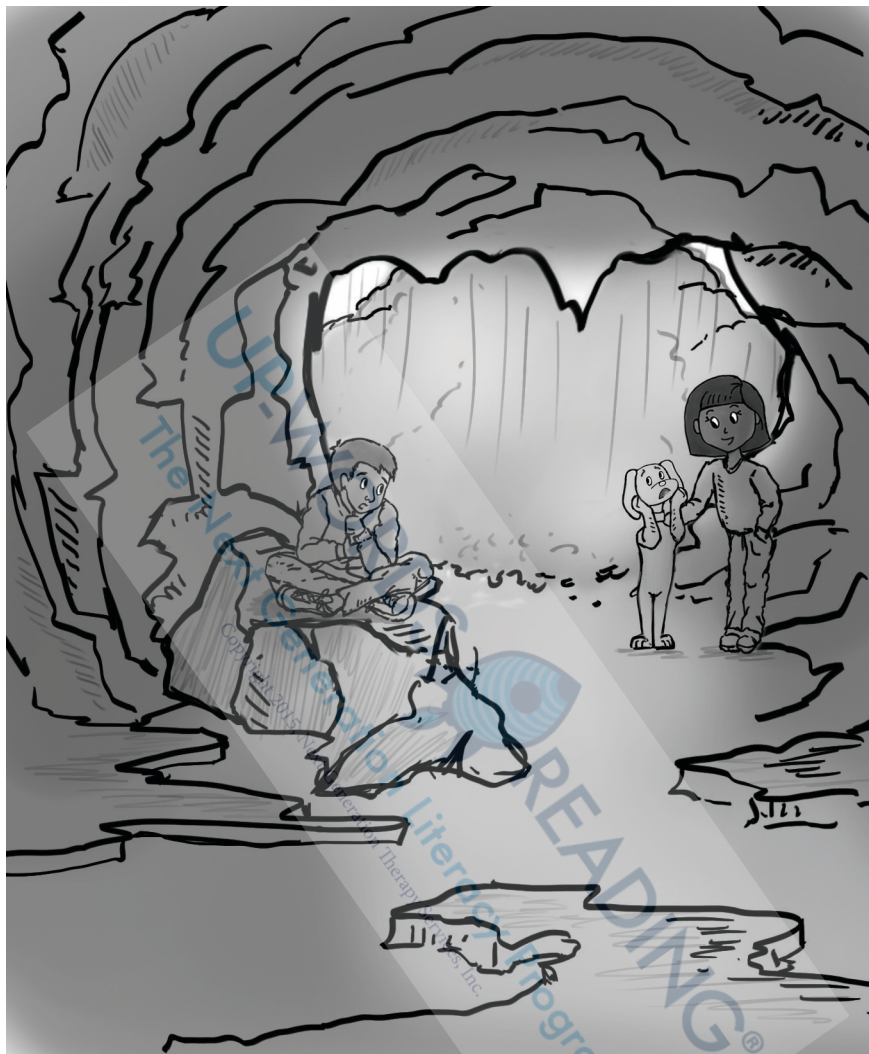
Gus looked out the front of the cave. "Yes, I do not think we are just going to stroll back to your home in this. It is bad out there."

Just as Gus said this, a sheet of snow as big as a truck slid off the hill and landed with a thump in front of the cave.

"Oh no! The snow has blocked the cave!" Gus said. "We cannot get out! What do we do now?"

"We wait," Kim said. "Someone will come looking for us."





"But that could take hours, and it is going to get cold in here," said Gus.

Sam sat down, looking sad and pulling his coat snug. "Gosh, guys, I feel bad," he said. "All I wanted was to find the best spot to hide.

I did not think about the fact that all of this could happen."

Gus and Kim sat down next to him. "Well, do not get down on yourself," Kim said. "What we need to think about now is how not to freeze."

After a while, Sam got up and started looking about the cave. "Maybe someone camped in here at some time in the past," he said.

"Maybe they left some matches or something." Sam walked further back into the cave.

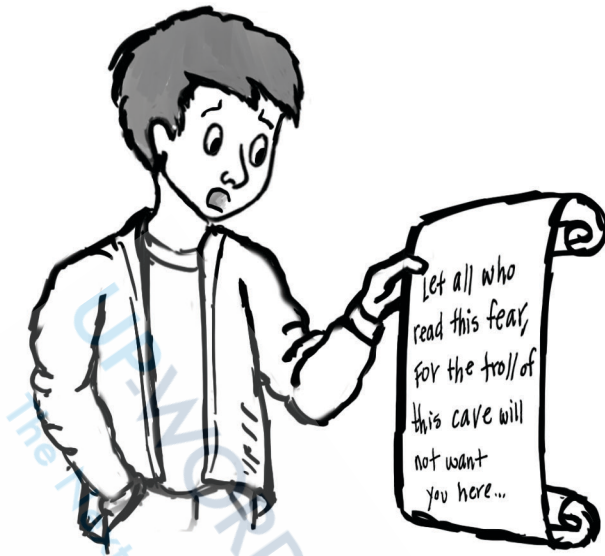
"Say, what is this?" he said. Kim and Gus got up and went to where Sam was standing.

"It is a scroll," Kim said.

"What is a scroll doing in a cave?" Gus asked.

"I do not know," Kim said. "Read it."

Sam rolled the scroll open. "*Let all who read this fear,*" Sam read. "*For the troll of this cave will not want you here.*"

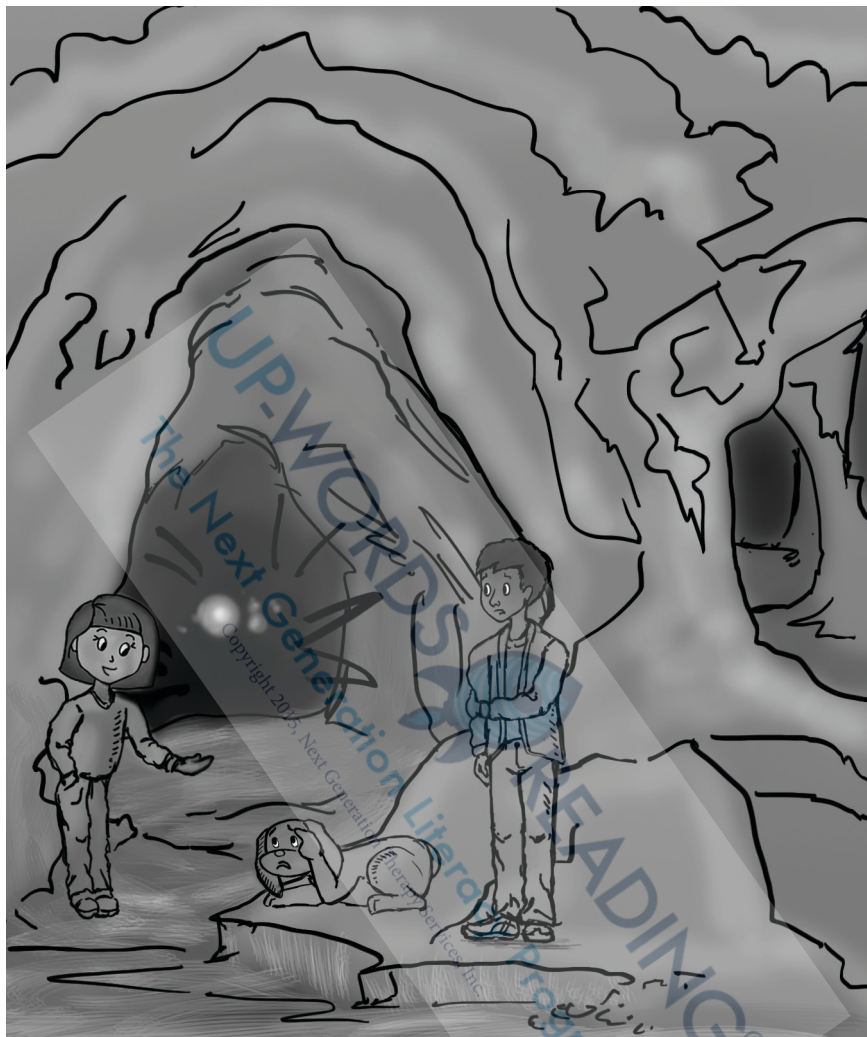


"Troll?" Gus gulped. "A troll lives in this cave?"

"Oh stop it," Kim said. "There are no such things as trolls. Those are just tales that folks made up about monsters that take tolls from people. I bet that scroll was put here by some kids trying to keep others out of this cave."

Just then, they heard a crash from further back in the cave. It seemed like something was on the move back there.

"Oh no!" Gus screeched. "It is the troll! He is going to get us!"



## Chapter 4: A Host

"The troll!" Gus screamed when he heard the crash in the back of the cave. "The troll is going to find us! The troll is going to get us!"

"Gus, get a hold of yourself," Kim said. "I told you, there are no such things as trolls."

"No?" Gus said. "Then what is that?"

Kim looked and saw a glow on the walls far in the back of the cave.

"It is the glowing eyes of the troll!" Gus screamed. "He is creeping this way, and we have nowhere to run!"

The glow grew in the back of the cave, but Kim did not think it looked like the glowing eyes of a troll. It looked more like the flicker of a lantern. Just then, she heard men calling out. "Kim! Sam! Gus!" the men called.

"Listen!" Kim said. "That is no troll. Those are men calling for us!"

Out of the dim reaches of the cave, Kim saw two forms come forth. After a minute or two, she knew who they were.

"Sam, it is our dads!" she called.

Kim's Dad and Sam's Dad were at the front of a host of men walking up from the back of the cave. In fact, most of the neighbors were with them. They had spades and axes and lanterns,

and they were all calling for Sam, Kim and Gus.

"Dad! Dad we are here!" Kim called. Her dad ran to her, picked her up and gave her a big hug.

"Kim, are you okay?" he asked.

"Yes, Daddy," she said. "I am just cold."

Her dad put a blanket on her. She saw Sam's dad doing the same with him.

"When you guys did not come back from playing hide and seek, we knew something must have happened," Kim's Dad said. "So we got everyone together and came to find you."

"How did you get into the cave?" Kim asked.

"There is another way in from the back," her Dad said. "I had a feeling this is where you would be."

Sam told everyone how bad he felt that he made them come looking for him, but his Dad did not scold him.

"I am just glad you are safe," he said. "But Sam, I want you to give me your word that



you will not go off on journeys like this again, even to win at hide and seek. You gave us quite a scare there for an hour or two."

"I will not do it again," Sam said.

With that, they all walked together to the back of the cave to start their journey home.

# Comprehension Check

## Chapter 1: Hide and Find

- 1) Who counted when Sam, Gus and Kim were playing hide and seek?
- 2) At first, where did Sam look for a place to hide?
- 3) Did he find a place he wanted to hide in Kim's backyard?
- 4) When Sam looked over the gate leading out of the back of Kim's yard what did he see?
- 5) What did Sam do next?
- 6) After Sam passed through several lots what did he see half way up a hill?
- 7) Where did Sam decide to hide?
- 8) What started to fall?

## Chapter 2 - "I Should Have Told Him"

- 1) Where was Gus trying to hide when Kim spotted him?
- 2) After Kim and Gus looked at all the spots to hide in her yard and did not find Sam, what did Gus do?
- 3) What did Gus say next?
- 4) What did they see in the mud?
- 5) Why did Kim say they needed to find Sam fast?



## Chapter 3: The Cave of the Troll

- 1) Where did Kim tell Gus they needed to hide until the storm passed?
- 2) Who did Kim and Gus find inside the cave?
- 3) What fell in front of the cave and blocked it?
- 4) What did Kim say they would need to do?
- 5) When Sam was looking for matches, what did he find?
- 6) What did the scroll say?
- 7) What did they hear next?
- 8) What did Gus think he had heard at the back of the cave?

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## Chapter 4 - A Host

- 1) What did Kim see at the back of the cave?
- 2) Was there a troll at the back of the cave?
- 3) Who was walking towards Kim, Gus and Sam?
- 4) Who came with Kim and Sam's dads?
- 5) What did their dads bring to warm them up?
- 6) Did Sam's dad scold him?

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## Lesson 10

Chunks -ild, -ind, -old, -olt, -ost, -oll

### New Sight Words

hour

our

minute

journey

route