

Kecko the Gecko

A We Both Read Book: Level 1

Guided Reading: Level F

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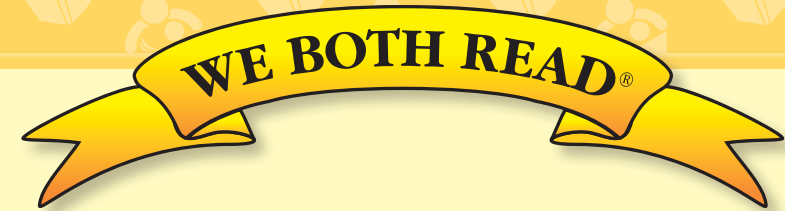
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By Sindy McKay
with illustrations by Meredith Johnson

TREASURE BAY



🗨️ **Kecko** looked up at Matt with his big sad gecko eyes.
 "I'm sorry," said Matt. "Today is the first day of school,
 and I have to **leave** you here. Alone."



🗨️ Matt felt bad. He did not want
 to **leave Kecko.**



Kecko was a crested gecko lizard and was the best birthday gift Matt had ever received. Matt had taken care of Kecko all summer. He made sure Kecko's home was warm and clean.



Matt fed him and kept him safe. He spent lots of time with him.



Now it was the start of a new **school** year and Matt was afraid that Kecko would be lonely while he was away.

Then Matt had an idea. "Kecko doesn't have to stay home," he thought.



"Kecko can go to **school**, too! I will hide him! No one will see him!"



🗨 When Matt arrived at school, his friend Kim asked if he was sad about leaving Kecko at home. Matt grinned and unzipped his **backpack**. Kecko poked his head out and Kim squealed.



🗨 “Kecko!” She took him from the **backpack**. “You are so cute!”



☉ The bell rang and Matt quickly tucked Kecko into his shirt and got in line. Everyone streamed into the classroom.

At his desk, Matt felt Kecko's claws tickle him under his collar.



☉ The girl next to Matt saw Kecko on his neck.

"EEK!!"