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Vanessa Walder

To Tame a Dragon

Illustrated by Dominik Rupp



CODE READER™



CODE READER™

Making Difficult Words Easy

Code Reader Books provide codes with “sound keys” to help read difficult words. For example, a word that may be difficult to read is “unicorn,” so it might be followed by a code like this: unicorn (*YOO-nih-korn*). By providing codes with phonetic sound keys, Code Reader Books make reading easier and more enjoyable.

Examples of Code Reader™ Keys

Long a sound (as in make):

a (with a silent e) or **ay**

Examples: able (*AY-bul*); break (*brake*)

Short i sound (as in sit): **i** or **ih**

Examples: myth (*mith*); mission (*MIH-shun*)

Long i sound (as in by):

i (with a silent e) or **y**

Examples: might (*mite*); bicycle (*BY-sih-kul*)

Keys for the long o sound (as in hope):

o (with a silent e) or **oh**

Examples: molten (*MOLE-ten*); ocean (*OH-shen*)

Codes use dashes between syllables (*SIH-luh-buls*), and stressed syllables have capital letters.

To see more Code Reader sound keys, see page 54.

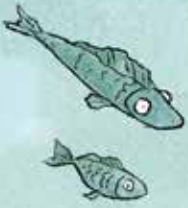
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TREASURE BAY



To Tame a Dragon

A Code Reader™ Book
Green Series

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Contents

A Best Friend	2
The Pet Dragon	12
Monster School	20
Flying Lessons	28
Farewell	36
Trial by Fire	46
<i>Sound Keys for Codes</i>	54
<i>Did You Know?</i>	57

A Best Friend



Can I have a dog? Please! Can I get a dog?
Please! I reeeally want a dog! I needed a dog!





Today was going to be the most exciting (*ex-SITE-ting*) day of Sam's life! Today he got to choose (*chooz*) a dog from the animal shelter! It only took him five months of begging every single (*SING-gul*) day.



This coming weekend, there was going to be a summer fair at Sam's school. Like every year, there would be sack races, three-legged races, and bobbing for apples. Fifth graders were allowed (*uh-LOWD*) to have a sleepover in tents on the sports field (*feeld*). AND: They were allowed to bring their dogs! That's why it was so important for Sam to find a dog TODAY. Otherwise (*UH-thur-wize*), he'd have to turn up at the camp with no dog at all.

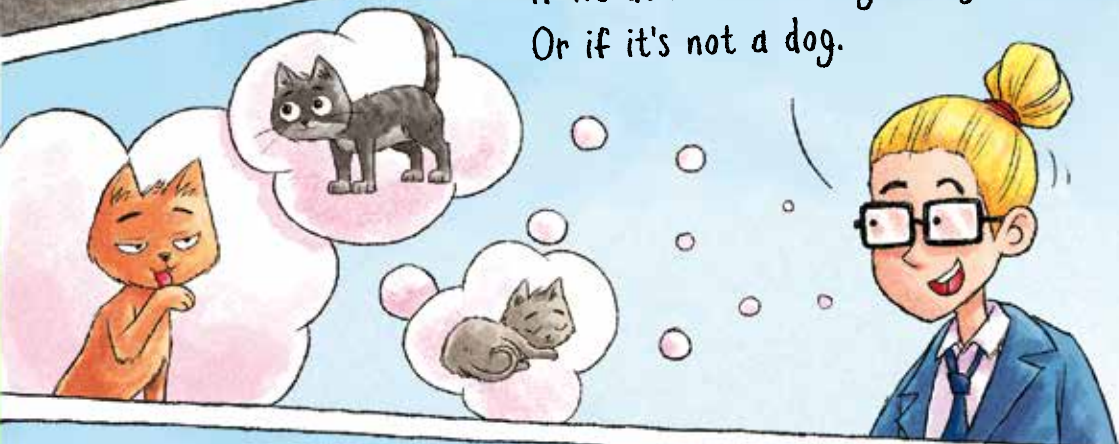


BARK
BARK HOWLLLL
BARK

Meow
BARK
BARK
GRRRR



It's not the end of the world
if we don't find a dog today.
Or if it's not a dog.



But it **HAS** to be today, Mom!
The summer fair is this weekend!



Sam knew he had to get a dog, because you weren't allowed to bring any other cool pets. Norman had a python (*PY-thon*), which is a really huge snake. Now that was a cool pet! But the principal (*PRIN-sih-pul*) was afraid that a snake would slither around the tents and the parents would complain (*kum-PLANE*) and maybe sue. Snakes also don't get on so well with rabbits, rats, and guinea (*GIN-ee*) pigs. So, no snakes.



Lots of the other kids had a friend to share a tent with. Sam didn't really have a best friend he could share a tent with. But that was going to change (*chaynj*)! As the saying goes: A *dog* is man's best friend! And today Sam was going to finally (*FY-nuh-lee*) find his best friend!



Hello, we've come to look for a dog.

The barking's coming from back there! That's where the dogs are!

The thing was: Sam was small and thin. He was in fifth grade, but sometimes he got mistaken for a fourth grader. On bad days even a third grader! Sam HATED that! He'd have loved to be a sports star like his dad. Unfortunately (*un-FOR-choo-net-lee*), he wasn't very good at throwing, climbing (*KLY-ming*), running, kicking, or jumping. That's why Sam didn't play soccer. Or baseball. Or other sports. The only thing that could save Sam was a really cool dog! But there weren't any COOL dogs!

The dogs here are all really nice.

