

Sample of Cover and Selected Pages

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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):

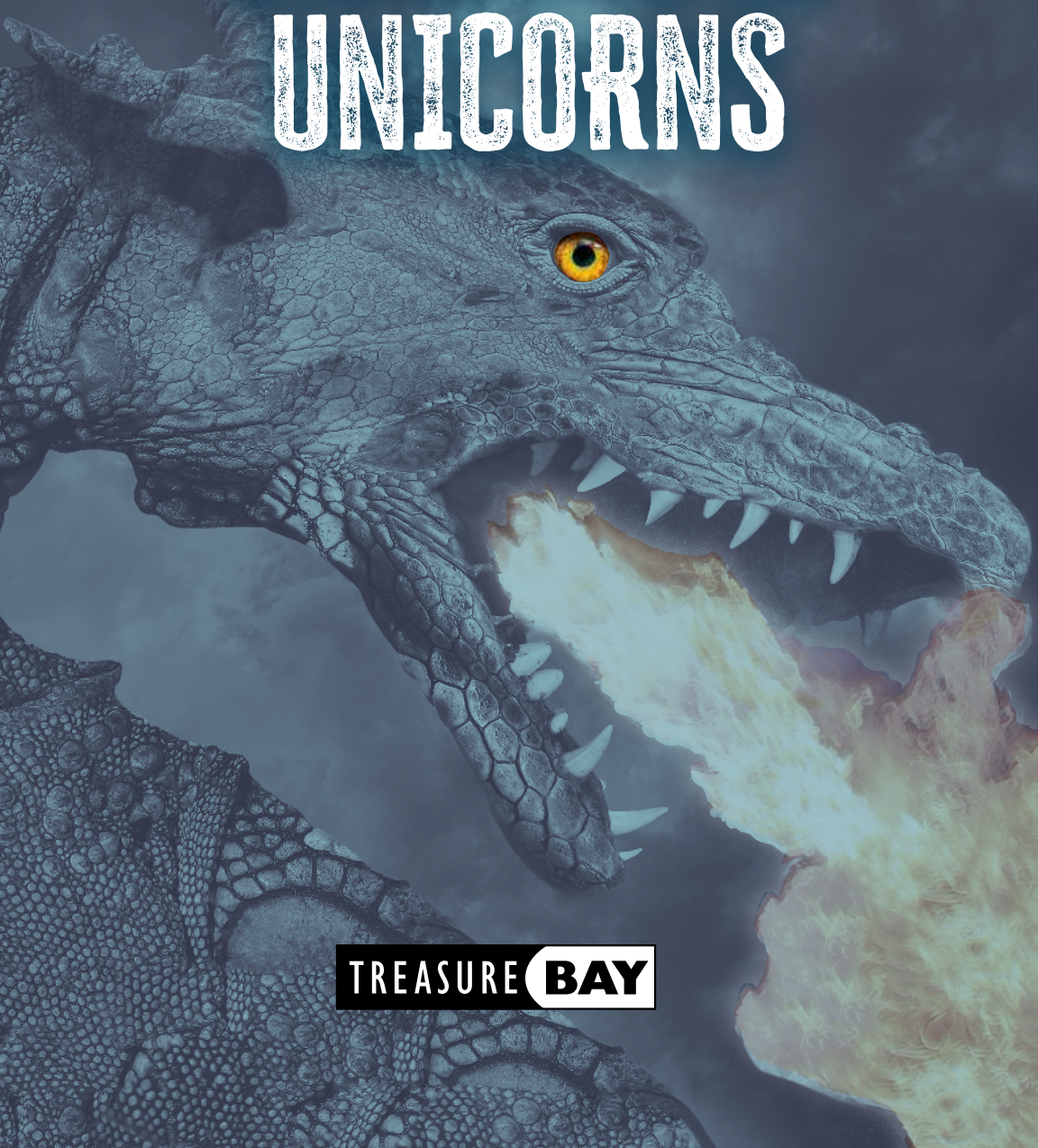
o (*with a silent e*) or **oh**

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 44.

DRAGONS AND UNICORNS



TREASURE **BAY**

Dragons and Unicorns

A Code Reader™ Chapter Book

Blue Series

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Patent Pending.

Code Reader books are designed using an innovative system of methods to create and include phonetic codes to enhance the readability of text.

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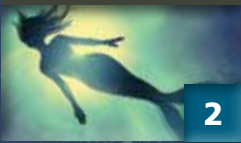
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CHAPTER 1



2

MYTHICAL ANIMALS

(MITH-ih-kul)

CHAPTER 2



5

WHAT IS A UNICORN?

(YOO-nih-korn)

CHAPTER 3



11

UNICORN SKILLS

CHAPTER 4



16

UNICORN LEGENDS

(LEH-jindz)

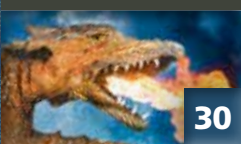
CHAPTER 5



22

WHAT IS A DRAGON?

CHAPTER 6



30

DRAGON SKILLS

CHAPTER 7



32

DRAGON LEGENDS

CONTENTS

Glossary. . .42

Questions to Think About. . .43

Sound Keys for Codes. . .44



MYTHICAL ANIMALS

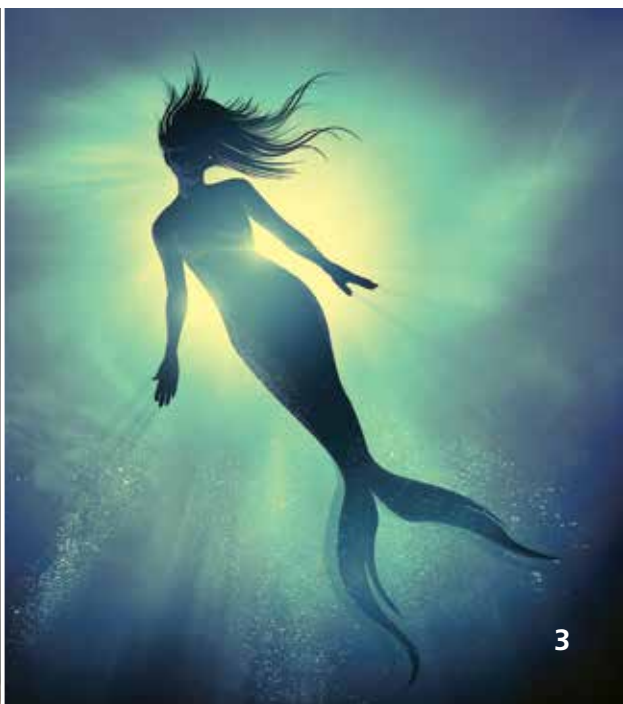
(MITH-ih-kul)

For thousands of years, people created myths (*miths*) and legends (*LEH-jindz*) to help them define the world around them. These stories helped them explain things that they did not yet understand. Many myths and legends include mythical (*MITH-ih-kul*) animals. The stories describe the impact these imaginary (*im-MAJ-ih-nare-ee*) creatures (*KREE-churz*) have on humans and how humans interact with them.

Mythical creatures come in all shapes, colors, and sizes. Many, such as the Greek Minotaur (*MIN-uh-tar*), take the form of hybrids (*HY-bridz*). A hybrid is a combination of two different animals. The Minotaur (*MIN-uh-tar*) is depicted as half-bull and half-human.

Some, like the Kraken (*KRAK-un*), may take the form of a larger, more dangerous (*DANE-ger-us*) version of an existing animal. The Kraken, a creature similar to a giant squid (*skwid*), was said to be huge and powerful enough to pull an entire ship down to its doom.

Still others, like the half-fish, half-human mermaid, have specific (*speh-SIF-ik*) magical powers. The mermaids' beautiful voices are thought to have the power to lure sailors to their death on the rocks where the mermaids sit and sing.



Two of the most fascinating (*FAS-ih-nay-ting*) mythical creatures are unicorns and dragons. Stories of these creatures exist in cultures (*KUL-churz*) all over the world.

Legends (*LEH-jinz*) of unicorns go back more than 2,000 years. Most describe unicorns as white horses that have a single, spiraling (*SPY-ruh-ling*) horn growing on their forehead. Anyone who touches a pure white unicorn is said to have a happy and blessed life.

The oldest records of dragons describe snake-like beasts that were evil and very frightening (*FRY-tih-ning*). It was thought that these beasts had poisonous (*POY-zuh-nus*) blood (*blud*) and that touching their blood would cause instant death.





WHAT IS A UNICORN?

The true origin (*OR-ih-jin*) of the unicorn myths is not known, but unicorns can be found in stories from all over the world. In almost all cases, they represent innocence (*IN-uh-sens*), power, and magic.

Thousands of years ago, a Greek traveler wrote about exotic places. He claimed to have seen unicorns. He said they looked something like a donkey with a white body and a red head.



Throughout (*throo-OWT*) history, many unique (*yoo-NEEK*) animals have been mistaken for unicorns. The oryx (*OR-ix*) is a type of antelope with a horse-like neck and mane. It has long horns with rings that can look like spirals (*SPY-rulz*). When seen from the side, these long horns can look like one single horn. You can see how the Greek traveler may have been fooled into thinking it was one horn. Or maybe he saw an oryx that had lost one of its horns!





Rhinoceroses (*ry-NOS-ur-us-ez*) do not look at all like horses, but certain (*SER-tin*) types do have only one horn, low on their face. Some think rhinos were sometimes mistaken for unicorns as well.

Different cultures (*KUL-churz*) have different ideas (*I-DEE-uhz*) of what these creatures looked like. They may also have different names depending on the country.

QILIN / KILIN
(CHINA (*CHY-nuh*))



EUROPEAN UNICORN
(*yur-ruh-PEE-en*)



INDIAN UNICORN
(*IN-dee-en*)



KIRIN
(JAPAN (*juh-PAN*))



PEGACORN
(ANCIENT (*AIN-chent*) ROME)






Unicorns are believed (*buh-LEEVD*) to make their homes somewhere deep in dense (*dens*) forests. They are said to live near lakes and ponds. Sometimes unicorns will stop in clearings in the forest to rest. That's where people would claim to see them. But unicorns have a keen sense of hearing, so humans cannot sneak up on them undetected (*un-dee-TEK-ted*). A unicorn will always know.

Most of these mythical creatures have stunning purple or blue eyes. Legend says that, if you look into a unicorn's eyes, you will see the unicorn's forest home.



A detailed painting of a white unicorn and its foal. The adult unicorn stands on the left, its long, flowing white mane cascading down. The foal stands to its right, looking up at the adult. Both are white with a single horn. The background is a lush, green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. The text is overlaid in the upper right corner.

Horses often have only one baby at a time. Unicorns probably would, too.

Unicorns do not eat food. Instead, it is believed that they get their energy (*EN-er-jee*) from the sun. They are known to have strong hearts and can live for hundreds of years.

A group of unicorns is called a blessing.