



Oxford
Reading
Tree

The Sandcastle



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What's this story about?

The children are on the beach and enter a sandcastle competition. They have good ideas and build the best sandcastle.

Talk together

Read the title, and talk about beaches. Ask, "Have you been to a beach? What did you do there? What did you make in the sand?" Look through the pictures together to see what happens.

Read the story

W = Word recognition **C** = Language comprehension

- W** Find and read the title again on the back cover. Read the words in the list. Encourage the child to sound out and blend the letters in each word.
- W** Read together, unless the child is keen to read alone without help. Remind him/her to point to each word and to turn pages carefully.
- C** A child sometimes reads words that are not on the page, but which make sense, e.g. on page 2, 'He put sand in the box'. If this happens, let the child finish the story, then say, "Show me the words on this page." Turn to the page and read it again.
- C** Pages 8–9, ask, "What are the children behind looking at? What is Mum doing?"
- C** At the end of the story ask the child to say how Biff, Chip and Kipper feel. Ask, "How would you feel if you won the competition?"



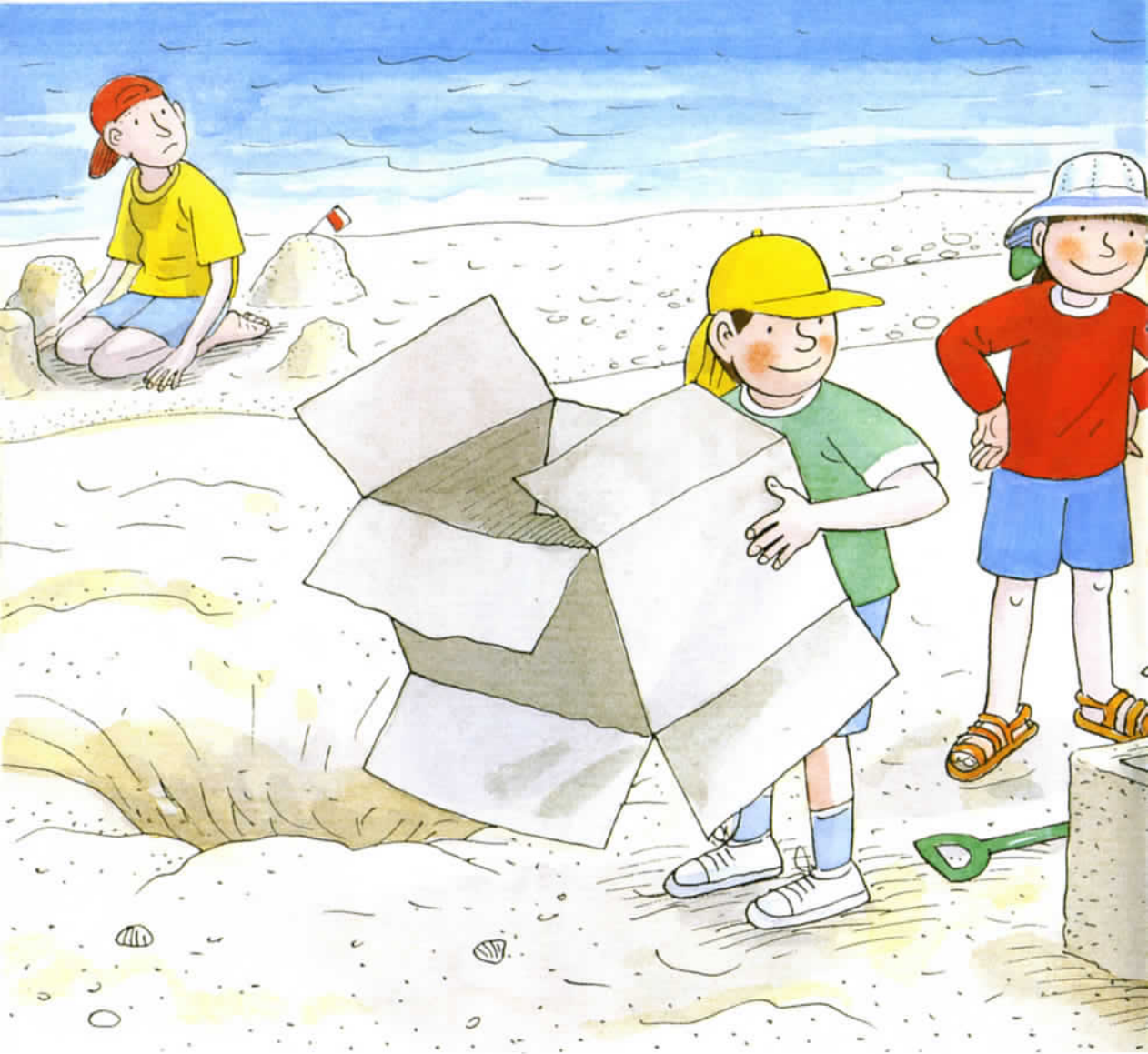
Chip had a box.



He put sand in it.



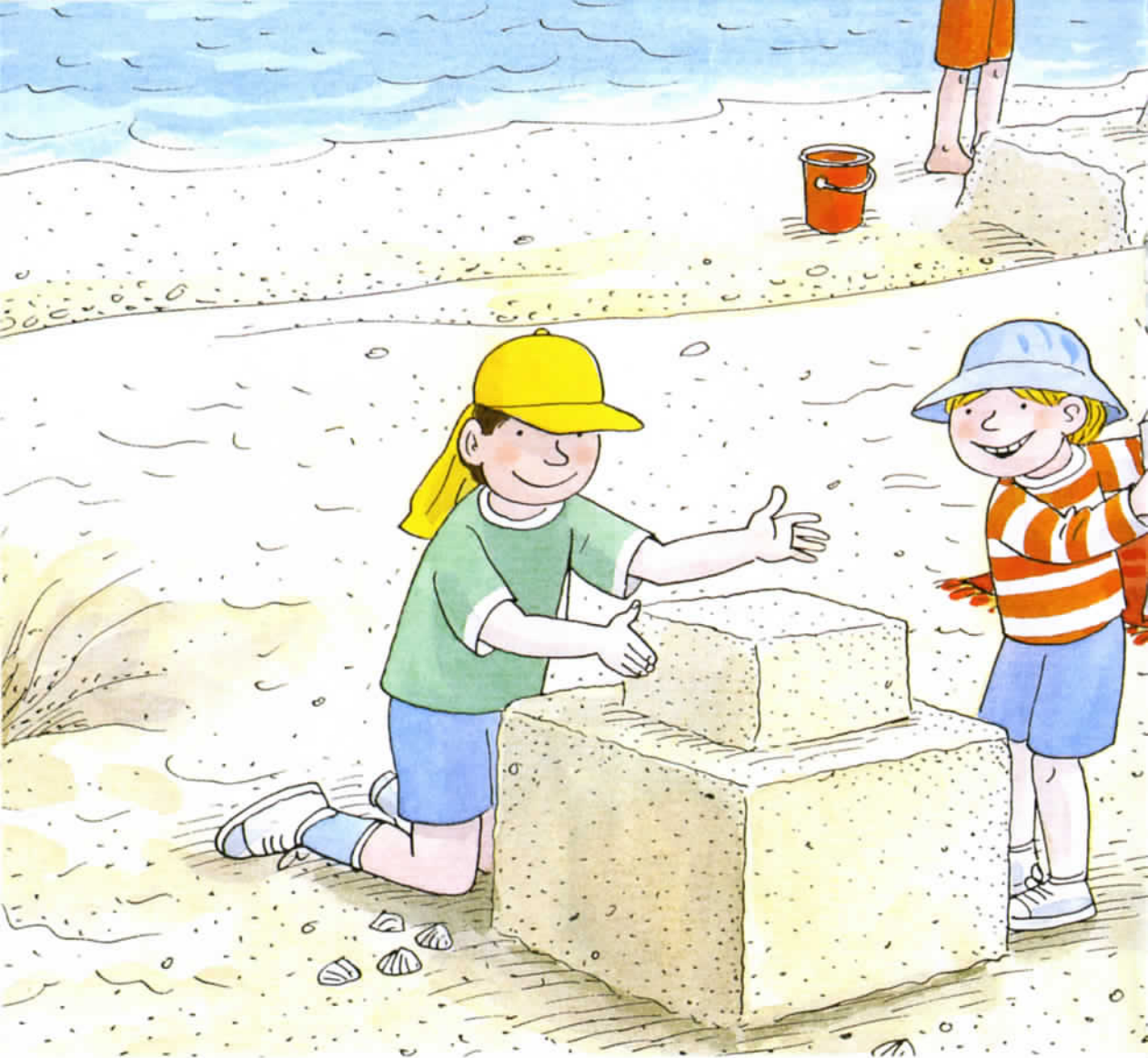
“Pat it flat,” he said.



Kipper had a box.



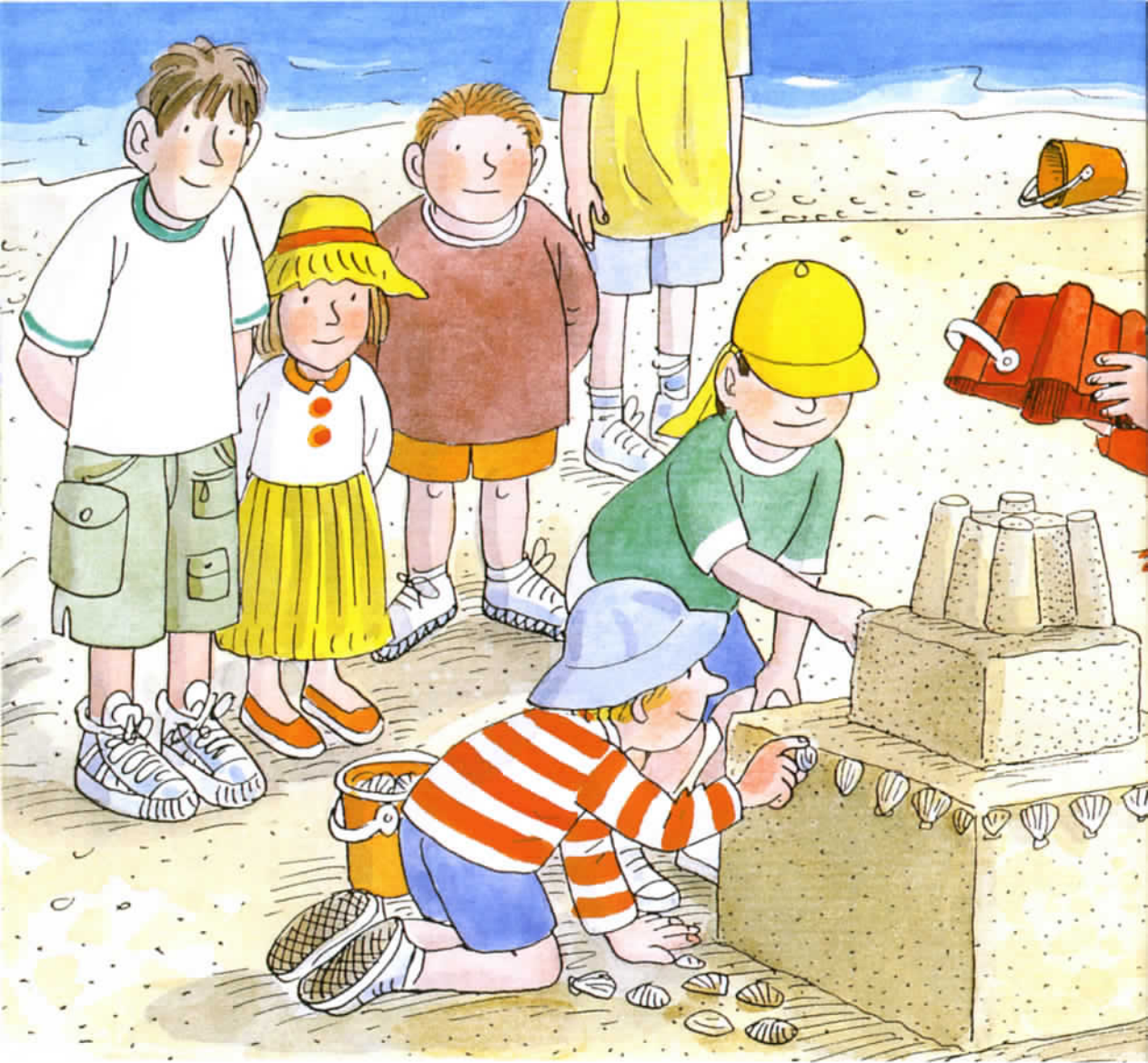
He put sand in it.



Biff had a bucket.



She put sand in it.



Biff put the bucket on top.



“Good,” she said.



It was a sandcastle.



It was a good sandcastle.



It was the best sandcastle.

Play a game

Rhyme time

To help children with reading and spelling by using words that rhyme.

- Choose a word from the story, such as 'had' or 'box' and ask the child to think of a word that rhymes with it.
- Then let the child choose a word and you think of a rhyming word.
- Have two or three turns each.

Other ideas

You can use these ideas straight away, or on another day.

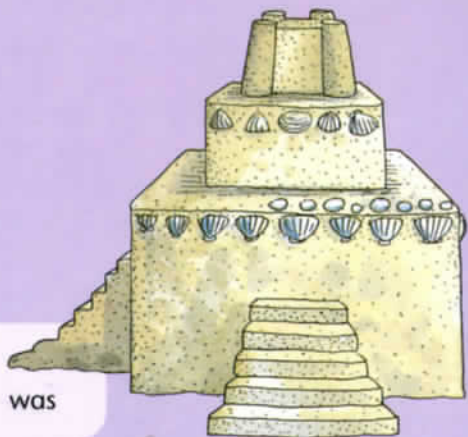
- Find the sound and letter 'a' in the middle of as many words as you can. Read all the words that you find.
- Look at photographs of families on beaches (from holiday brochures or a family album). Talk about what the people are doing.

The Sandcastle

The children make
a sandcastle.

This story practises these words:

a he in it on she said the was



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The Sandcastle

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Floppy's Bone

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