

# Olympic Dreams



Claire Llewellyn





Written by Claire Llewellyn and illustrated by Alex Brychta,  
based on the original characters created by Roderick Hunt  
and Alex Brychta

Phonics Consultant: Debbie Hepplewhite

## BEFORE READING

### Talk together

- Look at the cover. Ask: *What sporting event might this medal be from?*
- Look through the book and talk about the pictures.

### Say the sounds

These are some of the focus letters and sounds your child will practise in this book.

**ir** (as in **first**)   **e-e** (as in **athletes**)   **o** (as in **host**)

**eer** (as in **cheer**)

These are the alternative pronunciations your child will practise in this book.

**y** (as /ee/ in **every**, as /i/ in **Olympic**)

### Sound the words

These words practise the focus letters and sounds for this book. Encourage your child to say the sounds from left to right to read the words.

**first third athletes host chosen cheer every**  
**lucky Olympic**

### Read these words together

These words are common, or necessary for this book, but children may find them hard to read.

**people called could Paralympics**



Enjoy reading and talking about the book together!

See the inside back cover for more ideas.

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## Sounds in this book

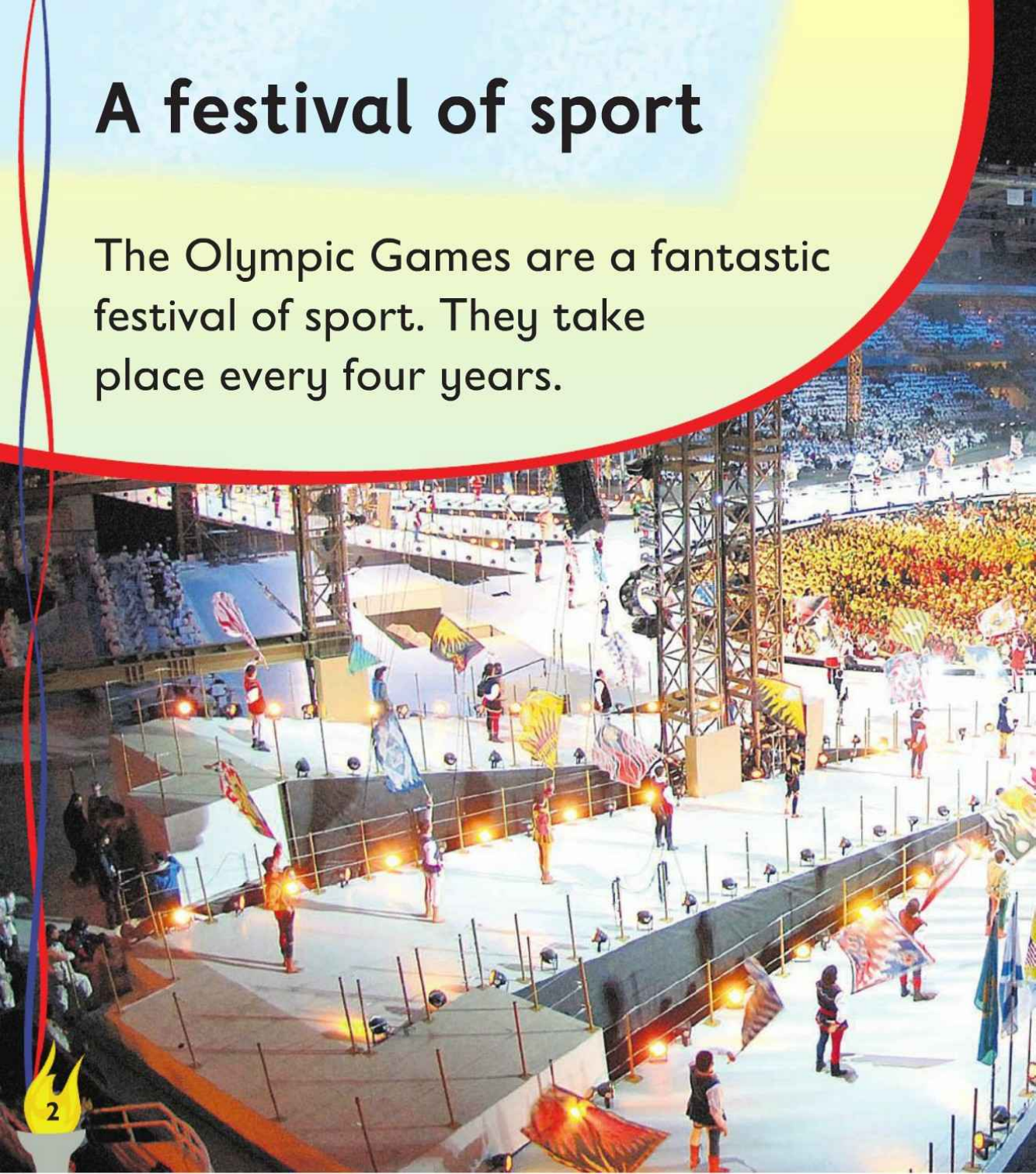


a (want) ear (years) eer (cheers)  
e-e (athletes) ir (first) o (host) old (gold)  
or (work) sion (television) ture (future)



# A festival of sport

The Olympic Games are a fantastic festival of sport. They take place every four years.





## Did you know?

The motto of the Olympic Games is “Faster, Higher, Stronger!”

Have you  
ever seen the  
Olympics?

The world's top **athletes** take part in the Games. They all want to win a gold medal.



# The first Games

The Olympic Games were first held in Greece about 3000 years ago.



The Olympic Games were very different then. Only men could take part in them.



There are athletes on this Greek pot.

### Did you know?

There were no medals in the old Games. Instead, winners got a crown of leaves.





# Games for all

Today there are three sets of Olympic Games. One set is held in the summer. Another set takes place in the winter.



Sailing in the summer



Skiing in the winter



## Athletes at the Paralympics

There are Olympic Games for athletes with disabilities, too. They are called the **Paralympics**.





# The host city

Lots of cities in the world want to **host** the Olympic Games. London has been chosen to host the Games in 2012.

This is the site for the London Olympics.



To host the Olympics, a city needs lots of things, including:

- a site for the sports to take place
- a swimming pool
- places for all the athletes to stay.



About 10,000 athletes take part in the summer Olympic Games!





# Training for the Games

Every athlete dreams of being in the Olympic Games. They train to be as good as they can.

Training is very hard work!



The British team  
arrives at the 2008  
Olympic Games.



If they are lucky and work very  
hard, athletes may be chosen  
to join the Olympic team.





# The Olympic torch

The Olympic torch is lit for every Olympic games. It is lit in Greece, and then it is taken to the host city.

The torch has a long trip to the Olympic games.





### Did you know?

In 2008, the Olympic torch took 130 days to get from Greece to China.

When the torch gets there, it is time for the Games to begin!





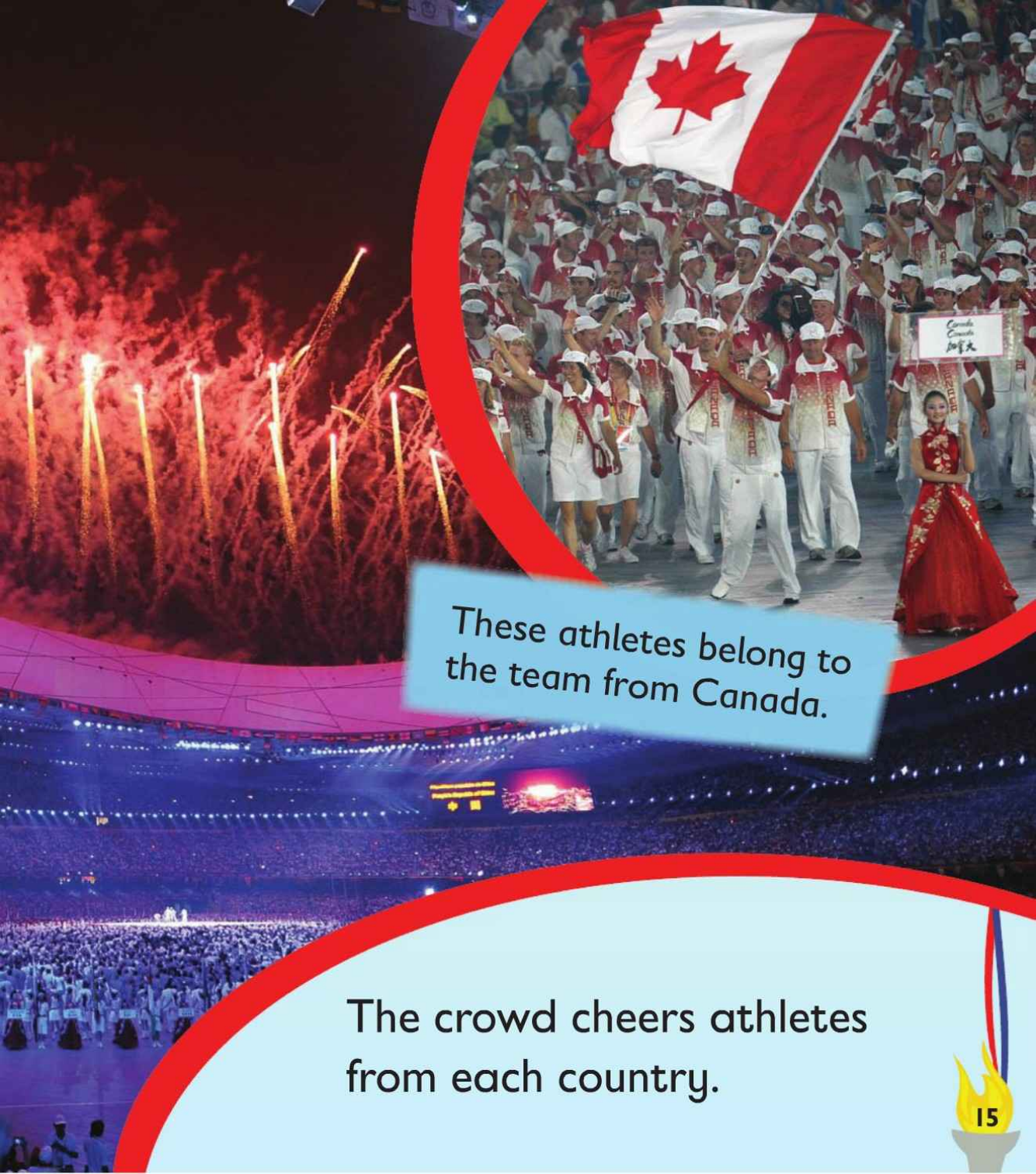
# The Games open

At the start of the Olympic Games, there is music and fireworks.

## Did you know?

Teams come from all over the world.





These athletes belong to  
the team from Canada.

The crowd cheers athletes  
from each country.

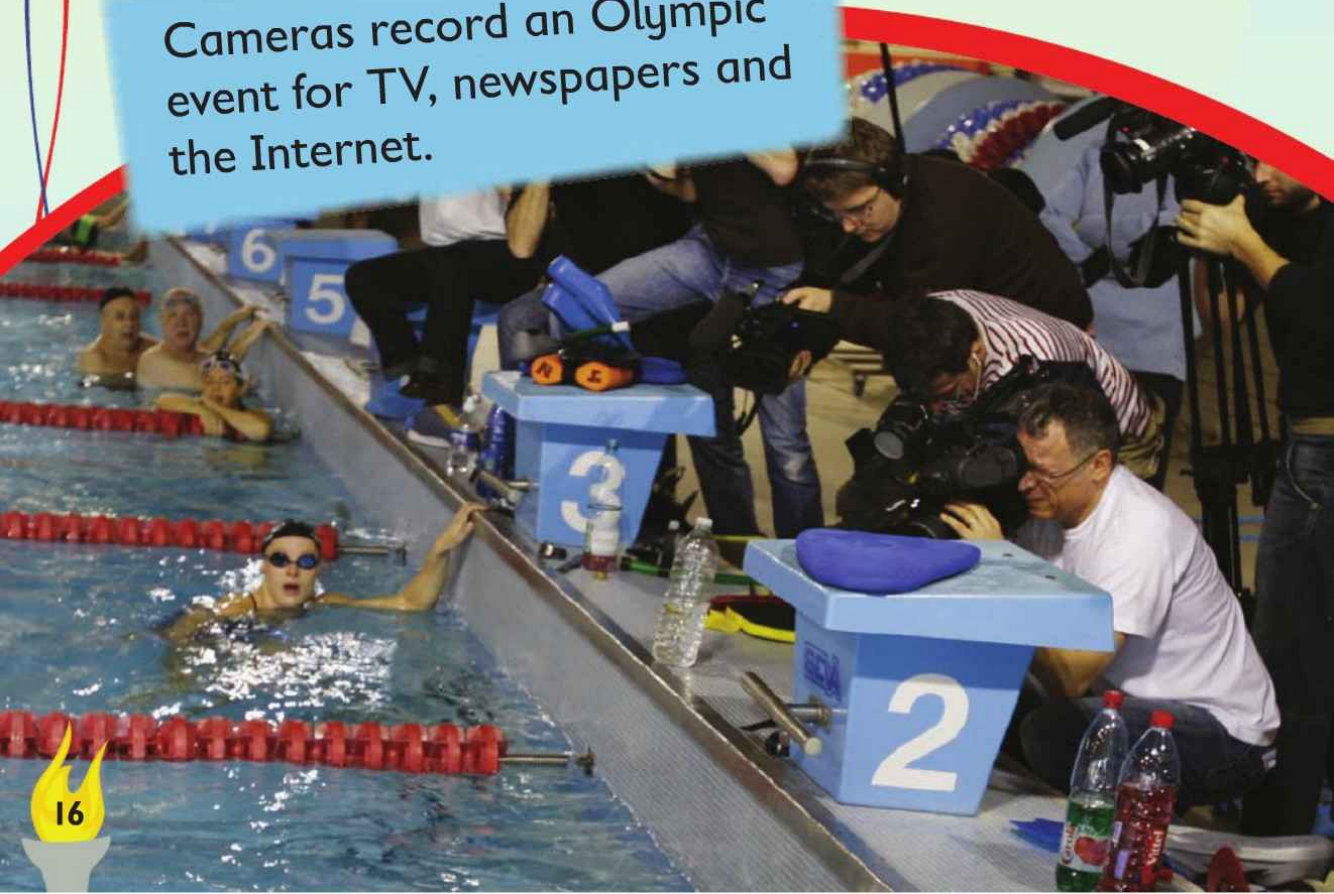





# A fortnight of sport


The Olympic Games last for a fortnight. All over the world people watch the Games on television and the Internet.

Cameras record an Olympic event for TV, newspapers and the Internet.







I like the sailing best.



I'm a swimming fan.



I like the track events.




I don't like sport.  
I can't wait for the Games to be over!



# Winning a medal

The top three athletes in each sport win a medal.



Who has won  
the gold medal?



The athlete in third place wins a bronze medal. The athlete in second place wins a silver medal. The winning athlete gets a gold medal.



### **Did you know?**

The youngest person ever to win a medal was a 10-year-old boy! He took part in the Olympic Games in 1896.





# The Games close

When the Games are over,  
the Olympic torch is put out.

The end of the  
Olympic Games.





Then all the athletes go home. The fans cheer the winners when they get back!





# A future star?

All over the world, athletes are training hard for the next Olympic Games.

Young athletes training



Do you enjoy sport? Could you train to be the best? Perhaps, one day, you will take part in the Olympic Games!

Running is fun! Which sport do **you** like best?





# Glossary

**Athlete:** a sportsperson who takes part in a race or sporting event

**Host:** the host city is the city where the Olympic Games takes place

**Paralympics:** the Olympic Games for athletes with disabilities

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## AFTER READING

### I spy...

- Take it in turns to find a page with words spelled with **s** for the /s/ sound (sport). Remind your child that the /s/ sound can have different spellings (place, page 2). See who can find the most words where /s/ is spelled with letter **s**.

## WHAT IS BLENDING?

For reading (decoding) say the sounds from left to right of the word and blend the sounds to hear the whole word.

### How to blend

Point under each letter or letter group as you say the sound, then run your finger under the whole word as you say the whole (or blended) word.

e.g. **f-ir-s-t**    **first**



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# Floppy's Phonics

Non-fiction



Oxford Reading Tree  
Stage 6

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Letters and Sounds Phase 5

# Olympic Dreams

Find out about the Olympics -  
a fantastic festival of sport!

## Focus phonics:

a (want) ear (years) eer (cheers)  
e-e (athletes) ir (first)  
o (host) old (gold) or (work)  
sion (television) ture (future)  
y (every, Olympic)



Non-chronological report



*Floppy's Phonics*  
Non-fiction  
Stage 6

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