

Week 3 Fifth Grade Decodables

Skills: Phonic element Vv, compound words

Fiction: *Vin and Val*

Nonfiction: *Where's King Midas When You Need Him?*

Vin and Val



Written by Vic Moors • Illustrated by Fred Volke

ELEMENTS USED IN THIS BOOK

New phonic element *v*

Words with new phonic element *Val, van, vat, Vin*

Reviewed phonic elements *n, p, a, m, s, t, o, e, f, g, u,
b, l*

Reviewed story word *tree*

New high-frequency word *have*

Reviewed high-frequency words *a, and, cannot, down, get,
go, in, is, like, of, out, put,
the, they, to*

Special considerations *inflectional ending -s*



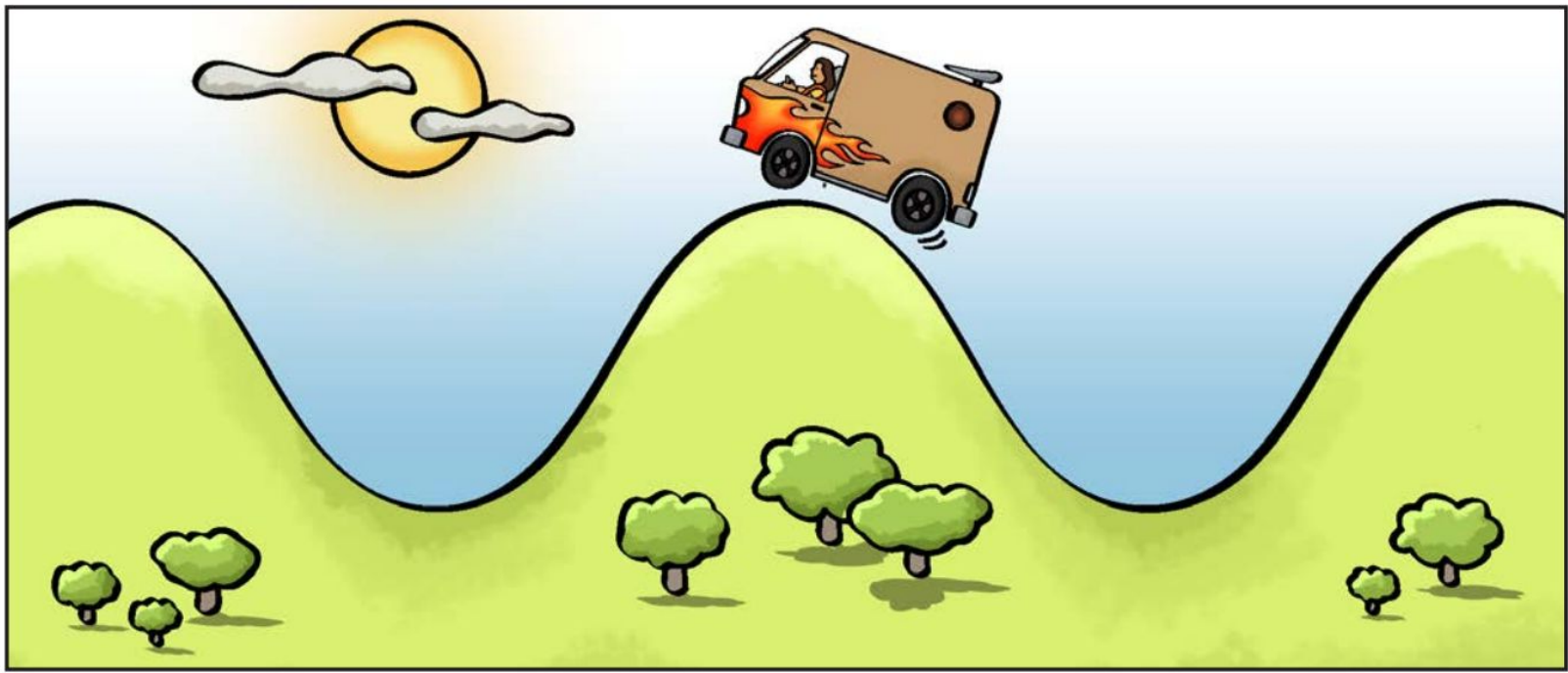
Vin and Val have
a big tan van.
They have fun in the van.



Vin and Val go to
a hut in the van.
They go to the hut to get sap.



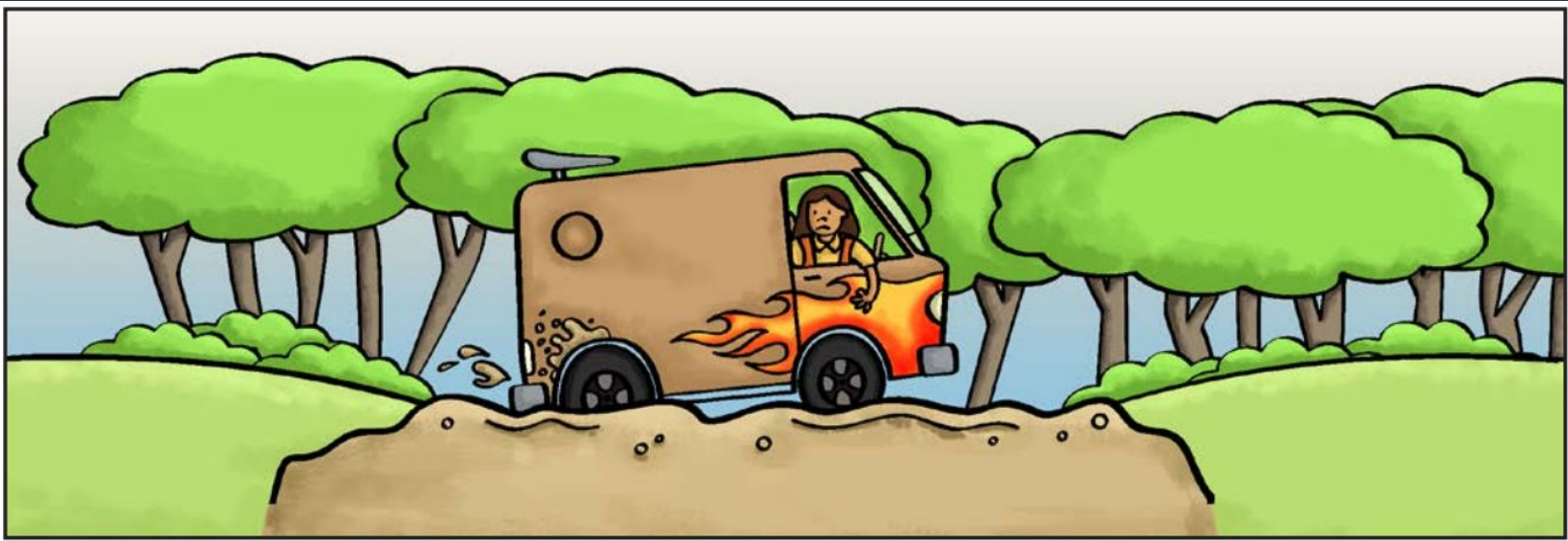
Vin and Val get sap from a tree.
They put sap in a big vat.
They put the vat in the van.



Vin and Val go up
and down in the van.



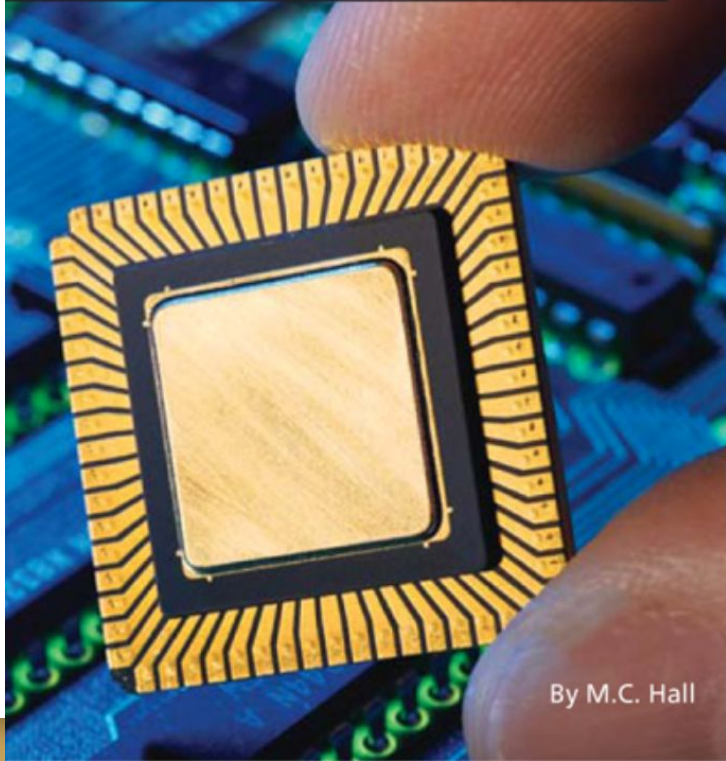
They go in and out in the van.



Vin and Val go
in the mud in a bog.
The van cannot
get out of the mud.



WHERE'S KING MIDAS WHEN YOU NEED HIM?



By M.C. Hall

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Scott Foresman
is an imprint of

PEARSON

Glenview, Illinois • Boston, Massachusetts • Chandler, Arizona •
Hoboken, New Jersey

THE GOLDEN TOUCH

Long ago, people told stories about King Midas, the king with "the golden touch." Midas made a wish that anything he touched would turn to gold. His wish was granted.



But Midas couldn't eat because his food turned to gold when he touched it. His daughter turned to gold when he hugged her. King Midas was lucky. He was able to take back his wish and learn from his actions.

The story of Midas isn't true.

But it is true that for thousands of years people have wanted gold. People all over the world have used gold to make coins, dishes, and jewelry.



A long time ago, people even tried to make gold from other metals! However, no one was ever able to do this.



People who tried to make gold were called ***alchemists***.

FINDING GOLD

Today we know that no one can make gold.
So where do we get this precious metal? What
makes it worth so much?



Earth contains metals such as gold, iron, and tin. Gold is worth more than iron and tin because there's a lot less of it. When something is rare, people are willing to pay more for it.

Gold is found in soil, rocks, and streambeds. A long time ago, lucky people could find lumps of gold without digging too deeply underground.

During the California Gold Rush, a lot of gold was found in streams.

Now, most gold is beneath Earth's surface. But a lot of the gold on Earth has already been mined. Miners dig deep tunnels to get it.

This miner is panning for gold in a stream.



Underground mine

Most of the gold that's left near Earth's surface is in tiny pieces that are mixed into soil and rock. Miners dig big pits to find this gold.

Pit mine



USES FOR GOLD

Gold may be harder to find, but we still need it for many things — far more than rings and gold medals. Small amounts of gold are used in computers, car engines, televisions, and phones. Gold is even used in space shuttles and some medicines.

Gold is used in all these things!



MINING PROBLEMS

Mining for gold has its own share of problems. Working in underground mines can be dangerous. The air can become poisoned by gas from the mine or by dust from the mining. Tunnels can cave in and trap miners.



Underground tunnels sometimes cave in and trap miners.

Pit miners use chemicals to help them get bits of gold out of the soil and rocks. These chemicals can make the miners sick. These chemicals can pollute the soil and water that are found near a pit mine.



Mining can pollute soil and water with dangerous chemicals.

While it's important to find the gold we need, we've also learned that we can harm our planet if we are not careful. It's important to keep Earth clean.

Our challenge is to find ways to do both!

