

# Week 2 Fifth Grade Decodables

Skills: Phonograms -ub, -ut

Final Syllable -ant, -ent, -ance, -ence

Fiction: *Bub and the Nut*

Nonfiction: *Nature's Balance*

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# Bub and the Nut



Written by Lili Henderson • Illustrated by Mary Beth Benton

## ELEMENTS USED IN THIS BOOK

**Phonograms**    *-ub, -ut*

**Phonogram words**    *Bub, cub, sub, tub, hut, nut*

**Reviewed phonic elements**    *n, s, t, o, e, h, f, g, i, b, c, u, l*

**Story word**    *tree*

**New high-frequency word**    *good*

**Reviewed high-frequency words**    *a, do, down, from, I, is, my,  
of, off, said, saw, that, the,  
want, was, you*

**Special considerations**    *inflectional ending -ed*

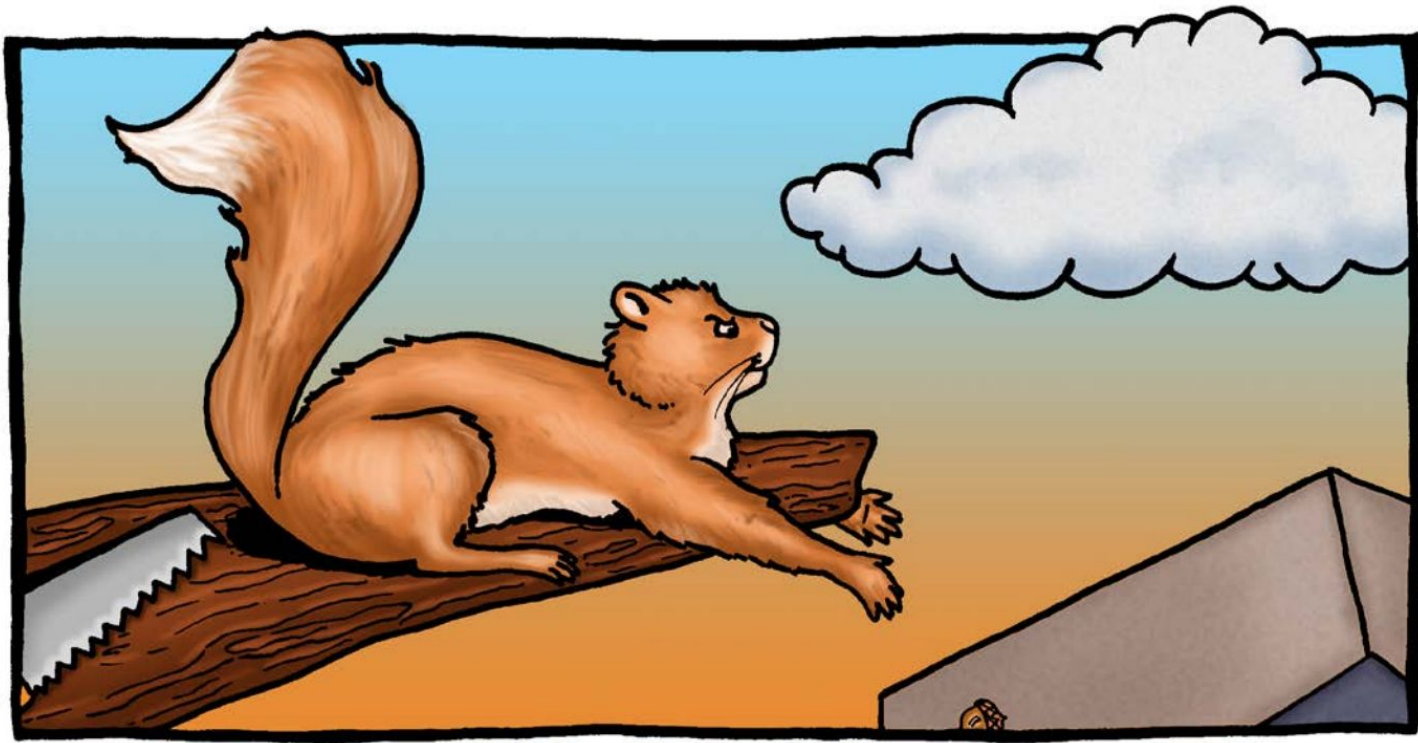


Bub saw a nut on a tree.  
Bub wanted that nut.



Bub cut the nut from the tree.  
The nut fell down on top of a hut.





“I want that nut,” Bub said.



Bub got on the hut,  
but the nut fell off.



The nut fell off the hut.  
It fell in a tub.





Bub got off the hut.  
Bub got the nut from the tub.



A cub saw Bub.  
“You do not want that nut,”  
the cub said.



“That nut is not good,” said Cub.  
“Do you want a bit of my sub?”





# Nature's Balance



By Sue Adasiewicz



Plants and animals live together in communities. A healthy community has a balance among the plants and animals that live there. No one plant or animal takes over.

But humans have changed the balance in some communities. How does this happen?



seabirds



vole

lichen

arctic fox

## Reindeer on St. Matthew Island

In 1944 during World War II, nineteen members of the Coast Guard came to live and work on a small island located between Alaska and Russia. They opened a Coast Guard station.

Before the men came, the only living things on the island were arctic foxes, voles, seabirds, and a plant called lichen.

Because the men needed food, they brought 29 reindeer with them.



But the war ended soon after the station opened. The men left. But they left the reindeer behind. With the men gone, there was no one or nothing to hunt and kill the reindeer.

Over time, the reindeer had many, many calves, or babies. All the calves fed on the lichen that grew there. By 1963, there were at least 6,000 reindeer on this tiny island! But nearly all the lichen was gone. There was almost nothing left for the reindeer to eat.

After a bad winter in 1965, only 42 reindeer were left. Only one of these was a male, and he was not healthy. By the 1980s, all the reindeer on the island had died. The reindeer had upset the balance of nature.



## Cane Toads in Australia

In the early 1900s, sugarcane was an important crop in Australia. But beetles were killing the sugarcane plants. To get rid of the beetles, 102 cane toads were brought to Australia from Hawaii. The cane toads were supposed to eat the beetles.



But the cane toads couldn't jump very high. They couldn't reach the beetles that lived on the top part of the cane plants. So what did the toads eat instead?

They ate anything that would fit in their mouths! They ate birds' eggs, insects, and snakes. They ate lizards and frogs. They even ate food that had been left out for pets.



Cane toads are poisonous. Their poison kills any animal that eats them. They can poison the water in pet dishes. Their poison can hurt people too. The Australian government spends millions of dollars each year trying to get rid of them. Nothing works.

Today, the cane toads are a major pest in Australia. They are spreading across the country by the thousands. They compete with native animals for food and shelter. They have upset the balance of nature.



**Biggest cane toad ever found in Australia!**

- Nickname: Toadzilla
- Weight: almost 2 pounds
- Body Length: almost 9 inches
- Caught: March 2007

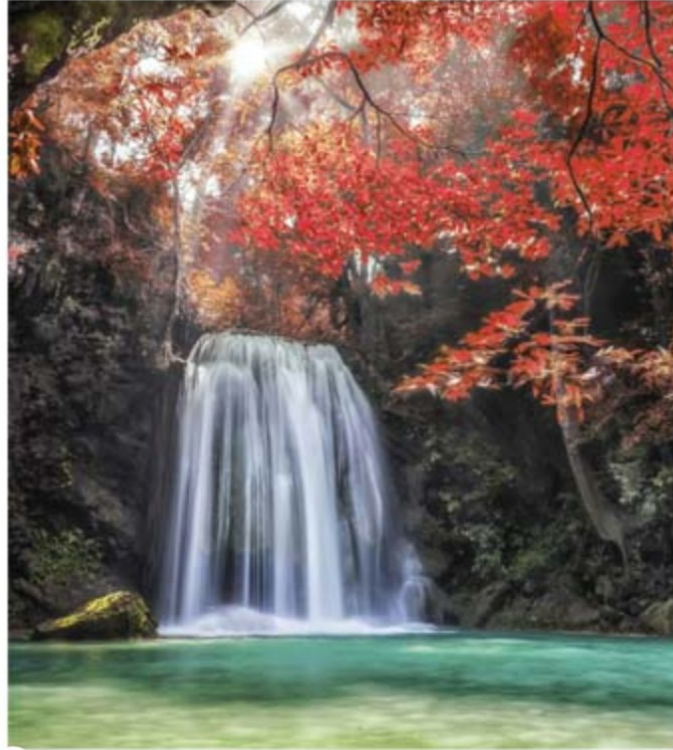




## Bees in the Western Hemisphere

Honeybees have always helped farmers grow food. They are important in the life cycle of crops such as tomatoes and oranges. In the 1950s, scientists thought they could make a “better” honeybee. They brought a new bee to the Western Hemisphere from Africa.

Some of the African bees escaped. These bees were mean! They killed the native honeybees. The beekeepers couldn’t keep the African bees in hives. They were nicknamed “killer bees” because they travel in huge, angry swarms.



Humans are part of the community of plants and animals on Earth. But we've changed some communities by bringing in animals such as reindeer, cane toads, and killer bees.

What can we learn from these mistakes?