

# Week 1 Third Grade Decodables

Foundational Skill: Vowel Sounds oo, ew, ue, ui

High Frequency Words: *friend, live, eye, they, was, some, said, the, of, one, wanted, could, you*

Fiction: At The Zoo

Nonfiction: *The Eagle, A Symbol of Freedom*

# At the Zoo

Written by Callie Terote

Decodable  
Practice  
Reader

26A



## /ü /Spelled oo, ew, ue, ui

zoo	school	soon	
Rooney	cool	Sue	Cooper
food	fruit	noodles	raccoon
true	chew	shoots	bamboo

## /ú /Spelled oo, u

Cook	
shook	Brooke
put	bush

## High-Frequency Words

was	to	
some	wanted	a
said	do	could
the	friend	you
of	live	eye
one	their	they

Josh dressed quickly. His long wait was almost over! Today was his class trip to City Zoo.

At nine sharp, a big school bus parked at Cook School. Josh and Brooke got on first. Soon everybody else joined them. Some children began playing wildly. Cooper jumped up on his seat. Ashley shouted loudly. Josh wasn't unruly. He just wanted to focus on zoo sights he'd see.



“Quiet, please!” Miss Rooney called.

At last Josh and Brooke could hear themselves think.

“I’m excited about seeing tigers,” Brooke said happily. “They’re the animals I like best. Which do you like best, Josh?”



“You will find out soon,” Josh replied. He smiled shyly at Brooke. Josh didn’t really like keeping secrets. But talking too much about the animal might bring bad luck. He hoped he’d find it playing outside. Last time, the animal had hidden in its cool, dark cave. Josh could hardly see his furry friend.



At City Zoo, a helpful zookeeper named Sue greeted Miss Rooney's class. She began showing the excited children zoo animals. They saw lions, tigers, camels, and monkeys. Josh liked them all. At each stop, Brooke asked, "Isn't that the animal you like best, Josh?" Each time, Josh replied, "No."





At long last Sue led everybody to the animal Josh liked best. Just as Josh had hoped, it sat outdoors. It was black and white and quite big. A big black mark circled each eye.

“It looks like a large raccoon!” Martin shouted.

“It looks like a gentle grizzly bear!” Ginny yelled.



“It’s not a raccoon or a bear, but it has traits of both. It’s a giant panda! Which food do you think Pete Panda likes most?” Sue asked.

“Fruit?” Kevin asked. Sue shook her head.

“Meat? Noodles?” Jane asked. Sue shook her head twice.

“Leaves from a lilac bush?” Kate asked.

Josh just had to speak up. “Bamboo,” he said.



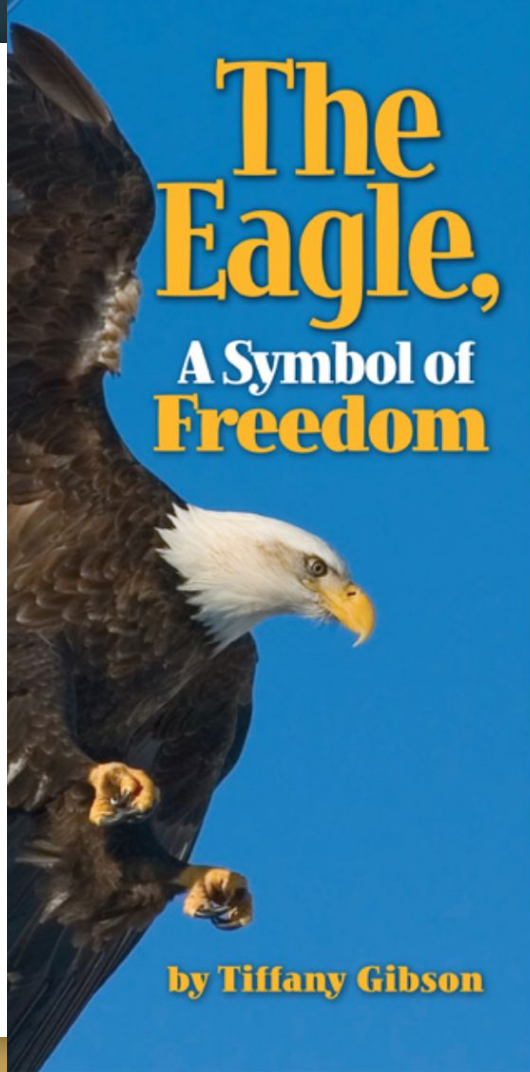


“That’s true,” Sue nodded. “Lots of bamboo trees grow in China where pandas live. Pandas chew bamboo shoots, or tiny branches. They chew bamboo leaves as well. Aren’t pandas picky? Bamboo is one of the few foods they’ll put in their mouths.”

Soon everybody got back on the bus. “Now we all know which animal you like best, Josh,” said Brooke. She gave Josh a high five. “Cool!”







# The Eagle, A Symbol of Freedom

by Tiffany Gibson



# Symbols

Symbols are all around you. Symbols are pictures or signs that mean something. A red sign means stop. A heart means love.



heart



stop sign

The United States has a flag. A flag is a symbol. The United States has other symbols.

The bald eagle is a symbol. It stands for, or means, freedom. Freedom means you can make your own decisions.



A bald eagle

The American flag



## Early America

In 1782, there were 13 colonies in America. At first, England made the laws, or rules. The colonies wanted freedom to make their own laws.



13 colonies



Leaders from each colony had a meeting.  
They made a new country — the United States.  
The leaders wanted a national symbol. They  
wanted the symbol to mean freedom.



Leaders of the 13 colonies

The leaders wanted an animal for the symbol. They picked the bald eagle.

To Americans, the bald eagle stands for freedom. The bald eagle is the national symbol of the United States.



Leaders use a stamp with the bald eagle.

## Develop Language

## Past Tense Verbs

We add *-ed* to words to show they happened in the past.

### Present Tense

want

### Ending

-ed

### Past Tense

wanted