

Gran's Trips

"When will Gran get here?" Josh asks.

Jen shrugs.

Just then, Josh and Jen see a cab on the street.

"Gran is here!" Jen yells.

When Gran steps from the cab, Josh and Jen run up to get a hug.



"Was the trip fun?" Josh asks.

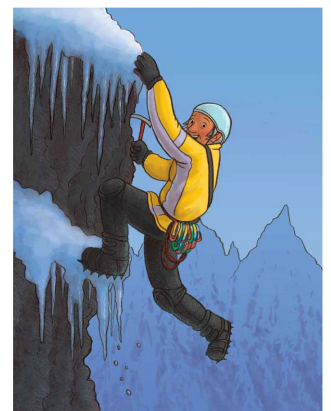
"Which one?" Gran asks. "I went on three trips!"

"Where to?" asks Josh.

"One was to the Swiss Alps," says Gran. "In the Alps, there were steep cliffs. I went up to the top of one cliff, but it was slick. I fell and had to cling to the rocks!"

"No!" says Jen.

"Yes!" says Gran. "Here is a snap shot."



"What was the next trip?" Josh asks.

"I went to Hong Kong," says Gran.

"What is in Hong Kong?"

"Lots of stuff," says Gran. "In Hong Kong I met a man who sings and has wings on his back."

"No!" says Josh.

"Yes!" says Gran. "Here is a snap shot."



"What was the last trip?" asks Jen.

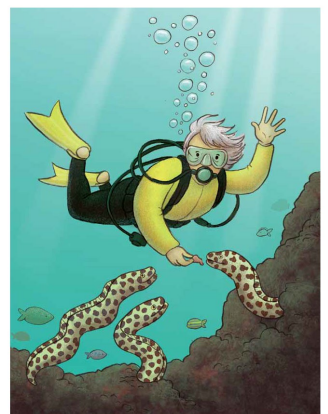
"I went to the gulf to swim with the eels and feed the fish," says Gran.

"No!" says Jen.

"Yes!" says Gran. "Here is a snap shot."

"Which trip was the best?" Josh asks.

"This one!" Gran says. "The one where I get to see Josh and Jen!"



The Pet

Gran says, "When I was in Hong Kong, I got a pet."

"What can it be?" asks Jen. "Is it a fish?"

"No," says Gran.

"Is it a dog?" asks Josh.

"No," says Gran.

"Is this pet big?" asks Josh.

"Well," says Gran, "he is not big, but he is long."

"Has he got teeth?" asks Josh.

"He has fangs!" says Gran.

"What are fangs?" asks Jen.

Just then, the bell rings.

Gran says, "That must be him!"



Wong from Hong Kong

Jen yells, "Gran, there is a man here with a big crate."

Gran says, "It must be Wong!"

"Who?" asks Jen.

"The pet I got in Hong Kong," says Gran.

"Wong from Hong Kong?" asks Jen.

"Yep!" says Gran.

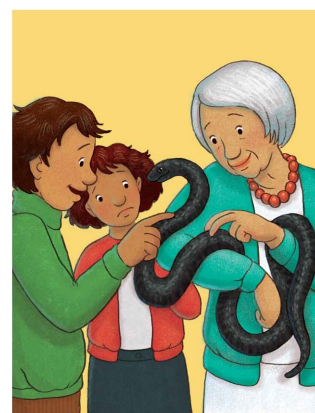
"But what is this Wong?" asks Josh.

Gran takes the lid off the crate and lifts up a long, black snake.

"Sweet!" says Josh. "Wong is a snake!"

"Eek!" Jen yells. "I am scared of snakes!"

Gran says, "Wong is a safe snake. There are snakes that can kill us, but Wong is not one of them. This is a snake we can pet."



Where Is Wong?

"Help!" Gran yells.

"What is it?" says Jen.

"Wong is not in his crate!" says Gran. "Where is he?"



Jen checks the pots and pans.

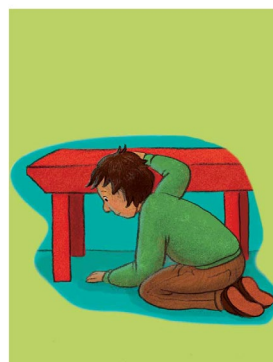
"He is not in here!" she yells. "Check in the den."



Josh checks the den.

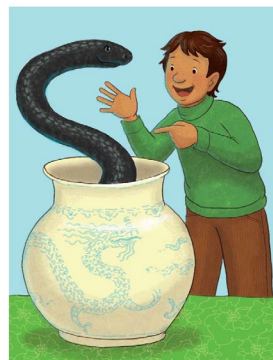
"He is not in here," he yells. "I bet he went back to Hong Kong!"

Just then, Wong peeks up from a big vase.



"There he is!" says Josh.

Gran runs to Wong and picks him up. She pets the snake. She is glad to see him.



The Swim Meet

Josh and Jen like to swim. They take Gran to their swim meet.

Jen lines up in lane five.

Josh lines up in lane six.

The kids are up on the blocks.

Then there is a beep.

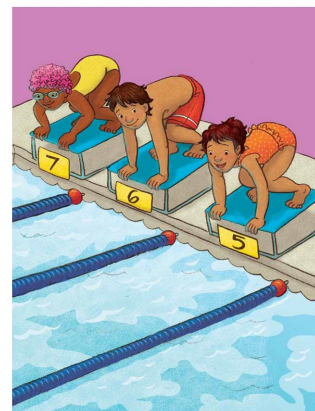
All the kids dive in. Splash!

“Swim!” yells Gran. “Swim fast!”

Josh and Jen swim as fast as they can. They swim and swim. In no time, they make it to the end.

“Did Josh win?” asks Gran. “Did Jen win?”

Josh and Jen wave and smile. They did not win, but they had a lot of fun!



At the Reef

Josh asks Gran what it was like when she went to the reef.

"Well," Gran says, "it was a lot of fun! I made a plan to meet my pal Mike. I had to ride my bike nine miles to the reef to meet Mike."

"That is a long ride!" says Jen.

"When I got there I went on a dive to see the fish and the eels."

"With Mike?" Josh asks.

"No," Gran says. "Mike did not dive with me. He went to hang glide."

"Did he like it?" Jen asks.

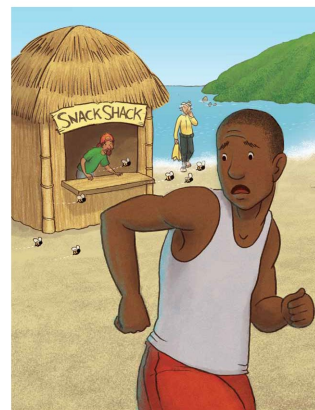
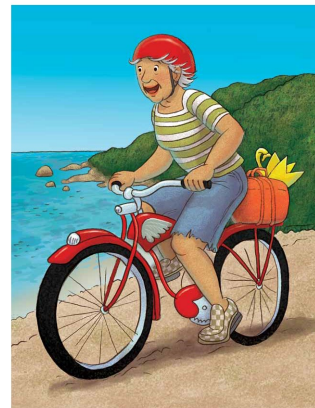
"Not so much," Gran says with a smile.

"Why not?" asks Josh. "It must be lots of fun to hang glide."

"Did he crash?" asks Jen.

"No, no," says Gran, "but he did have a bad time. When it was time to land, he hit a hive of bees! He got stung ten times."

"Yikes!" says Jen.



The Bug Glass

"Gran," Jen says, "Josh is mad at me."

"Why is he mad?" Gran asks.

"I broke his bug glass."

"What is a bug glass?"

"A bug glass is something that lets him see bugs and ants up close."

Gran checks the bug glass.

"It is not so bad," she says. "We can fix it with some tape."

"Josh will still be mad," Jen says.

"We can make him a snack," says Gran. "And we can make the ants a snack, as well."

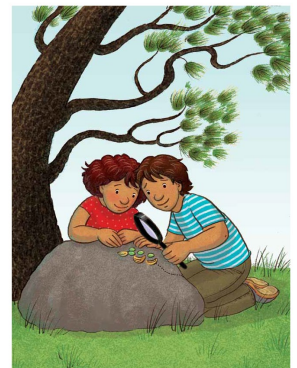
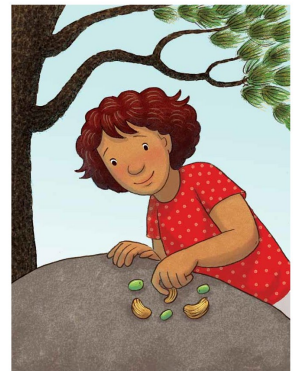
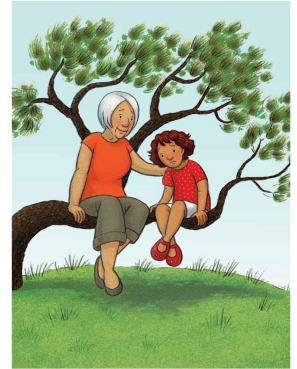
Gran hands Jen some chips and grapes. "Here," she says, "Set those on the big stone in back."

Gran yells, "Snack time!"

Josh runs in and grabs a snack. Gran lets him munch on it. Then she says, "Jen, take Josh to the stone."

Jen grabs Josh by the hand and takes him to the stone. He sees his bug glass. Then he sees a bunch of ants. He picks up the glass and stares at the ants.

Josh smiles. "The ants like those chips!" he says. He hands Jen the glass. "Here!" he says, "Take a peek!"



The Tape

"Gran," Jen asks, "what is that?"

"This is a tape deck," Gran says. "And in it is a tape with some songs sung by my Gran."

On the tape Gran's Gran sings a jazz song. At the end she sings "Pip! Pip! Ting a ling a ling!"

"I like those notes she sings at the end!" says Jen.

"So do I!" says Gran.

"Gran," says Jen, "we can act like we are in the band and sing the song!"

"OK," says Gran. "Run and get a dress. I will grab those shades I like."

Gran and Jen dress up. Then they sing the song. At the end they sing, "Pip, pip! Ting a ling a ling!"



Fuzz and Mel

The kids are in bed, but they can not sleep.

“Gran!” Josh yells.

Gran peeks in and asks, “What is it?”

“We can not sleep!” says Josh. “We can not sleep.”

“Tell us a tale!” says Jen.

“OK,” says Gran. “This is the tale of Fuzz and Mel.”



Once there were two cats named Fuzz and Mel.

Fuzz was a cute cat who did his best to be safe at all times. Mel was a brave cat who had a fast plane.

“Fuzz!” Mel said, “We can take a ride in my plane!”

“Um,” Fuzz said, “well . . . the thing is . . . I like to be safe . . . and I am not . . .”

“It is safe,” Mel said. “Jump in!”



The plane went up, up, up.

A duck came up next to the plane.

"What a swell duck!" said Fuzz.

"And what a swell plane ride!

Why was I so scared of a plane ride?"

Just then, Mel made the plane zip from side to side.

Fuzz did not like that. It did not feel safe to him.

Then Mel made the plane dive.

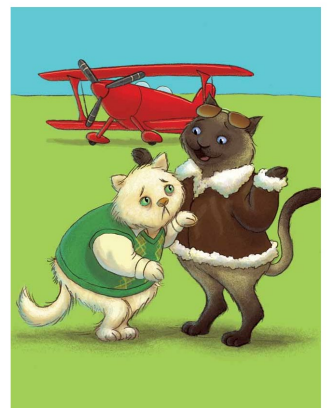
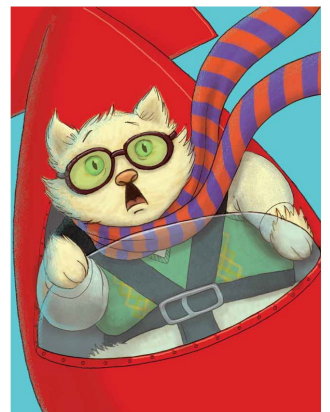
"ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ!" went the plane as it dove.

"Stop!" said Fuzz, as he held on to the side of the plane. "Not safe! Not safe!"

Mel set the plane back on the land.

Fuzz felt sick. He had the shakes.

"Ug," he said. "That's the last time I ride in a plane with Mel."



The Sweet Shop

"Gran," Josh asks, "did you have a job when you were a kid?"

"I did," says Gran. "My dad had a sweet shop and I had a job in the shop."

"Did you get to make sweets?"

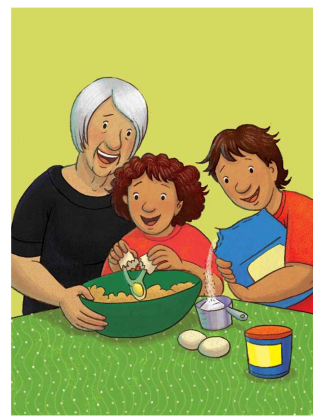
"Yes," says Gran. "I got to make milk shakes, cakes, and gum drops."

"Was it fun?" Josh asks.

"Some of it was fun," says Gran. "But it was not all fun and games. I had to sweep and pick up. And I had to wipe off the cake case."

"Can you still make cakes?" asks Jen.

"You bet I can!" says Gran. "Do you want to make one?"



King and Queen

"Gran," Josh says, "will you tell us a tale?"

"Yes!" says Jen. "Tell the one where you had to scare off the mad hog!"

"No!" says Josh. "Tell the one where you were on that ship in the wind and waves!"

"I will tell you a tale I made up," says Gran. This is a tale of a king and his queen."

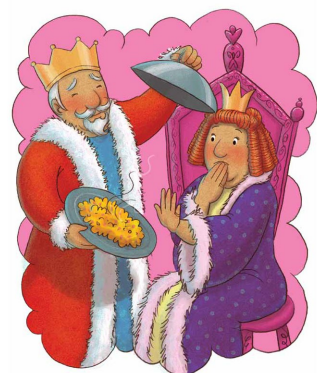


Once there was a queen who felt sad. All she did was sulk and mope.

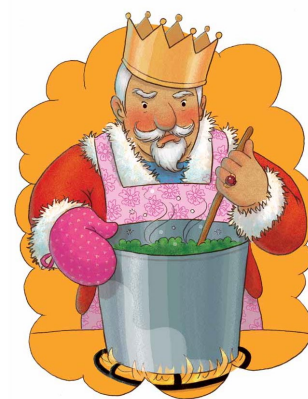
The king felt sad that his wife was so sad. He made eggs to cheer up the queen. But the queen said the eggs had a bad smell.

The king made a cake. But the queen did not like it.

The king made gum drops. But the queen did not like them.



By this time, the king was not sad. He was mad. He went back to the stove and made a pot of green slop.



"There!" the king said. "This slop is not fit to feed to pigs! The queen will hate it. But so what?"

The king piled some slop on a plate. Then he gave the plate to the queen.

The queen had a bite.



"Mmmm!" she said. "This is the best!"

"Did she like the green slop?" Jen asks.

"Yep!" says Gran.

"That was an odd tale!" says Jen.

"Odd but fun!" says Josh.

Gran tucks the kids in. Then Josh and Jen drift off to sleep.



The Trip West

"I have made plans to take a trip," says Gran. "My pal Tex has a ranch in the West. It will be a lot of fun!"

Gran smiles, but Josh and Jen are sad.

"We will miss you!" says Jen.

"What will we do here?" says Josh.

"Well," says Gran, "What if you kids came on the trip with me? Your mom and dad said I can take you with me, if you would like."

"Yes!" the kids yell. "Take us with you! Take us with you!"

Josh and Jen pack their bags. They get in a cab with Gran. Then they get on a plane.

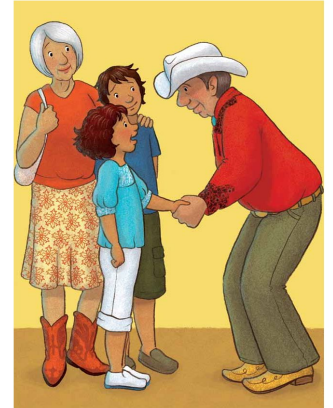
"Will we be safe on this plane?" Jen asks.

"Yes," says Gran. "This will be a safe plane ride, not like the one Fuzz had with Mel."



When the plane lands, Gran rents a van and drives the kids to the ranch.

Tex is there to greet them. He is a big man with a big hat. He shakes hands with Josh and Jen. Then he hugs Gran.



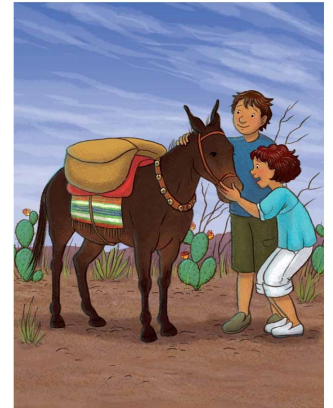
At the ranch there is a mule with packs on his back and bells on his neck.

"That is Sam," says Tex. "He has all the camp stuff in his pack."

"Will we get to camp?" asks Jen.

Tex nods. "Yup. He has your tent on his back!"

Josh and Jen run to Sam. They pet the mule. Sam shakes and his bells ring.



The kids smile.

Saved by the Bells

Josh, Jen, and Gran hike off to the camp site with Sam the mule.

"I will meet you there!" Tex yells.

When they get to the camp site, Josh hangs Sam's rope on a tree.

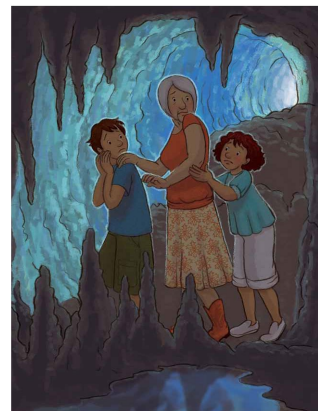
The camp site is close to a cave. Gran and the kids peek in the cave.

Drip. Drip. The cave is damp and dim. No sun shines in the cave.

Josh, Jen, and Gran hike deep in the cave. They get lost. They are a bit scared, but just then Sam's bells ring.

Sam's bells help them get back to the camp site.

When they get back, Jen hugs the mule and says, "Sam, you and your bells saved us!"



Splash Dogs

Tex takes Gran and the kids to meet his dogs, Buck and Pup. Buck is a big black dog. Pup is just a pup.

"We can take them to the lake so you can see their tricks," says Tex.



At the lake, Tex grabs a stick. "Here, Buck!" he yells.

Tex chucks the stick in the lake. Buck runs to the end of the dock and jumps. Splash! Buck swims to the stick and brings it back.

"Can Pup jump?" Jen asks.

"Well," Tex says, "he can swim, but he has not made a jump yet. Let us see if we can get him to jump."

Tex takes a stick and chucks it on the land.
Pup runs and gets it. Tex pats him on the back.

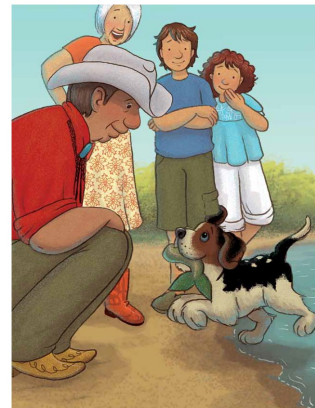
Next, Tex takes a stick and chucks it in the lake. The dogs run off, but Pup skids to a stop at the end of the dock. Buck jumps in and gets the stick.



“This time,” Tex says, “keep a hand on Buck and see if Pup will jump.”

Gran grabs Buck and hugs him. Tex chucks the stick in the lake. This time, Pup runs and makes the jump. Splash!

Josh and Jen cheer and clap.



Pup pops up and swims back to the land.
But what has he got in his teeth?

“Is that the stick?” Josh asks.

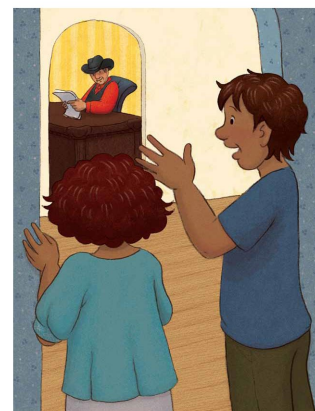
“No!” yells Jen. “Pup has a fish!”

Tex and Rex

Josh and Jen see a man in the den. The man has a black hat.

"Tex!" says Jen.

The kids smile and wave. The man waves back.



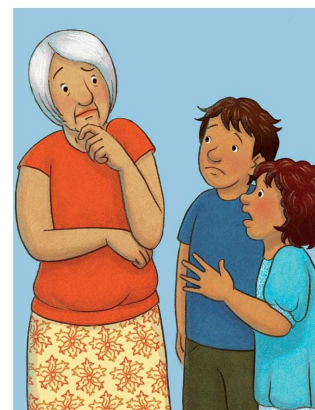
"We were at the creek!" Jen yells. The man just smiles.

"There were deer tracks at the creek!" Josh yells. The man nods, but then he runs off.

"Gran," Jen asks, "is Tex mad at us?"

"Mad?" Gran asks. "Why?"

"He seems odd," says Jen. "I said we went to the creek and he just smiled."



"And I said there were deer tracks at the creek and all he did was nod," says Josh.

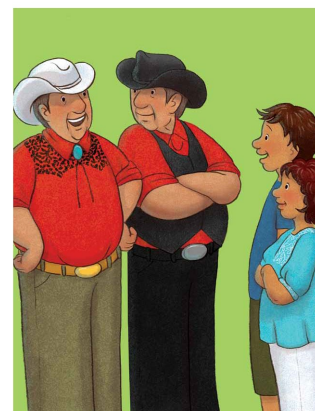
"It was Tex, but he did not act like Tex," says Jen.

Just then, Gran grins. "We need to take a trip to the shed," she says.

When Gran and the kids get to the shed, they see Tex. Then they see the man in the black hat.

Jen stares at Tex and says, "If you are Tex, then who is that?"

"Kids," says Gran with a big smile, "meet Rex. Rex and Tex are twins!"



Gran's Mud Run

Gran, Tex, and the kids are at a track. Gran is all set to drive in a Mud Run. Three trucks are lined up side by side.

A man waves a flag and the trucks take off.

Gran is fast. She drives past the red truck and the black truck. She spins the tires and slings lots of mud on the black truck. Splat!



Josh and Jen cheer.

Gran drives five laps. Then she gets stuck in deep mud.

The red truck speeds by. Then the black one zips past. Gran rocks the truck. It hops from the trench.

Gran steps on the gas. With three laps left, she zips past the black truck.

With one lap left, Gran is just in back of the red truck. The red truck slings lots of mud on Gran's truck. Gran can not see much, but she steps on the gas.

The red truck and Gran's green truck cross the line side by side.

Gran hops from the truck and yells, "Did I win?"

"Yes!" the kids yell.

Gran wipes off some mud and asks, "What is my prize?"

A man runs up with the prize.

He hands Gran a tire brush, a big box of rags, and some truck wax.

"Just what I need!" says Gran.



Gran's Trip Home

Gran hugs Josh and Jen.

"Tex will take you kids back in his truck," she says.

"Will you take a bus?" Jen asks.

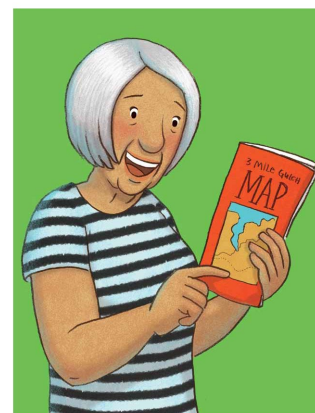
"Nope," says Gran.

Gran waves a map. "This will get me home," she says.

"See here?" she says. "We are here. I will ride my bike to Three Mile Gulch, which is here on my map. It will take me a week to get there."

"A week!" says Josh.

Gran nods.



"I will use my rope to cross the gulch," Gran says. "Then I will hike up to Pine Hill. It's just nine miles."

"Nine miles!" says Josh.

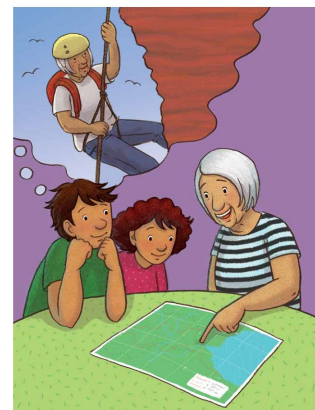
"Then I will be close to home," says Gran. "It is just ten miles from Pine Hill to my home."

"Ten miles!" says Jen.

"You kids have got one heck of a Gran!" says Tex.

As Gran sets off, the kids wave.

Gran waves back. "See you in six weeks!" she yells.



Book 7: Gran

All Short Vowels and Basic Consonants are included in these stories.
Words that use “s” to spell the sound /z/ are no longer counted as Tricky Words here.

1: Gran’s Trips

Digraphs, etc.: **ee e_e th ng sh ch ck wh**

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CVCC CCV
CCVC CCVCC VCCC CCCVC
CCCVC

Tricky Words: **the of a I to who was were**
there where what one from
says no

Word Count: 214

2: The Pet

Digraphs, etc.: **ee th ng sh wh**

Word Types: VC CV CVC CVCC CCVC VCCC

Tricky Words: **the he be a I was are what**
says no

Word Count: 80

3: Wong from Hong Kong

Digraphs, etc.: **a_e ee e_e o_e**

th ng sh ck wh

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CVCC CCVC
CCVCC VCCC CVCCC

Tricky Words: **the we be of a I who are**
there what one from says

Word Count: 107

4: Where is Wong

Digraphs, etc.: **a_e ee e_e**

th ng sh ch ck wh

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CVCC CCVC

Tricky Words: **the he she a I to there**
where what from says

Word Count: 90

5: The Swim Meet

Digraphs, etc.: **a_e ee e_e i_e**

th ng sh ck

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CVCC CCVC
CCVCC VCCC CCCVC

Tricky Words: **the of a to are they their**
there all no

Word Count: 98

6: At the Reef

Digraphs, etc.: **a_e ee e_e i_e**

th ng sh ch wh

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CVCC CCVC
VCCC

Tricky Words: **the he she me be of a I to**
was there what my why says
so no have

Word Count: 152

7: The Bug Glass

Digraphs, etc.: **a_e ee e_e i_e o_e**

th ng sh ch ck wh

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CVCC CCVC
CCVCC VCCC CVCCC
multisyllable

Tricky Words: **the he she me we be of a I**
to what some by why says so

Word Count: 183

8: The Tape

Digraphs, etc.: a_e i_e o_e

th ng sh ck wh

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CVCC CCVC
VCCC

Tricky Words: the she we a I do are they
what some by my says so

Word Count: 118

9: Fuzz and Mel

Digraphs, etc.: a_e ee e_e i_e u_e

th ng sh ck wh

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CVCC CCVC
CCVCC VCCC

Tricky Words: the he we be of a I to who
two was are were they there
what once from my why said
says all so

Word Count: 236

10: The Sweet Shop

Digraphs, etc.: a_e ee i_e o_e

th sh ck wh

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CVCC CCVC
CCVCC VCCC

Tricky Words: the of a I to do you was
were one some my says all
have

Word Count: 108

11: King and Queen

Digraphs, etc.: a_e ee e_e i_e o_e

th ng sh ch ck wh qu

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CVCC CCVC
CCVCC VCCC

Tricky Words: the he she of a I to who you
was were there where what
one once some by said says
all so no

Word Count: 241

12: The Trip West

Digraphs, etc.: a_e e_e i_e o_e

th sh ch ck wh

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CVCC CCVC
CCVCC VCCC

Tricky Words: the me we be of a I to do
you your are they their what
one my said says have

Word Count: 136

13: Saved by the Bells

Digraphs, etc.: a_e ee e_e i_e o_e u_e

th ng sh ck wh

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CCV CVCC
CCVC CCVCC

Tricky Words: the a I to you your are they
there by says no

Word Count: 119

14: Splash Dogs

Digraphs, etc.: a_e ee e_e i_e

th ng sh ch ck wh

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CVCC CCVC
CCVCC VCCC CVCCC CCCVC

Tricky Words: the he we of a to you their
what says so no

Word Count: 236

15: Tex and Rex

Digraphs, etc.: a_e ee e_e i_e

th sh ck wh

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CVCC CCVC
CCVCC VCCC

Tricky Words: the he she we a I to who
you was are were they there
why said says all

Word Count: 180

16: Gran's Mud Run

Digraphs, etc.: **a_e ee i_e o_e**

th ng sh ch ck wh

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CCV CVCC
CCVC CCVCC VCCC CVCCC
CCCVC multisyllable

Tricky Words: **the he she of a I to are**
what one some from by my
says all

Word Count: 217

17: Gran's Trip Home

Digraphs, etc.: **a_e ee e_e i_e o_e**

th sh ch ck wh

Word Types: VC CV CVC VCC CCV CVCC
CCVC VCCC

Tricky Words: **the she me we be of a I to**
you are there one from my
says have

Word Count: 156