

Māhuri



Lurking in the Dark



Ready to Read Phonics Plus

By **Samantha Montgomerie** | Illustrated by **Giselle Clarkson**

Lurking in the Dark

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Illustrated by Giselle Clarkson



It is late.

It is getting dark.

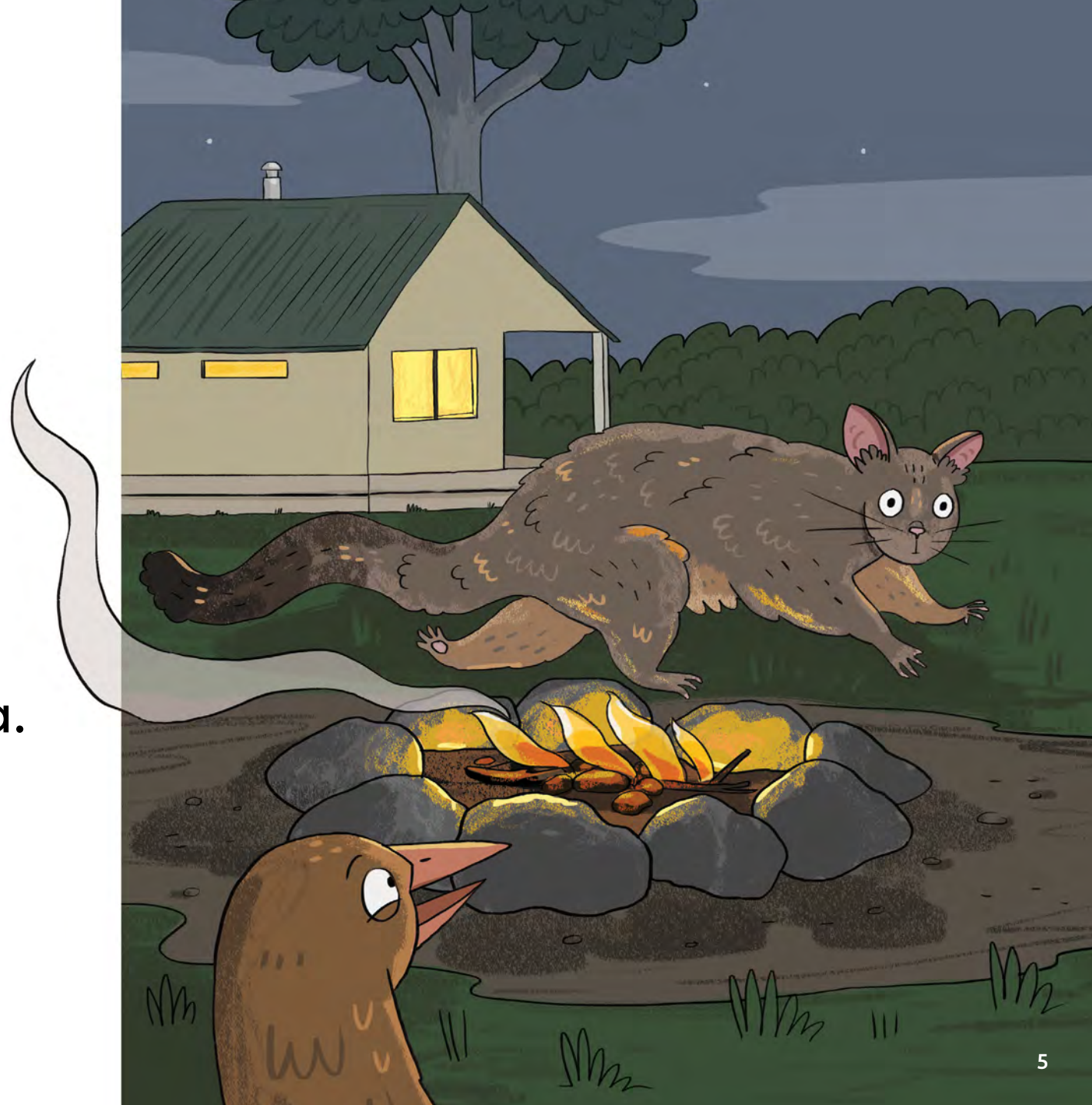
“Time to turn home,”
thinks Weka.

Weka turns by the hut.

A campfire burns.

Weka sees a flash of fur.

“I must get home,” says Weka.





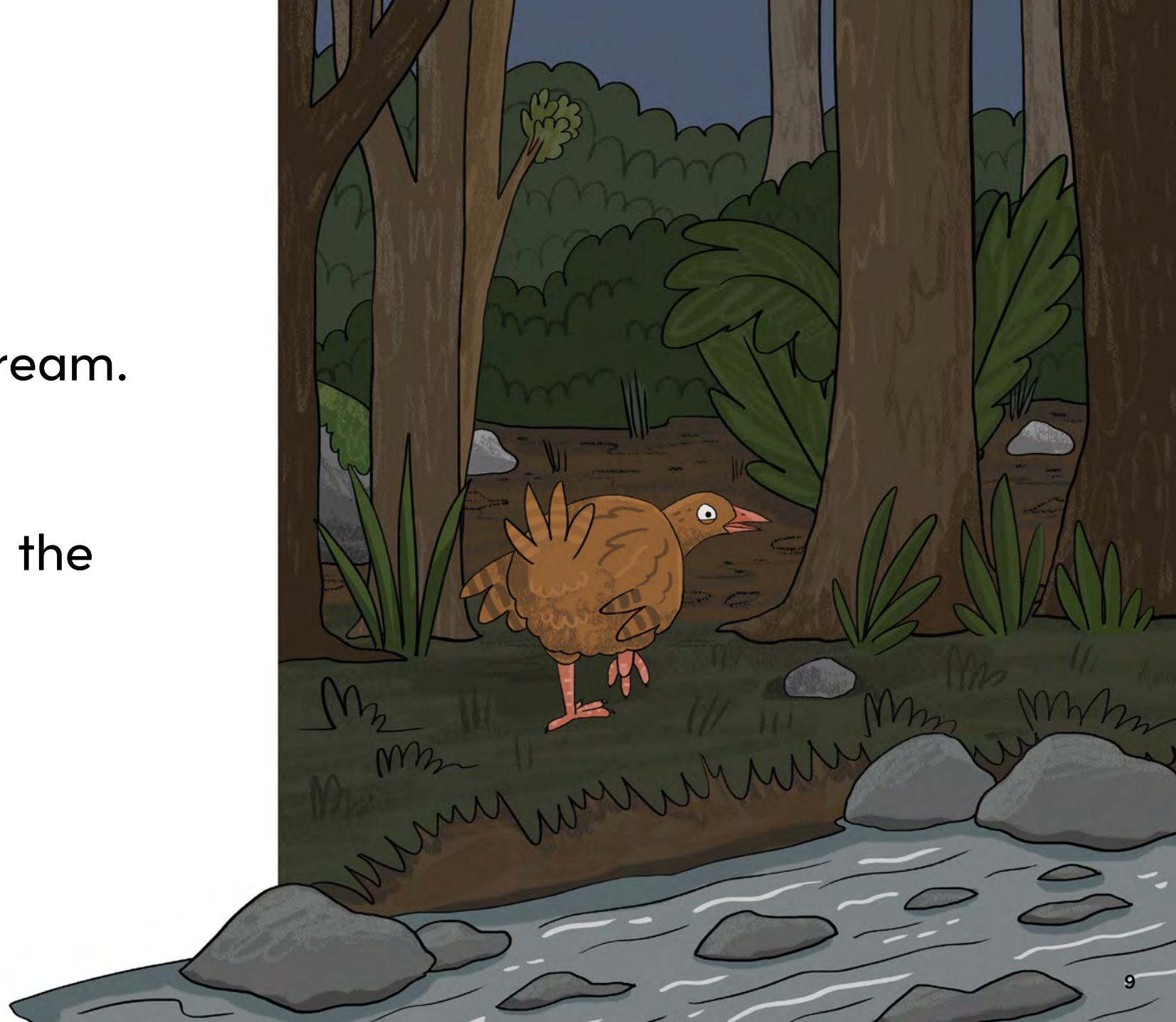
Strong wings flap.

It is Ruru!

“Weka, what are you doing
lurking in the dark?” asks Ruru.

“I am going home,” says Weka.

Weka turns by the stream.
He hears a splash.
“What is splashing in the
stream?” asks Weka.





Splash! It is Frog, surfing
down the stream.

“Weka, what are you doing
lurking in the dark?” asks Frog.

“I am going home,” says Weka.

Weka turns by the log.
Snail unfurls from her shell.
“Weka, what are you doing
lurking in the dark?” asks Snail.
“I am going home,” says Weka.





Home at last. Weka is safe.
He curls up in his snug nest.
He drifts off to sleep.
No more lurking in the dark.

TEACHING NOTES

Lurking in the Dark

■ Reading practice

This story provides children with practice in reading and understanding short words using carefully selected focus sounds.

Focus sounds

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Introduce the text and read the story aloud together, pointing to each word as you read. Encourage children to sound out the regular words that they already know the sounds for. The regular words that contain the focus sounds for this book are listed below. For words that include sounds that the children haven't learnt yet, you may simply tell children the words as you read together. Give plenty of praise for children's reading attempts and encourage re-reading to build accuracy and fluency.

Regular words for sounding out

lurking, turns, burns, fur, unfurls, surfing, curls
campfire, doing

Other words to tell children

■ Phonological awareness

Practise segmenting and blending sounds together to make words. You could say, "Let's say the sounds (phonemes) together in each word I say."

Have children find each word you segment and blend on the page.

Use the table below for suggestions on how to segment and blend target words from this story.

burn	b-ur-n
camp	c-a-m-p
lurch	l-ur-ch
dark	d-ar-k
stream	s-t-r-ea-m

■ Morphological awareness

Discuss the word **unfurl**. It means to stretch out or to unfold. Write down the word and underline the prefix **-un**. Provide some other examples of words that contain the prefix **-un**:

do-**undo** | tie-**untie** | zip-**unzip** | fit-**unfit**

Read the words together, helping children to identify the prefix **un**. Talk about the different meanings of the word pairs.

■ Vocabulary

Talk about the meaning of the word **lurking** (i.e. hiding).

■ Spelling

Support children to listen and identify where the sound change occurs in words. Use the suggested letters or letter blocks to spell and read the words. Prompt as necessary to ensure success.



Use the phrasing: "If this word spells **burn**, can you spell **turn**? If this word spells **turn**, can you spell **churn**?"

Easier changes: | burn > turn > churn > church

Harder changes: | barn > burn > burp > beep

■ Story discussion

Discuss why Weka was 'lurking' in the dark on his way home rather than moving noisily through the bush.

■ Story retell

Ask the children to retell the story to a friend or family member. Prompt as necessary using picture cues. Give plenty of praise and encouragement for verbal responses.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA



Rākau
Tree



Tupu
Seedling



Kākano
Seed

Māhuri Sapling

Tense morphemes
Vowel digraphs

Focus sounds

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