

The Hissing Bush

by Trish Puharich
illustrated by Richard Hoit



*Ready
to Read*

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James and Nicola were playing
at the park. They ran past a bush.
They heard a hissing sound.



“What was that?” asked James.

Nicola looked at the bush.

“It was that bush.

It was hissing,” she said.

“Don’t be silly!” said James.

“Bushes don’t hiss.”

“It *was* hissing. I’ll show you,”
said Nicola.



She walked past the bush again.
The bush hissed.

The children looked at each other.
They looked at the bush.

“This is so weird,” said Nicola.



James whispered, “Maybe it’s a snake.
Snakes hiss.”

Nicola laughed. “We don’t have snakes
in New Zealand,” she said.

James walked past the bush again.
Hiss, hiss, hiss.

“Maybe it’s a cat. Cats hiss,” said James.

“It doesn’t sound like a cat to me,”
said Nicola.



Nicola took a step closer.
They didn’t hear a sound.
James went closer -
and closer ...
Hissss!



“I don’t like the sound of that!”
said Nicola.

“And I don’t like the look of that!”
yelled James.



Out of the bush jumped a goose.
Hissss! Hissss! Hissss!

“Help!” yelled James. “Run!”

The goose fluffed up her feathers
and went back to her nest
in the bush.



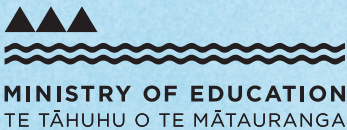


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