

# Decodable Reader 22



## All Week Long

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### Phonics Skill

#### *Homophones*

board/bored  
role/roll

flour/flower  
stair/stare

here/hear  
week/weak

road/rode  
write/right





"I'm bored," Val said to Mom. "What can I do?"

It was the middle of summer. Val tapped her fingers on the board her mom was painting.

"Look at the world around you," said Mom. "Stop and take time to observe, and you will not be bored."

"How can I begin?" asked Val.





“What do you hear?” asked Mom. “Listen hard!”

Val did not hear too much at first. At last noises came to her ears. She heard the weak sound of cars whizzing along far away. Their motors hummed. Close by, birds sang songs and two bees buzzed. Mom’s paintbrush made a whishing noise. Now here came a purring kitten. There were so many sounds to hear.





The next day, Val asked, "Now how can I observe?"

Mom knew what to ask. "What can you smell?"

Val sniffed the air. "Nothing," she said. But she found many new things to smell. One flower smelled like spice. Later Mom and Val mixed flour into cake batter. The freshly baked cake would smell sweet.





The next day as they rode in the car, Val grinned and asked, "What now?"

"What can you feel?" asked Mom.

The car seat felt hot. The glass window felt slick. Stones in the road felt sharp. Her puppy's nose was wet and cold. His fur felt soft and warm. Val liked how he felt.

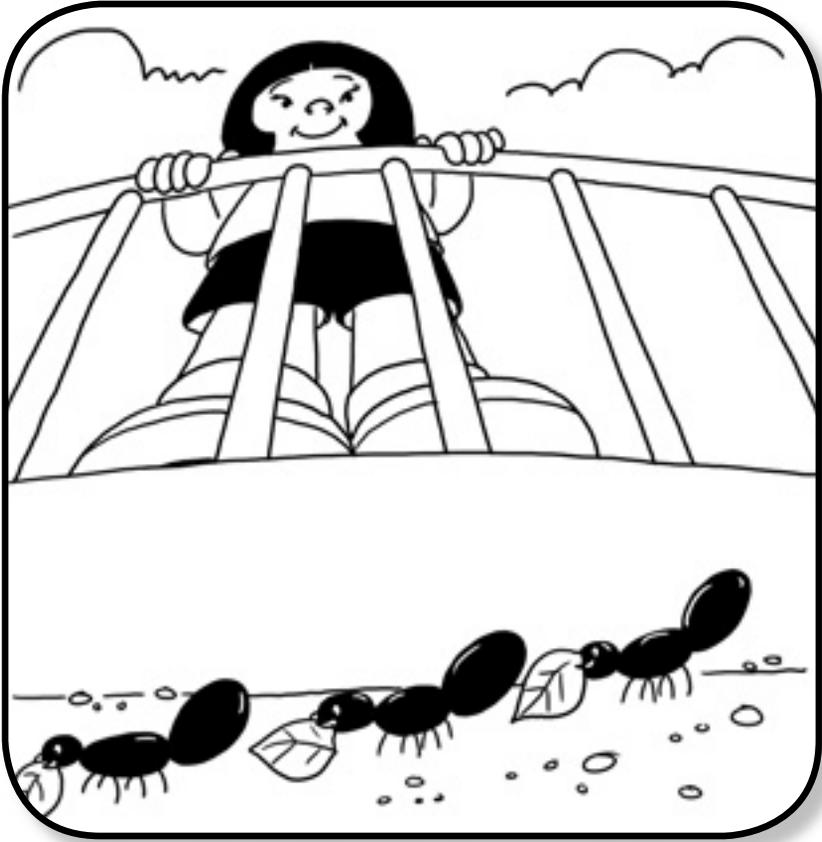




 Next Val tried out her taste buds. She played the role of a chef taste-testing foods. She crunched peanuts and chips. She tried pickles.

The banana she ate was sweet like cream, but a tart berry exploded in her mouth. She put jam on a hot fresh roll. That tasted best of all.





Friday was a day for seeing. Val and Aunt Lin strolled to the park. There were many things to stare at. Standing on a stair, Val watched a line of ants. Each ant held bits of leaves. Next Val and Aunt Lin sat down and watched a ballgame for an hour. It ended when a player struck out.

“Our day was fun!” Val told Mom when she returned home.





It had been a fun-filled week without even an echo of "I'm bored."

In her diary, Val would write, "The world is full of sounds, smells, tastes, feelings, and sights."

On Saturday, Val went outside first thing. She was sure the world had many more things to teach her, and she was right!

