



Whirling Girl

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Phonics Skill

R-controlled /êr/: ir, er, ur, ear, or

whirling
world

early
Turkey

word
dirt

hurled
earth

certain
pearls



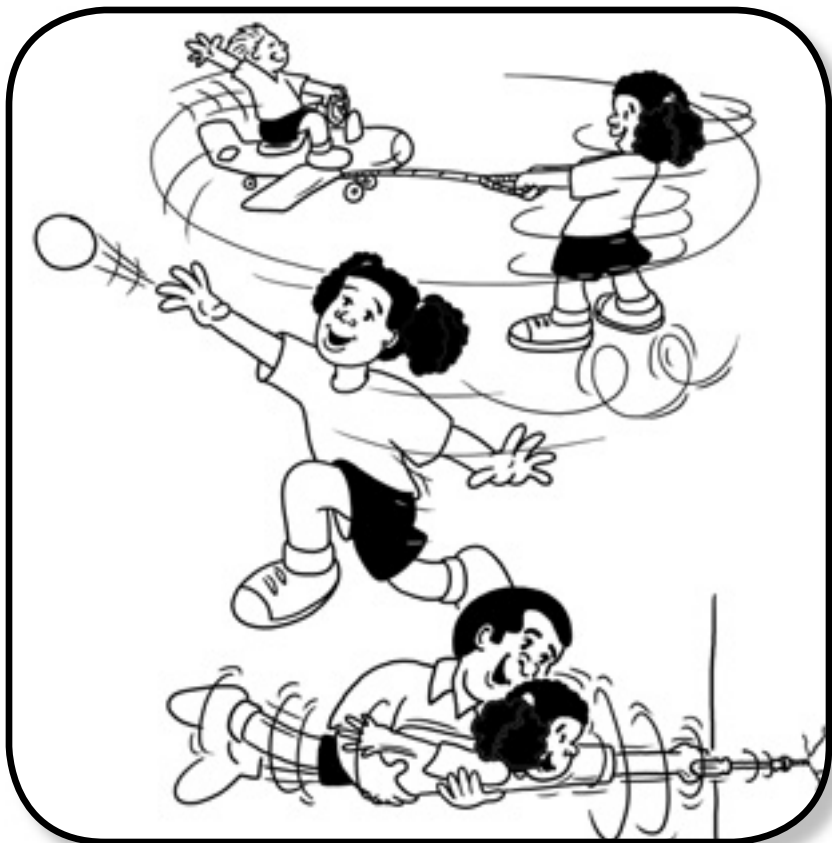


Shirley had talent. From the beginning her parents saw that she was going places. Early in the morning on the day after her birth, Shirley began to whirl. Mom and Dad found her spinning like a top in her crib.

“What on Earth!” exclaimed Dad.

“My word!” cried Mom.






Shirley was a happy baby. She became a sweet girl who liked helping out. She was happiest when spinning. She learned to use her spinning in lots of ways. She gave kids airplane rides. She hurled the shot put about a mile. Shirley could hang paintings quicker than a blink.





 But Shirley was certain she could do more. How could a talent for spinning help the world?

Shirley dreamed a dream. In her dream, she became Whirling Girl! She bored a hole into the earth and saved a lost boy. She whirled rope around men who were robbing First Bank and left them in a neat bundle.





When she woke up, Shirley had a plan. She tied shovels on her feet and began to spin.

"I bet I can tunnel all the way to Turkey!"

Her tunnels were huge wormholes.

"There is a lot of dirt in this yard," yelled Dad.

"What were you thinking?" asked Mom.





Shirley blurted out the story of her dream.
"Shirley, you are great now!" said Dad.

"Even if you couldn't twirl, we would still think you are great," added Mom.

But Shirley felt so sad that Mom and Dad began thinking. Their thinking went round and round.





At last they had it! "Come with us, Shirley," said Mom and Dad. They drove to an ice rink. Shirley tied on ice skates.

"Meet Coach Durning," said Mom. "She will teach you to skate."

Shirley learned to soar like a bird over the ice.





Shirley learned to skate so well, she became a star. She liked her skating dress with pearls and sequins. She sparkled as she leaped and danced over the ice. But the crowd enjoyed it most when Shirley, the Whirling Girl, twirled like a top.

