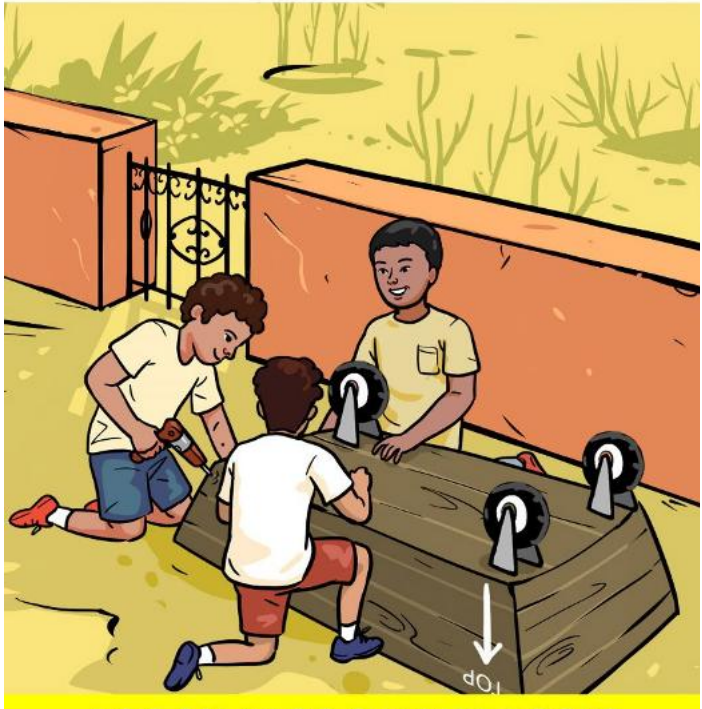
RAFT CLUB

By Pamela Brookes



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Inside this book

You get to read words with:

- All rules in prior Steps plus:
- Consonant blends to make 4 sound words
- 3 and 4 sound words ending in –lk, sk

You should be able to read these words:

a, are, as, be, could, do, does, for, from, go, goes, has, have, he, her, here, his, I, into, is, like, likes, me, my, no, of, OK, push, put, puts, said, saw, say, says, see, sees, she, should, the, their, there, they, to, want, was, we, what, where, would, you, your

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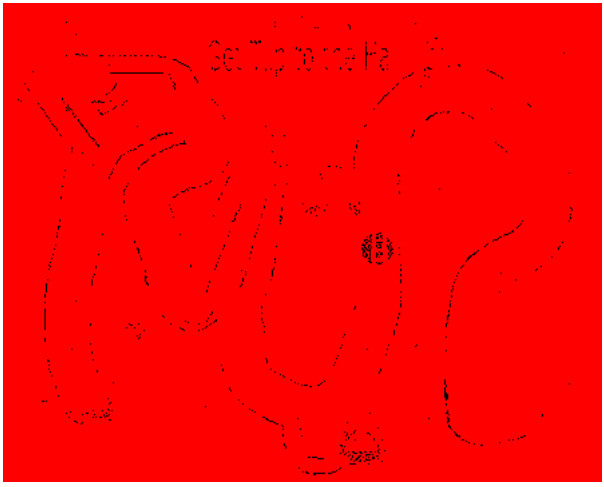
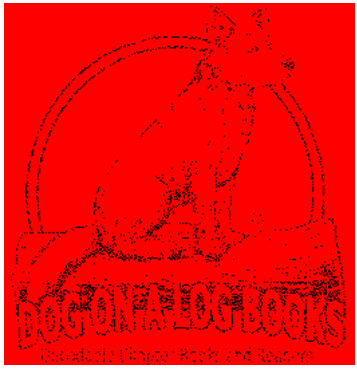




RAFT CLUB

DOG ON A LOG Chapter Books
Step 4

By Pamela Brookes
Edited by Brenda Hanna M.Ed.
Illustrated by Doan Trang

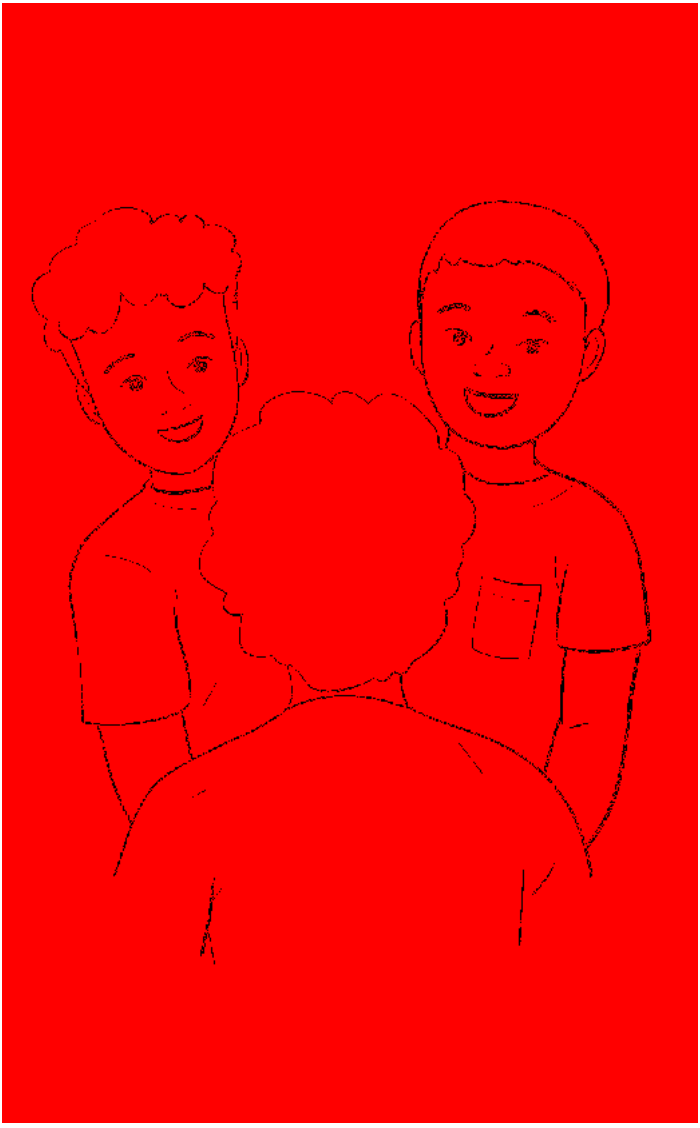
Did She Say That?

"Did she say that?" I say to Quin and Russ.

Quin and Russ are in shock, just like I am.

"Did she just say that?" I say.

"She did," Russ says. "We must get a plan."



"Did she say that?" I say to Quin and Russ.

“I did not think we would do this,” Quin says. “I am glad we can swim. Miss Kim said just the kids that can swim can do this. She does not want kids that could sink if they fall.”

I nod at Quin. “Can all the kids in the club swim?’

"I saw Ash and Brin swim in **The Big Wet**," Quin says.

"Brad and Bill can swim," Russ says.

"Gil can swim. Can Rich swim?" I ask.

"We can ask him," Russ says. He goes to the desk where Gil and Rich sit.

“This will be fun,” Russ says to Rich “Can you swim? If not, we can help you.”

“I can swim. I am glad. I would not want to miss this. This will be a lot of fun,” Rich says.

Russ goes back to his pals. “I am glad Rich can swim. We must get a plan. This will be fun.”

Raft Kits

Quin, Russ, and I are in the **Raft Club**. Russ's kid sis Fran does not go to **Raft Club**. She has STEM club when we are at **Raft Club**.

Raft Club is lots of fun. We get raft kits and whip them up.

They are not big rafts we can go on. They are small. They are hand-held.

To whip up the kits, we must have ship gum.

Ship gum gets all the bits to stick. Ship gum will fix the gaps and cracks.

When the gum is not soft and the raft can get wet, they are set. It can take a long bit for the ship gum to set.

When it sets, we go to **The Big Wet**. We go to the sand. We set the raft in the pond.

To get the rafts to go, we tug them with long floss.

Ship gum gets all the bits to stick.

We did have a kit that we had to plug in. That raft had a fob. We would press the fob and the raft would go. That was the best raft. It could go to the end of the pond and back.

What Miss Kim said will be the best rafts yet.

We will not get a kit. We will have to think of a plan. The plan will be for a raft we go on. It must be big as Quin, Russ, and I must sit on it. It must not sink.

We must get it from this end of the pond to that end of the pond. We can not get off the raft. We can not swim to get the raft to go.

We must get the raft to the end of **The Big Wet** pond.

Then we must get it on the land and get it to go. All the kids that get to the end will have Top Dog Plans. We will get swag. It could be a sash or a pin.

We must get a pad and pen. When we have a plan on the pad, Miss Kim will see what she thinks.

If Miss Kim thinks it will not sink, we will whip up a mock-up. It will be a hand-held raft.

If Miss Kim says the mock-up is OK, then we are set. We will get planks and a big tub of ship gum. That is when we jump into it. That is when we will whip up the raft.

Plans

We sit in my back lot. Russ has his dog with him. My dog likes to run and tug with his dog. They kick up a lot of dust.

“What should we plan?” Russ says.

“It can not sink,” Quin says.

"And it must go on the land," Russ says.

"A bath tub will not sink," I say. "What if we get a bath tub. We can get it to go with sculls. The scull is a long stick. We will put the end of the scull in **The Big Wet**. The scull will push and get the raft go."

“Sculls are for clubs that go fast,” Russ says.

“I think sculls would do a swell job for this. I do not think we must go fast with sculls,” I say.

“That is what I think,” Quin says.

Quin rubs his chin. “What do we do to get the bath tub to go on land?” he says to me.

I go blank. “Gosh, let me think…” I say. I sit and think. “What if we cut six slots in the tub? We can stick a leg in a slot. Then we could hang on to the tub and run.”

"We could hang on to the tub and run," I say.

I can see that Quin and Russ do not think that would do the job.

"No?" I ask.

"If we cut slots in the bath tub, it would sink," Quin says.

"I see," I say. "I did not think of that."

“I think I have a plan,” Russ says. “Do you have a hand truck?”

“Yes,” Quin and I say.

“We can get the raft to go with the hand truck’s spins,” Russ says.

“The spins?” I say.

“Yes. The spins that let you push the hand truck. We can get the lug nuts off, then get the spins off. Will your dad let us do that?” Russ asks.

“I think he would,” I say.

“Can I have the pad and pen?” Russ asks.

Mock-Up

We whip up the mock-raft with small bits of plank. We fix on small rings that spin.

We set the raft on a desk and push it. The rings spin and the raft goes.

Miss Kim picks up the raft. She twists it and it winks in the lamp. She sets it on the desk and it gets a push.

The rings spin and the raft goes. She sets it in the sink. The raft gets wet. It bobs, but does not sink.

“Your plans and your raft are tops. Are your moms and dads set for your big raft?” Miss Kim says.

We all nod. “We will whip it up in the back lot. My dad got the stuff for it,” I say.

“Then have fun. I think your raft will be swell,” Miss Kim says.

Ship Gum and Pegs

Fran is here with Russ. She can not help as she is not in the club.

Fran sits with her mom and dad. They are with my mom and dad. They all snack on chips and plums. The dogs run and kick up dust.

Dad can help us cut the planks with his saw, but that is all he can do. We must do the rest.

We set plank on plank. We get the drill to spin. We hit in pegs and slap on ship gum.

Dad went to **Hank's Fix-It Shop**. He got us a set of spins just for the raft.

We set the raft on its top. I drill spots in the plank where we will put the spins.

Quin grabs the pegs that will set the spins. Russ puts a bit of ship gum in with the pegs.

Quin hits the pegs. The spins are set.

We set the raft on its top.

We get the raft off its top. We set it on the spins.

We lash floss on the raft and tug. It goes!

We are set. As long as it does not sink in **The Big Wet**, the raft will be swell.

The Big Wet

All the kids from **Raft Club** are at **The Big Wet**. The rafts are all swell.

Gil and Rich's raft is red. Ash and Brin's raft has a flag with pink checks on it.

Brad and Bill are 16 and 17. Their raft has a big thing that spins. They push with their legs and the thing spins. That gets them to go.

Dad and Russ's dad help us get the raft in **The Big Wet** pond.

Fran hugs Russ and says, "I wish you luck."

Moms, dads, kids, and dogs are on the sand next to **The Big Wet**. My dog ruffs when he sees me.

Russ and I pick up the sculls. He, Quin, and I get on the raft.

We have drinks. We have snacks. We are set.

“OK, you kids. Are you set?” Miss Kim calls.

All the club kids are on their rafts. Quin sits at the back of the raft. Russ sits next to me. He and I grab a scull.

“Get set,” Miss Kim calls.

I grip my scull with my hands.

Quin sits at the back of the raft. Russ sits next to me.

"Go!" Miss Kim yells.

Russ and I set the sculls in **The Big Wet**. We tug. The raft goes.

It is like **The Big Wet** grabs the sculls. It is a big job to get the raft to go.

Quin can tell this is a big job. "You can do it," he says to me and Russ.

That helps us. We get the raft to go. It is fast. We tug and tug.

We go past Gil and Rich. We are not as fast as Brad and Bill, but they are big. They are 16 and 17.

A duck swims next to us. It quacks. It goes as fast as us.

I put my scull in **The Big Wet**. I hit a big rock. My scull snaps. “No,” I yell.

Russ does not see my scull. He puts his in **The Big Wet**. He tugs. The raft twists. We go to the sand.

“We can not go,” I yell. I am in shock and sad.

The end of my scull bobs on top of **The Big Wet.** It is a chunk of scull. It will not do the job.

My dog ruffs. He runs from my mom's grip. He jumps in **The Big Wet.**

My dog swims to my scull. He grabs the bit of scull. He swims to the raft.

Russ and I get him into the raft. He drops the end of the scull.

“What do we do?” Quin says.

My dog swims to my scull. He grabs the bit of scull.

"We must get to the end of **The Big Wet** then go on the land. The plans will not be top dog if we do not do that," Russ says.

"We must be on the raft when we get to the end of **The Big Wet**," I say.

My dog flaps to get the wet off him. He ruffs at a duck.

“The dog,” Quin says. “We have to be on the raft, but the dog does not. He could swim.”

“He could tug us,” Russ says.

My Dog

"Mom, Mom," I call. "Go to the end. Call the dog. Tell him to swim to you."

I tell my dog to swim. He gets in **The Big Wet**.

Quin hands my dog the floss. "Go to Mom," Quin says.

My dog swims. He grips the floss. Mom calls him. He tugs the raft.

All the kids are at the end of **The Big Wet**. Their rafts are on the land. Their moms and dads are there. They all see us.

"Go, dog, go. Go, dog, go," they all yell.

My dog tugs the raft.

Then they all chant, “Go, dog, go. Go, dog, go.”

We get to the end. Russ, Quin, and I are all on the raft. We did it!

We jump to the land. I pet my dog. “You are top dog,” I tell him.

“Let us get to the end,” Russ says.

All the kids get their rafts to go. We all get to the end. We all did it! We all had Top Dog rafts.

All the rafts get a bit of swag. We all had fun.

Miss Kim goes up to my dog. She puts swag on his neck. The swag says “Top Dog.”

She puts swag on his neck.

High Frequency Words used in "RAFT CLUB"

a, are, as, be, could, do, does, for, from, go, goes, has, have, he, her, here, his, I, into, is, like, likes, me, my, no, of, OK, push, put, puts, said, saw, say, says, see, sees, she, should, the, their, there, they, to, want, was, we, what, where, would, you, your

Book has about 1,900 total words.

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