

Before reading

Say the sounds

These are the focus sounds that your child will practise in this book. Encourage them to point to each letter or group of letters and say the sound.

w sh th ng ai igh oa
oo (long) oo (short) ar or

Some of the words in this book have lines under the letters. The line shows that the group of letters makes one sound. Practise reading these words together.

port market took coal

The words in blue are known as 'tricky words'. They have a letter or letters that make an unexpected sound. Practise reading these tricky words together.

he was

Talk about the book

Look at and discuss the cover picture and title before asking the following question.


 This story is about a toad that is a boatman. Can you guess what a boatman does?

While you are reading, look at page 7.

 Why do you think Toad has a long, long wait?

Vocabulary check

Read and discuss the new words using the definitions below.

 **Corn** is the name for seeds taken from plants such as wheat, barley or oats and they are used for making flour.

 A **mill** is a building where corn is crushed to make flour.

 **Bait** is food that you put on a hook or in a trap to catch a small animal like a fish.