Theme 6 ~ Phonics Readers Houghton Mifflin, 2001.

* Notice the vowel pairs. Usually, when 2 vowels go walking, the first one does the talking. The second one is silent, as in ee, ea (long e sound), ai, ay (long a sound).
* Sound out words when stuck. Try to start from vowel on, then add in beginning sound. For ex. for seal ~ “eal” then “s” = “seal.”
* Visualize to comprehend.
* Summarize by saying: Somebody Wanted But So Then as in Duke’s Gift: **Duke wanted** to hide his bone **but** he did not have a safe place to hide it, **so** he dug up Dad’s plants, **then** Dad yelled, “No more holes!”

Duke's Gift

Dad has a gift for Duke. It's this huge bone! Duke checks left and right and up and back. He has not got a safe place to hide this huge bone. Duke hunts for the best place to dig. He digs up Dad's five prize rose plants. “No, Duke, no!” yells Dad. “No more holes!”

Legs Gets His lunch

It is wet. Legs hides in a small hole in a big log. At last, the sun shines so Legs pokes his nose out. Legs spots a plant where he can spin his web. Legs can climb up and up. He will use soft silk to spin his web. Legs hopes his huge web will catch a fat ant. Then Legs will get his lunch.

The Nest

Jude found this nest in a big plant by his home. Jude left it and went to get Rose. Rose bent down. “This egg will hatch in no time.” One morning, the egg had a huge crack in it. “It broke,” yelled Jude. Then Rose spoke, “The egg is fine. It's just hatching.” “It’s so cute,” said Jude. “It looks soft as silk.”

Seal Beach

Mom and I walk to the sea. We take steep steps that lead to the beach. We see seals. These seals swim and dive. We see them eat fish and squid. This seal pup wakes up from its nap. It can't see its mother. The seal pup keeps looking. At last it sees its mother. She is back to feed her pup.

Pete and Peach

“Let's run and leap,” yells Pete the horse. But Peach the cow just sits in the green, green grass. “See me leap this wall?” yells Pete. But Peach just sits in the green, green grass. She smells a flower. “See me leap this wide creek?” yells Pete. But Peach just sits in the green, green grass. She smells a flower with a bee in it! “That is a fine leap, Peach!” yells Pete.

Gram’s Huge Meal

Gram made a huge meal. She set it on a long, long table. Then she went to get Pops. A white cow with black spots leaned in. “Pops will not eat these green grapes,” he said. “This is a real treat.” A big black horse stuck his neck in. Pops will not eat these beans and peas,” she said. “This is a fine feast.” Pops and Gram came in. “Yum!” said Pops. “Now this meal is just right.”

Rain Day

Ducks play in this lake all day. Ducks like it wet, so ducks like the rain. Frogs play in this pond all day. Frogs like it wet, so frogs like the rain. This dog wags her tail and jumps. Will she like it went, too? She may play in the rain. We stamp our feet and splash. We like it wet. We like playing in the rain.

Cub’s Long Day

This cub has big feet and a little tail. His home is a cave deep in the forest. Each day the cub gets up to run and play. Then he rests. When he wakes up, he is hungry! He waits at the stream to catch fish. He eats treats that stain his face red. Each evening, the cub finds his way back home on the trail.

Jay’s Trip

Jay the snail has never seen a bay. His home is near trees and plants. One fine day, Jay takes a nap on this big red leaf. While Jay sleeps, he sails a long way. When Jay wakes up, he is at a beach on a bay! Kay gets Jay and sets him in her gray pail. “This snail is far from his home,” she thinks. That evening, Kay goes home. Soon Jay is right at home, too.