

# LESSON PLAN GUIDE

PictureBook English Reading Series — Phonics

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<b>Category</b>	Phonics	<b>Title</b>	Phonics Book 14 – Home Sweet Home
<b>Ages</b>	4-7	<b>Theme</b>	Blend Words + Long Vowel Sounds

## INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK

In this book, children combine two powerful skills — consonant blends from Book 10 and long vowel sounds from Books 11 to 13 — to read more complex and beautiful words. Through seven unique homes — a tree, a swamp, a cave, a lake, the sea, the sky, and a cozy house — children discover the creatures and things that call each place home.

This book makes reading practice feel like an adventure. From squirrels in the treetops to the moon floating in the sky, every page invites children to think about what a home means — for other creatures, and for themselves.

## STORY HOMES AT A GLANCE

Home	Who lives there?	Home	Who lives there?	Blend words practised
<b>A tree</b>	Squirrels, birds	<b>A cave</b>	Bats	<i>blend + long vowel words</i>
<b>A swamp</b>	Crocodiles	<b>A lake</b>	Ducks	<i>e.g. swamp, tree, lake, brave</i>
<b>The sea</b>	Icebergs	<b>The sky</b>	The moon	<i>flight, glow, sleep, float</i>
<b>A cozy house</b>	Us!			<i>blend + long vowel combinations</i>

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

*Children will be able to:*

- Read words that combine consonant blends with long vowel sounds
- Use phonics skills from Books 10–13 together in a connected reading context
- Understand the concept of different homes for different creatures and things
- Connect the story to their own home and daily life
- Read the story with growing fluency and expression through repeated reading

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### 1. Explore the concept of homes

Before reading, spark a conversation about homes. Ask: 'Where do squirrels live?' and 'What about crocodiles or bats?' Introduce the idea that just like we have homes, every creature and thing in nature has its own special place. This builds background knowledge and makes each page feel like a discovery.

### 2. Connect to your child's own home

Ask your child what they do at home every day — eat, sleep, play, read. Then, as you read each home in the book, ask: 'Do you think the squirrel sleeps in the tree just like you sleep in your bed?' This personal connection makes the sentences easier to understand and far more memorable.

### 3. Read blend and long vowel words carefully

As you encounter blend words combined with long vowel sounds — for example: tree (tr + ee), brave (br + ave), float (fl + oat), sleep (sl + eep) — pause and decode them together. Encourage your child to identify both the blend and the long vowel pattern before reading the whole word. This is a valuable consolidation of everything learned in Books 10 to 13.

### 4. Point to pictures and connect meaning

Use the illustrations on each page to help your child understand the world of each home. Ask: 'What is the crocodile doing in the swamp?' or 'Why does the moon live in the sky?' The pictures make the vocabulary vivid and help children connect sounds to meaning.

### 5. Read again and again

This story is full of wonder and beautiful imagery — children will want to revisit it. Encourage repeated reading until your child can read every page smoothly and confidently. Each re-reading deepens phonics fluency and brings new enjoyment to the story.

## FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Ask your child to choose their favourite home from the book and draw a detailed picture of it — showing the creatures or things that live there and what they do. Encourage them to write two or three sentences about the home using blend and long vowel words. For an extra challenge, ask: 'Can you think of another creature that might live there?' and 'What would you name it?' This creative activity brings together phonics, vocabulary, and imagination beautifully.

Try the fun online learning activities for this book on our website!

[Click here to try the online learning activities](#)

## TEACHER'S NOTES AND TIPS

Book 14 is an important consolidation book — it brings together consonant blends and long vowel patterns in a rich, meaningful reading context. Children who can read this book comfortably have mastered a significant range of phonics patterns and are ready to move into more advanced territory. The homes theme is wonderfully open-ended and works well as a science discussion starter — talking about habitats connects phonics to the wider curriculum. For classroom settings, assigning each group a different home to illustrate and present creates a lovely whole-class display that celebrates the book and the phonics learning together.