

## These are 2 of the **40** Very Short Stories

31. **Find** mē **five** fīsh, and **I** will **pāy** yōu  
**\$2** ēach.

Find me five fish, and I will pay you \$2 each.

32. **Her** birdcāge hōlds **thrēe** birds. **Her**  
**birds** cān spēak **shōrt** words.

Her birdcage holds three birds. Her birds can speak short words.

Let me explain the strange look of these words and sentences.

**The Words** - Whenever a letter can make more than one sound, I write it with the picture clue to *show* the child which sound it makes. Also, if two letters make one sound of their own (a digraph), I will use its clue which includes underlining the two letters together, as shown above. If a letter says nothing at all, it is smaller and thinner than the other letters. This way there is no struggle with what sound to try to apply to any of the letters. And this is why they can read with such ease and little to no frustration.

**The Sentences** - I've designed these sentences to be read 3 times. This is to increase fluency and confidence in the reader. **The 1st time** through, the child just tries to figure out the words. **The 2nd time** through, he/she will add Expression to the words. This is done by reading the large words in a high pitch and the small words in a low pitch. Two tones are all that are necessary to teach expression, and it makes all the difference in the world! It's pretty cool once they catch on to it. **The 3rd time** through, you will cover up the sentence with the picture clues, and they will read it below *without* the clues. If they get stuck, raise the paper and let them figure it out again. When they read it on their own, they get to add their *own* expression, and that's where the fun gets funner! And sometimes funnier!