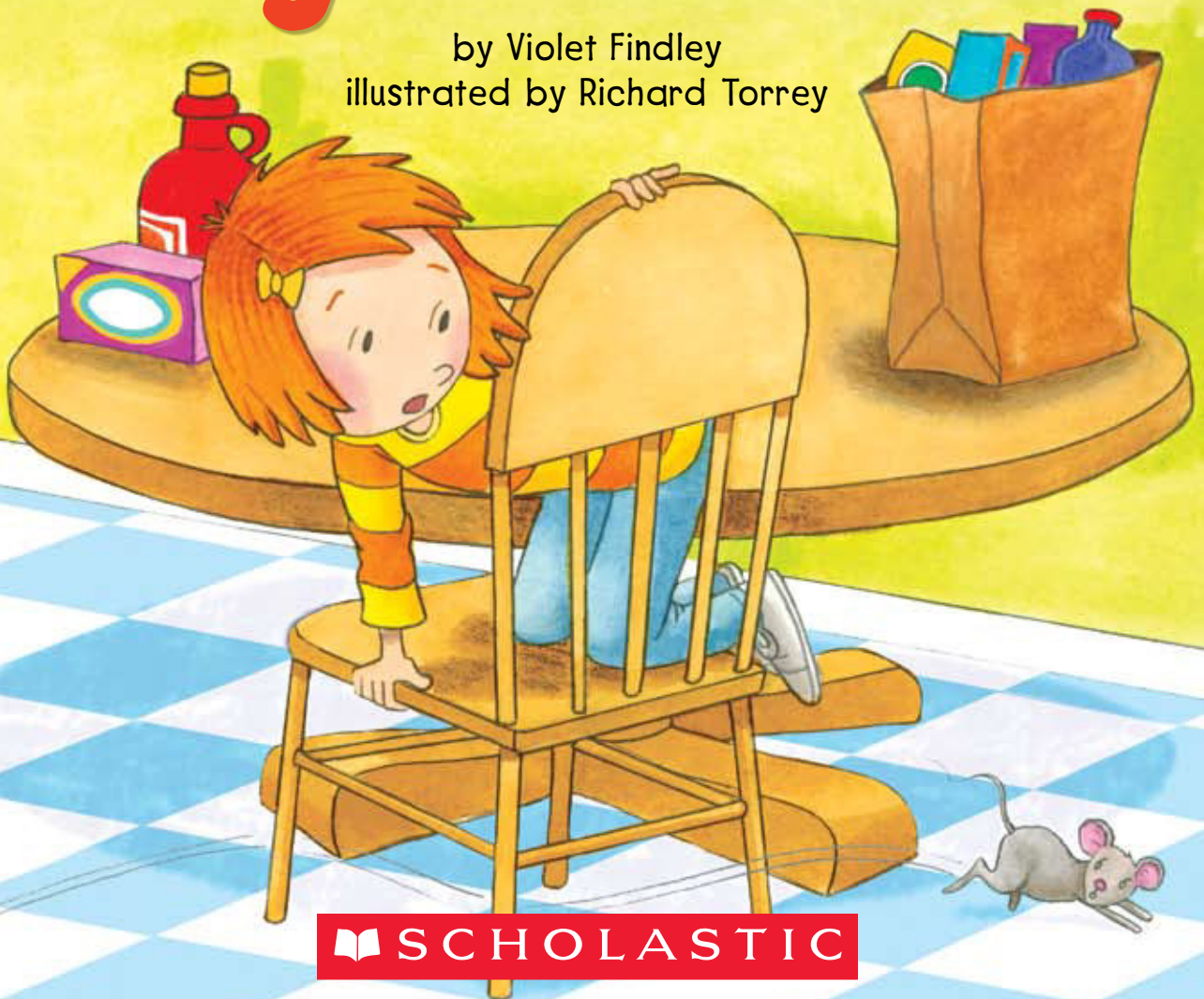


Phonics Tales!™

ou

Mouse in My House!

by Violet Findley
illustrated by Richard Torrey



 SCHOLASTIC

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Phonics Fact

The story you are about to read is full of *ou* words. This pair of vowels is called a diphthong. That means the *o* and the *u* work together to make a smooth sound that glides from one vowel sound to the next, as in the words **found**, **mouse**, and **loud**. What other *ou* words can you find in this story? Look at the pictures, too!

This is a story **about** the day I **found** a **mouse** in my **house**. It all started with a **loud** squeaking **sound**.

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Phonics Fact

Sometimes the **ou** sound appears in the second syllable of a word, as in **around**. Be on the lookout for more **ou** words like this!

When I looked **around**, I saw a **mouse** on the **counter**.

“EEEEEEEEK!” I **shouted**. “Out of my **house, Mouse!**”

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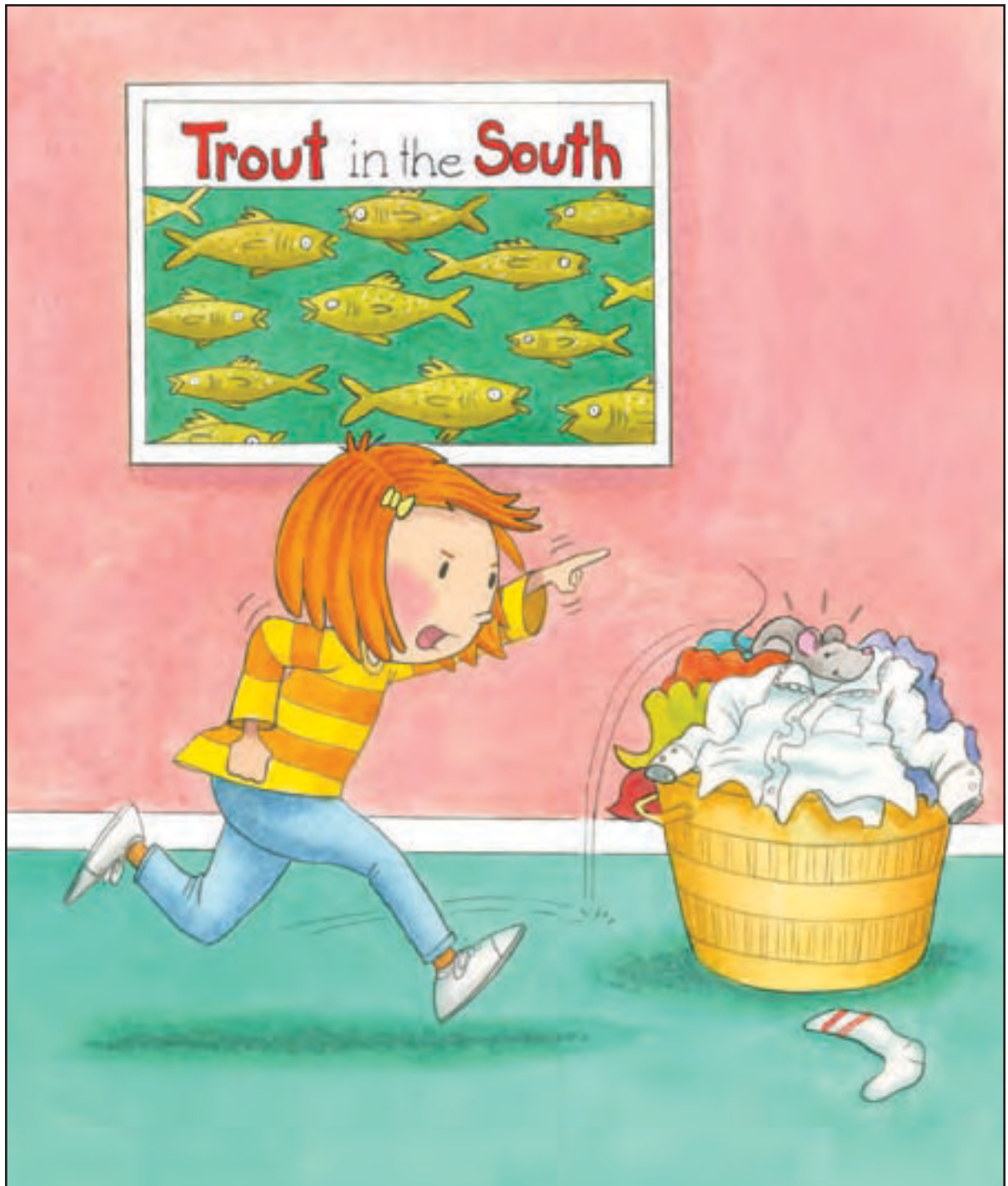


But that **mouse bounded** onto the **ground** and **bounced** off my shoe. "**OUCH!**" I **shouted**.
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Next, the **mouse** knocked over a five-**pond** bag of **flour**. Then, he scurried **about**, leaving **clouds** of **flour** all **around**!

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“Out of my **house, Mouse!**” I **shouted**.
But that **mouse bounded** onto a **mountain**
of clothes and curled up on my best **blouse!**
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“**Out of my house, Mouse!**” I shouted.
But the **mouse bounded** onto a **round** table.
He **pounced** on my **Sour** Gummy Worms and
ate **about a thousand!** (I counted.)

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Then, that **lousy mouse bounded out** of the room. I was **outraged!** Where did he go? I **scouted around** for **hours**.

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Well, I never **found** that **mouse** so I plopped
on the **couch** to **pout**.

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And guess who was **lounging** beside me?

The **mouse**!

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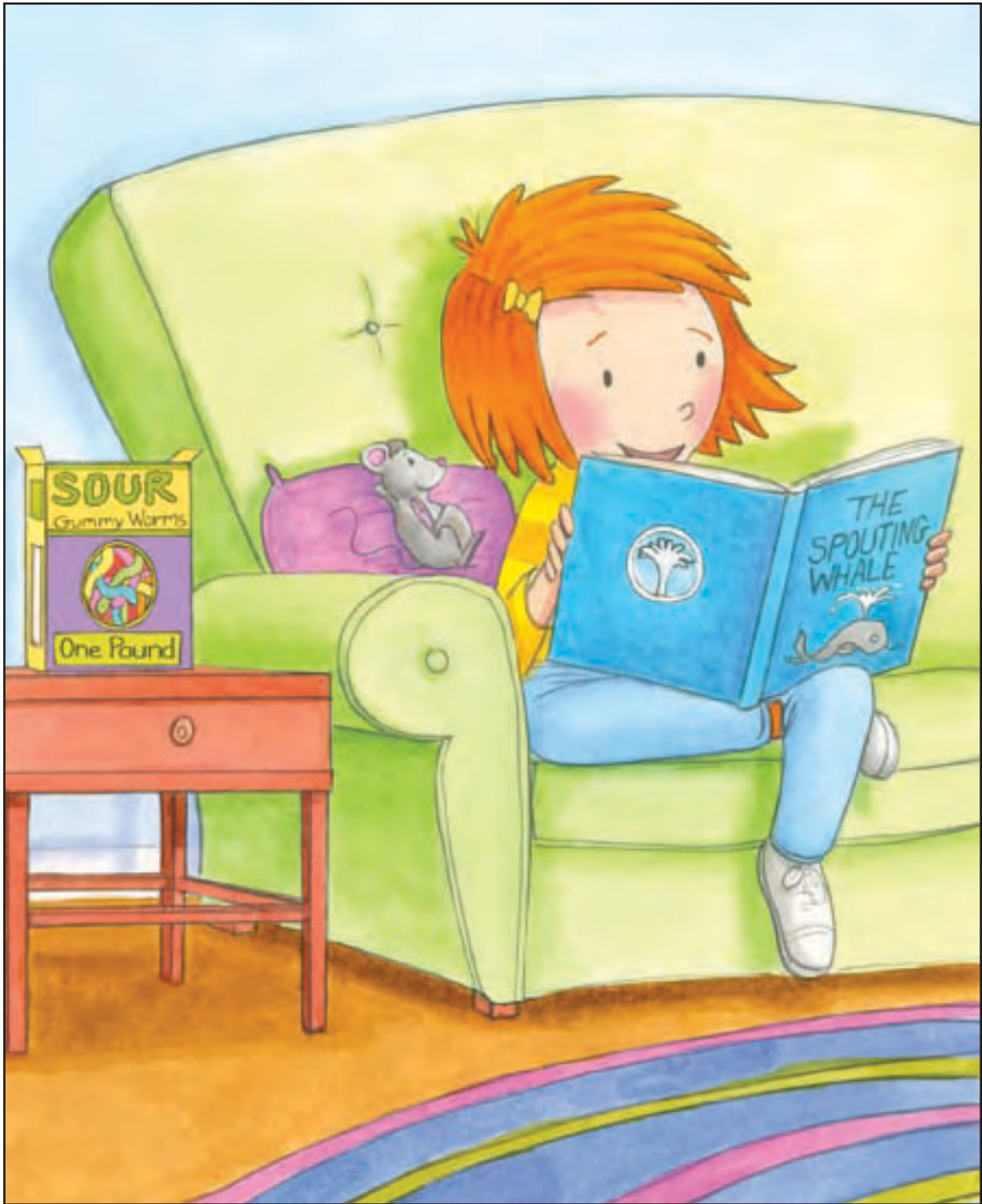


When I looked at the **mouse**, he was trembling. Why, that **mouse** was not **lousy** at all! He was just scared.

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"I'm sorry I was a **grouch**," I said **loudly**.
Then that **mouse bounded** onto my hand.
"Squeak, squeak!" went his tiny **mouth**.
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I am **proud** to say that the **mouse** and I are now pals. In fact, he lives with me in my **house**.
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And that **mouse** never bothers me an
ounce. Except when he **devours** my
Sour Gummy Worms!

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OU Riddles

Listen to the riddles. Then match each riddle with the right **ou** word from the box.

Word Box

loud sour mouse mouth out
house shout found hour mountain

- 1 This tiny, furry animal loves cheese.
- 2 It is the opposite of *quiet*.
- 3 Lemons taste this way.
- 4 Another word for a *home*.
- 5 It is the same amount of time as 60 minutes.
- 6 It is the opposite of *lost*.
- 7 This means almost the same thing as *yell*.
- 8 You use this part of your body to eat and talk.
- 9 It is the opposite of *in*.
- 10 This is the word for a *very, very tall hill*.



OU Cheer

Hooray for *o-u*, the best pair around!

Let's holler *o-u* words all over town!

There's **house** and **mouse** and **scout** and **found**.

There's **out** and **pout** and **round** and **ground**.

There's **count** and **south** and **mouth** and **cloud**.

There's **bounce** and **ounce** and **trout** and **proud**.

O-u, o-u, give a great cheer,

For the **loudest sound** you ever will hear!



Make a list of
other **ou** words.
Then use them
in your cheer.