



Phonics  
Set 12

# A Letter from Halifax

Amber writes to her gran to tell  
her all about her trip to Halifax.



## Consolidation

ai, ee, oa, oo (long), oo (short), ar,  
ur, ow, ear, air, er

## Tricky words

there, when, were, little, one, out,  
some, what, come, said, Edmonton



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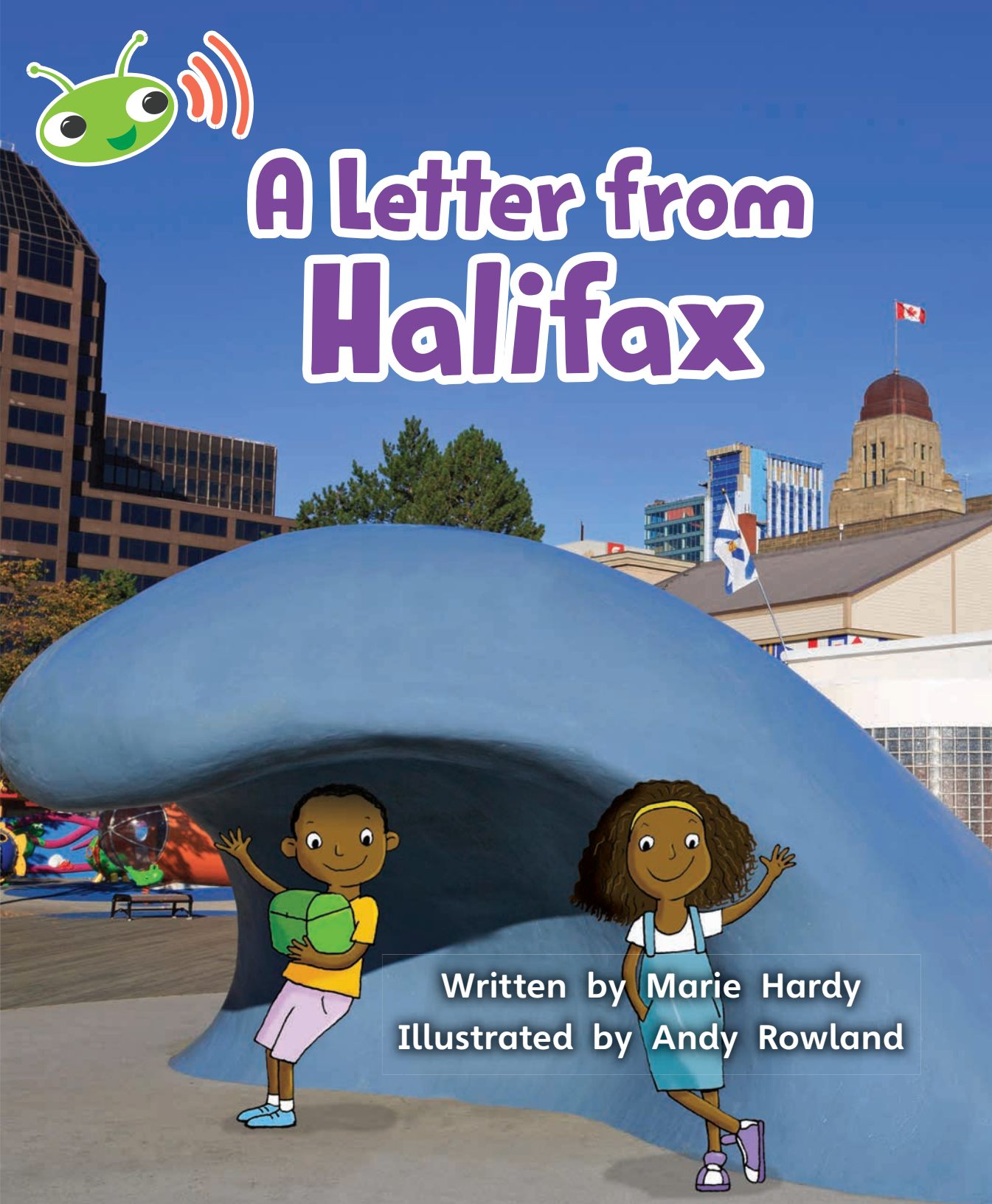
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# A Letter from Halifax



Written by Marie Hardy  
Illustrated by Andy Rowland

# Before and during reading

## 1 Say the sounds

ai	ee	oa	oo (long)
ar	ur	ow	oo (short)
ear	air	er	

## 2 Blend the sounds

dear · _ _	Gran · . . .	Sask/a/toon · . . . . _ _ .
how · _ _	street · . . _ _	traff/ic · . . _ _ .
steep · . _ _ .	boots · _ _ .	spot/ted · . . _ _ .
green · . _ _ .	crowd · . _ _ .	clap/ping · . . _ _ _
dark · _ _ .	crunch · . . . _	Hal/i/fax · . . . . .

## 3 Read the tricky words

there _ _ _	when _ _ .	were · _ _	little · . _ _ _
one _ _	out _ _ .	some · . _ _	said · . _ .
what _ _ . .	come · . _ _	Edmonton · . . . . .	

Point out the tricky part of the word (i.e., the “ai” in “said” sounds like /e/ and the “ou” in “out” sounds like /ow/) and then blend the rest.

## Comprehension

Ask children to read the title. Ask them if they’ve heard of Halifax. If necessary, tell them that Halifax is a city in the province of Nova Scotia. Point out that the title is *A Letter from Halifax*. Talk about who the letter might be from and who they might be sending it to.

## Vocabulary check

Check that children understand the meaning of the following words: steep, chanted, apartment, driftwood.

## Reading the book

- Listen to children reading the book. Ask them to say the sounds and blend them in order to read words they do not recognize immediately.
- On page 5, talk to the children about the word “fort” and discuss its meaning. Look back to the picture on page 2 to see a wider view of the fort.
- On page 10, make sure children understand that the family in the book is staying in a holiday apartment during their visit to Halifax.

Blending words with adjacent consonants? g-r > gr-a-n > gran or s-t-r > str-ee-t > street



# After reading

## Comprehension

- Have you ever been to Halifax? What did you see there? (If not, have you been to another city? What was it like?)
- Can you remember some of the things Amber did during her weekend in Halifax?
- Flip back through the book and talk about some of the sounds Amber would have heard in each scene.
- How do you think Amber felt at the end of her weekend? Why?



*Remember to  
prompt and praise!*

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# Follow up

## Speedy reading

Return to the words on the inside front cover (sections 2 and 3) and check children can sound out and blend these words confidently. Ask them to practise blending them until they can read them quickly.

## Segmenting for spelling

Practise this spelling routine using the words in section 2.

- Say the word in a sentence, then on its own and ask the children to repeat it.
- Children say the sounds all through the word (segment) and either write a dash or hold up a finger for each sound.
- Children select magnetic letters or write down the grapheme for each sound, saying the sound quietly as they do so.
- Model the spelling by saying each sound as you write the word for the children to see.
- Children give themselves a check mark for each grapheme in the correct place.

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(Key: b-bottom c-centre l-left r-right t-top)

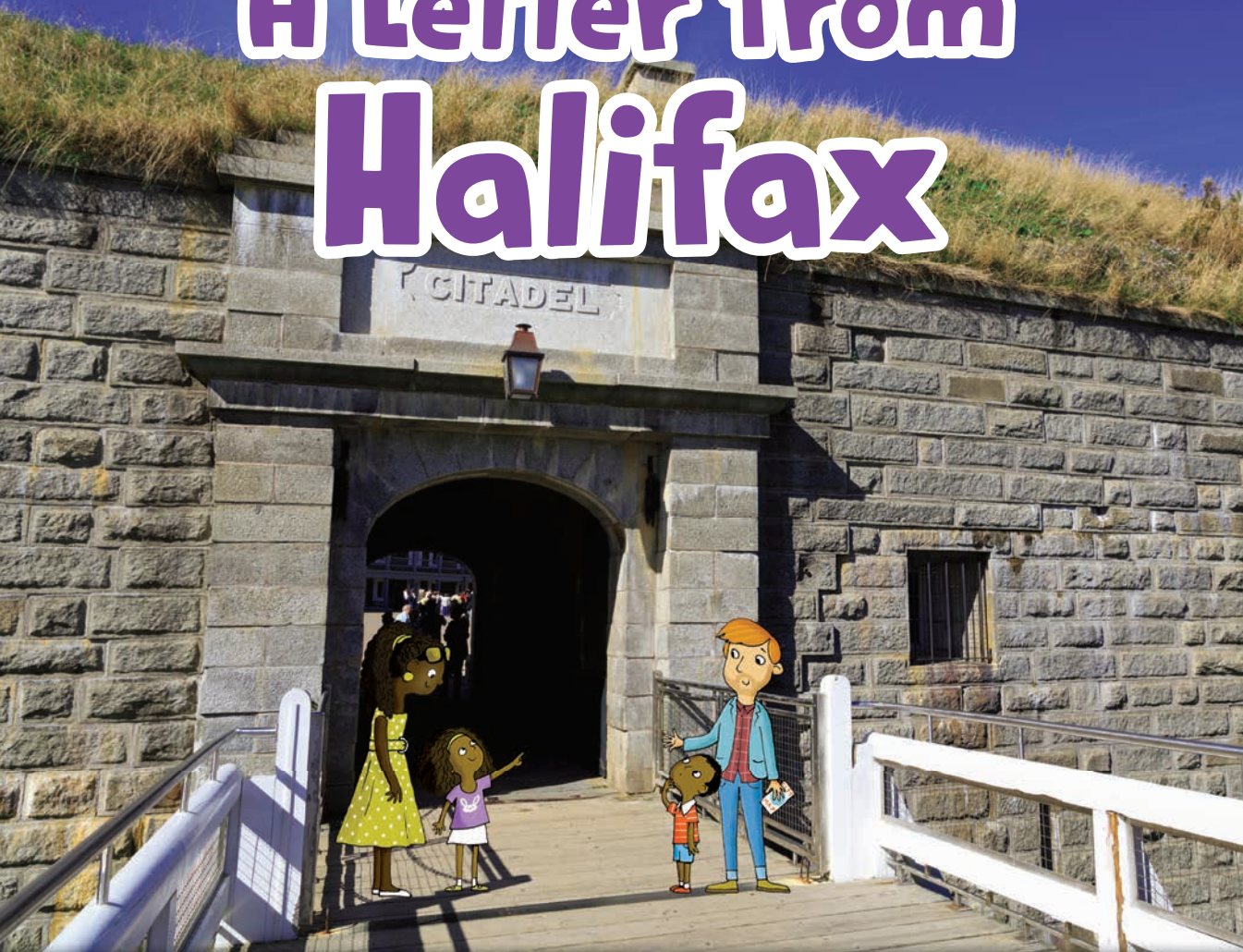
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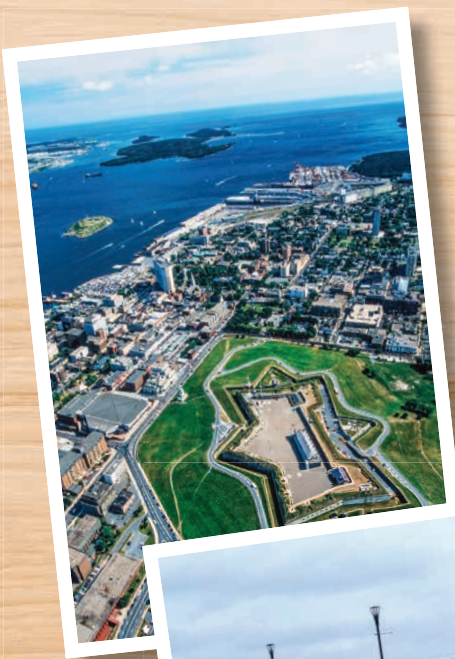




# A Letter from Halifax



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Dear Gran,  
How are you?





This week we visited Halifax.  
We went on the train.  
It was fun!



Cam and I held hands to cross the street. There was lots of traffic.





We went up a steep hill to see the fort.



When we were shopping,  
we spotted a band singing  
in the street. We had fun  
clapping to the drum.





Cam got a little green lunch box  
and I got some boots.





We went to see Halifax against Edmonton. The men ran fast on the green grass.



The crowd sang and chanted.  
I felt sad when it ended.





When it got dark, we went back to the apartment.





Cam slept on the top bunk.  
I slept on the bottom one.



We went out on a boat and  
the air felt fresh.





We spotted some driftwood and big rocks on the sand.





Then we sat down for a snack.  
I had chips and milk.  
Crunch! Gulp!



Some of Cam's sandwich fell to the sand. A gull took the crust!





What a thrilling weekend!  
We said you must come on the  
next trip. Hugs and kisses from  
Amber, Cam, Mom, and Dad.