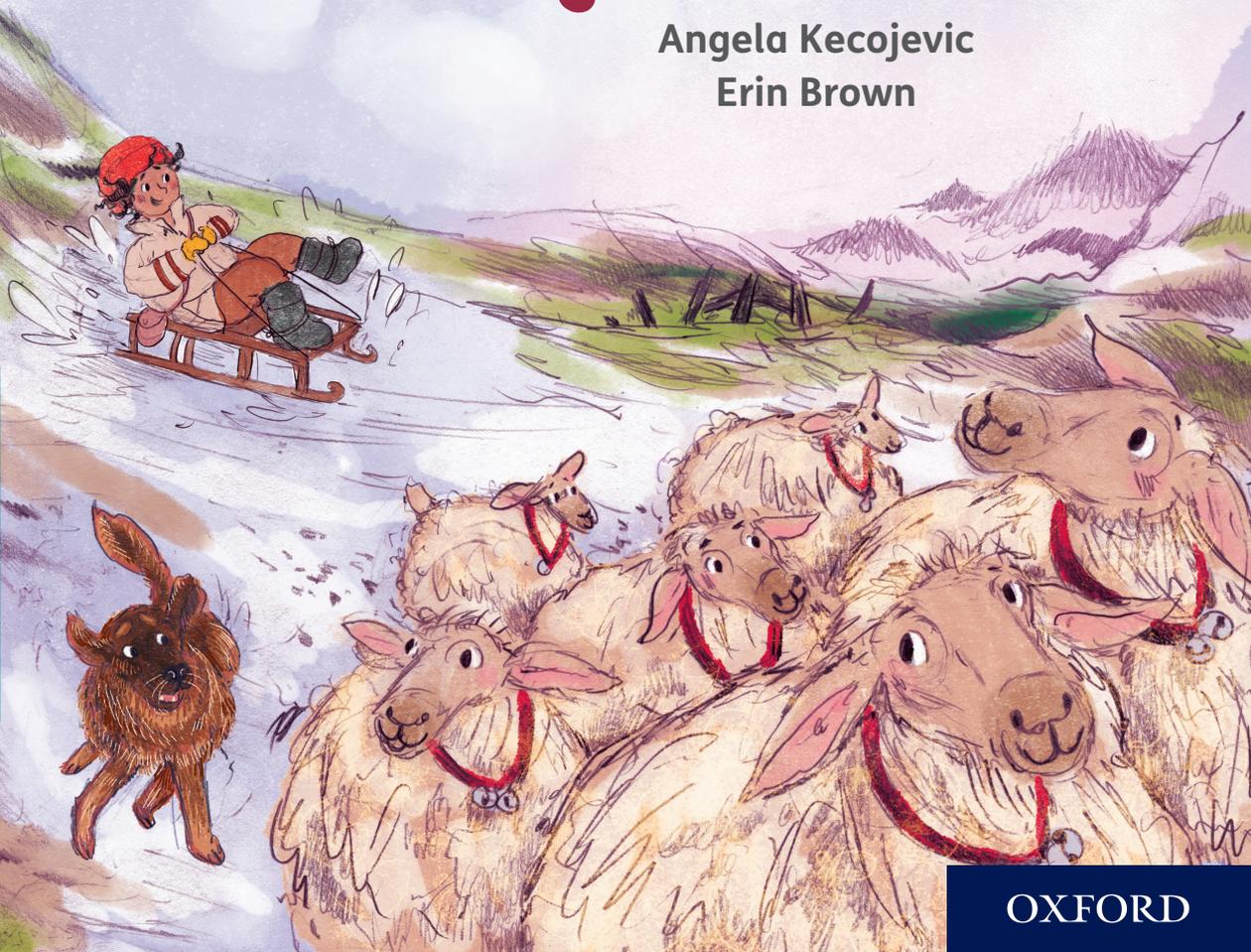




Word
Sparks
**

The Laughing Shepherd

Angela Kecojevic
Erin Brown



OXFORD

Focus words

This series features 300 carefully selected words from the Oxford Children's Corpus. The following focus words appear in this book.

demand

VERB, NOUN

to ask for something strongly;
a strong request

gentle

ADJECTIVE

If you are gentle, you behave in a kind and careful way and are not rough.

> gently ADVERB

nearly

ADVERB

almost

precious

ADJECTIVE

very valuable or loved

replace

VERB

When you replace something, you get another one instead of it.

scene

NOUN

a view someone sees

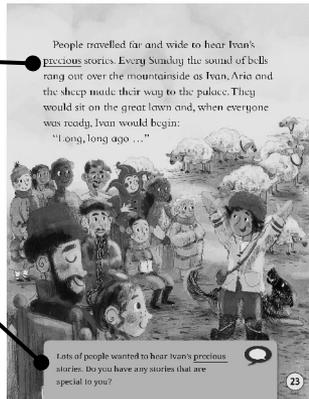
How to use this book



The focus words are underlined when there is a focus word box on the page.

The focus word boxes provide a prompt for thinking about the focus words. Don't worry if your child doesn't know the meaning of the focus words immediately.

Encourage your child to read independently, with expression and at their own pace. Remember to praise your child's efforts!



Ideally your child should read the book more than once to gain a thorough understanding of the text and to become fluent with the focus words.

After reading, talk about the focus words and any other words that you or your child found interesting. Carry on talking about the focus words whenever a chance comes up in daily life, or when reading other books.

Chapter 1

Winter has arrived

Long, long ago ...

Ivan pulled his red, woollen hat down over his ears, grabbed his sledge, and headed out into the snow. Winter had arrived in the Durmitor Mountains, and the sheep needed bringing home before darkness fell.



Even though it snowed every year, Ivan still gasped in amazement at the beautiful scene around him. Fir trees glimmered as though sprinkled with diamonds. Streams and rivers, once flowing with fish, were now frosted over with ice.



Close your eyes and picture the scene in front of Ivan. What else might he see? What might he hear and feel?



When he had finished, Sophia began to laugh ... and laugh ... and laugh.

“What a clever bear!” she exclaimed. “What silly bees!”

Everyone was overjoyed to see Sophia smiling again, especially the king.

“I demand that you come and see us every week, Ivan!” the king said.

Ivan smiled and promised he would.



The king demands that Ivan comes back every week. How is demanding different from asking?



People travelled from far and wide to hear Ivan's precious stories. Every Sunday the sound of bells rang out over the mountainside as Ivan, Aria and the sheep made their way to the palace. They would sit on the great lawn and, when everyone was ready, Ivan would begin:

“Long, long ago ...”



Lots of people wanted to hear Ivan's precious stories. Do you have any stories that are special to you?



Comprehension

Before reading

- Ask your child to read the title of the book and the back cover information.
- Ask: *What sorts of things make you laugh?*
- Ask: *What was the last funny story you read?*

During reading

- Your child should be able to read most of the words in this book confidently, using their phonics skills. For any challenging words, encourage your child to say and blend the sounds, then help with the tricky part if necessary or simply read the word to them.
- On page 2 ask: *Why do you think the sheep needed bringing home before it got dark?*
- On page 14 ask: *Why didn't Princess Sophia leave her room?*

After reading

- Ask your child to tell you in their own words what happened in the story and what they thought of it.
- Look back at the story. Ask: *Why was Sophia so sad at the beginning?*
- Ask: *What happened on Sophia's birthday that helped her feel better?*
- Look at pages 8–9. Ask: *Can you explain what happens in The Whispering Bear story?*
- Look at page 19. Ask: *Think of a word that is the opposite of 'chaos'?*
- Look at page 22. Ask: *How often does the king want Ivan to visit Sophia and why?*

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The Laughing Shepherd

Princess Sophia refuses to leave
her room. Will Ivan be able
to make her laugh again?

This story is a folktale
from Montenegro.



Books at Level 9

A Tortoise Keeper's Diary
Frank the Not-So-Boring Fish
The Secret Story of Springs
> **The Laughing Shepherd**
The Fastest Feathers
Competition
Mission Cancelled!
Time for School
The Amazing History of Boats

