




Ted the pet is
on his head.



Do you
make your
bed?

Ted the pet can
make his bed.

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Let's Get Ready to Read!

Dear Parents and Educators,

Building a strong foundation in short-vowel sounds is a critical step in learning how to read. This guide will help you fully utilize the engaging and comical book *The Best Pets* by Sandy Baker. It will provide you with instructional suggestions, fun activities, and multiple ways to assess learning.

The book *The Best Pets* is designed to appeal to the nonreader and beginning reader alike. The colorful and lively illustrations will engage readers and spark lively discussions about the text. The text itself is simple, repetitive, and often predictable to further heighten readability.

The included activities in this guide will provide nonreaders and beginning readers with opportunities to practice and strengthen their phonics and word-recognition skills as well as their reading-comprehension skills. As they read through the book and work through the activity sheets, they will begin to build a stable foundation on which to begin their journeys toward reading fluently.

Helpful Advice

- Remain positive and encouraging.
- Model fluent reading by reading the book out loud.
- Point to each word as you say it.
- Stop often to talk about the book.
- Ask and answer questions about the book.
- Use the correct vocabulary for the parts of the book (*title, author, word, sentence, illustration, period, etc.*).
- If the child becomes bored or frustrated at any point, take a break!

Quick Tips!

- Set aside a specific time each day to work on reading.
- Complete only a few activity sheets at a time.
- Review the directions on each activity sheet with the child.
- Go over the activity sheet answers together.

Materials Needed

- *The Best Pets* book
- brown paper lunch bag
- hole puncher
- index cards
- pretzel sticks (optional)
- scissors
- scratch paper
- string or yarn

Good to Know!

Consonant, vowel, consonant (or CVC) words help children recognize that three distinct sounds or letters can blend together to form a word. Learning new sight words (words recognized on sight) and high-frequency words (words that occur most frequently in print) help children improve fluency. Challenge words are vocabulary words that are a little more challenging to read for beginning readers. All three sets of these words should be reviewed prior to reading the book.

Name: _____

Get Ted to Bed

Directions: Ted wants to get to his nice, warm bed in his doghouse. Help him get there by coloring the stepping-stones that have words with the **short e** sound.



tree

see

pea

pet

eat

we

red

key

met

he

feet

nest

need

bed

yes

