

Māhuri



# A Play Date for Huhu

**Ready to Read** Phonics Plus



by Samantha Montgomerie | illustrated by Giselle Clarkson

### Whānau Notes

Your child can read the story to you.

Help them with any words they don't know.

After reading, talk about the story, characters, and pictures.

Published 2023 by the Ministry of Education,  
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.  
[www.education.govt.nz](http://www.education.govt.nz)

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Development and publishing services: University of Canterbury, Smartwork Creative,  
Massey University, CORE Education | Tātai Aho Rau, and Lift Education E Tū.

ISBN 978 1 77690 194 4 (print)  
ISBN 978 1 77690 195 1 (online PDF)

Replacement copies may be ordered from Ministry of Education Customer Services,  
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# A Play Date for Huhu



by Samantha Montgomerie  
illustrated by Giselle Clarkson



The sun sinks in the sky.

It is growing dark.

Huhu looks out from  
under his log.

“Time to enjoy some  
flying,” says Huhu.



Huhu jumps up on his log.

All around him,  
the forest is still.

Huhu listens.

Whirr. Whirr.

“What is that sound?”  
asks Huhu.

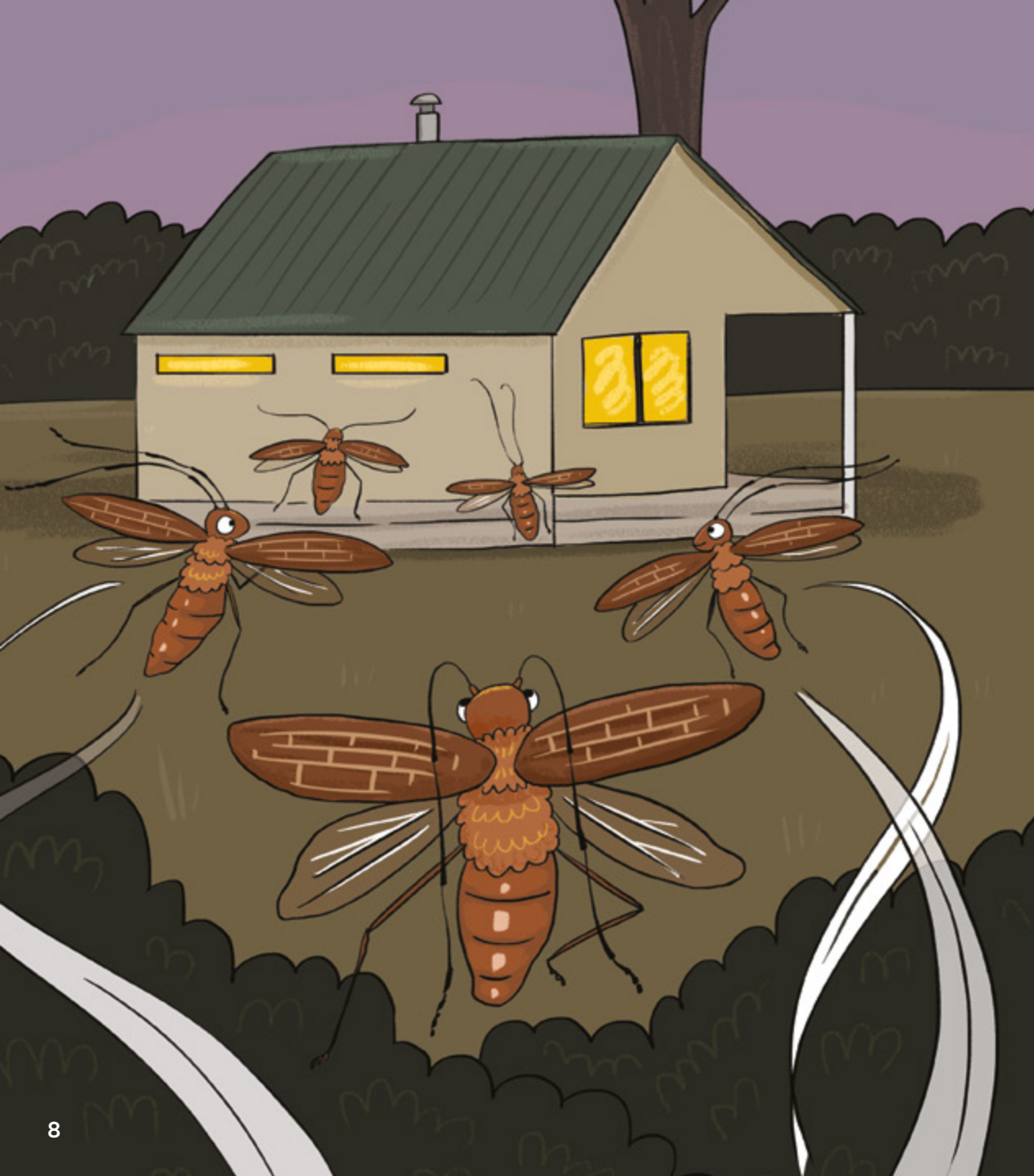


Whoosh!

Bugs burst out from  
the trees.

“Come and play,” say the  
bugs, “if you can keep up!”

They whizz past Huhu  
in a blur.



Huhu spreads his wings.

He floats behind  
the bugs.

Whirr. Whirr.

Whoosh. Huhu darts  
off to the shed.



The bugs twirl and swirl.  
They zip and zoom.  
They flutter in the  
glowing light.  
“Wow! Look at the huhu  
bugs!” says the boy.



Whoosh! The bugs zip in.  
They flutter all around.  
“It is a huhu play date!”  
says the boy.





Huhu zooms off.

“I am first!” boasts Huhu.

The bugs fly out  
behind him.

“Now, see if you can  
keep up with me!”  
smirks Huhu.

## Focus points

- This book has two-syllable words ending in **er**. In these words, the **er** is an unstressed vowel sound (schwa) making the sound /uh/ (under, flutter). Explain to children that even though we hear an /uh/ sound, the ending is spelled **er**.
- Point out the word **listen** to children. The **en** sounds like **in** because it is an unstressed vowel sound (schwa).

## Before reading

This book provides children with the opportunity to practise reading the letters and sounds they are learning in meaningful connected text.

### Say each sound quickly

ear air ere ea ph ge ow ou oy oi

### Blend the sounds together to read a word

burst darts floats spreads growing around

### High-frequency words

some what come

## Spelling

Use previously learned letters and sounds to help children spell and read words.

If this word spells **bloat**, can you spell **float**? Change **float** to **flight**.

- bloat → float → flight → slight → sight
- boy → bow → blow → glow → grow

## Vocabulary

Tell the children the meaning of any new vocabulary:

- **sinks**: drops down, becomes submerged under water
- **whirr**: make a continuous, humming sound
- **burst**: move suddenly; break apart or open
- **twirl**: quickly spin around
- **swirl**: move in a twisting or spiralling shape

## Morphology

Bring children's attention to the **-ing** morpheme that is used in the story (grow – growing). Create a list of verbs (doing words) together. Write the words in their base form and then with the **-ing** morpheme added (grow – growing; fly – flying; glow – glowing).

## During reading

- Show the book to the children and read the title together. Make a connection between the title and the picture.
- Children read each page together using their decoding skills. Once the page is read, guide them to connect the meaning of the text with the illustration.
- If a child gets stuck while reading, help them blend the sounds together to read the word.

## Words to tell

listens

Remind children to sound out the letters they already know.

## After reading

### Discussion questions

- Why did the bugs go to the hut?
- What was the whirring sound Huhu heard (on page 5)?
- How would you get the bugs out?

### Story discussion

Talk about why the bugs were attracted to the hut (they like the light). Encourage children to talk about a time when bugs may have come into their house – maybe a buzzing fly or mosquito kept them awake at night.

### Fluency and story retell

Reread the story to build accuracy and fluency; share the story with a buddy.



**Rākau**  
Tree



**Māhuri**  
Sapling

**Focus sounds**

**Revision**



**Tupu**  
Seedling



**Kākano**  
Seed

