

BookLife
Readers

The Pine Pig



By
Shalini Vallepur

Illustrated By
Abigail Hookham

The Pine Pig

Level 10 – White

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The logo for BookLife Readers. The word "BookLife" is in a smaller font above "Readers". A small heart icon is positioned to the left of the letter "o" in "Readers". Below the word "Readers" is a simple, curved line that forms a smile.

Helpful Hints for Reading at Home

The focus phonemes (units of sound) used throughout this series are in line with the order in which your child is taught at school. This offers a consistent approach to learning whether reading at home or in the classroom.

HERE ARE SOME COMMON WORDS THAT YOUR CHILD MIGHT FIND TRICKY:

water	where	would	know	thought	through	couldn't
laughed	eyes	once	we're	school	can't	our

TOP TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ:

- Encourage your child to read aloud as well as silently to themselves.
- Allow your child time to absorb the text and make comments.
- Ask simple questions about the text to assess understanding.
- Encourage your child to clarify the meaning of new vocabulary.

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Chapter One

The Tale of the Pine Pig

“Gather round, campers! Gather round!”

Twilight fell over Camp Wild Pines as Eve, the Camp Leader, set up what promised to be a brilliant campfire. Eliza, Rupinder and Tommy ran out of their tents, followed by Eve’s dog, Mister Barkman. They were ready for a night of fun.

“The fire is so pretty!” said Rupinder.

“Don’t get too close – it’s very hot,” said Camp Leader Eve.

“What are we doing first, Eve?” asked Eliza.

“Take a seat everyone,” said Eve. “It’s time to learn about what lurks around Camp Wild Pines...”



“Camp Wild Pines is a safe place... most of the time. But there is something else hidden out in the pine trees. A sly creature watches over us. It spies on us and waits for us to go to sleep.”

“What sly creature? There’s no sly creature here,” Eliza interrupted.

“There are only insects and spiders at Camp Wild Pines, Eve,” said Rupinder.

“I think you’ll find there’s a lot more out there. This creature eats insects and spiders for breakfast,” said Eve.







“Let me tell you what happens to children who don’t believe in the Pine Pig,” said Eve.

“The P-Pine Pig?” said Tommy, nervously.

“Yes, the Pine Pig. It is a terrible monster. It comes out at midnight. It finds campers using its big, sharp tusks and turns them into mini pine pigs. Its dribble runs over its slimy, purple skin. If you somehow get away from it, it’s not for long; the Pine Pig’s horrible snout will sniff you out. It will find you. You cannot hide from the Pine Pig.”



Chapter Two

The Plan

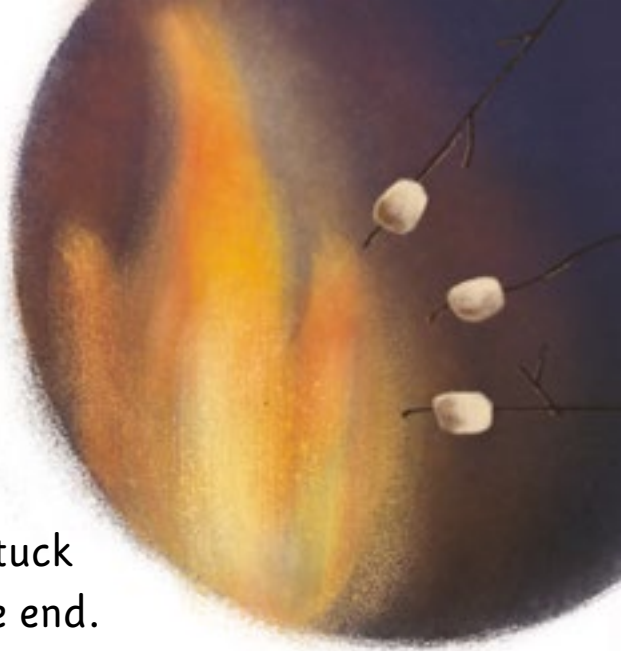
“The Pine Pig? You’re going to have to try harder than that if you want to scare us, Eve. We’re the bravest campers in all of Camp Wild Pines,” said Eliza.

“The Pine Pig isn’t real! Right, Tommy?” said Rupinder.

“Y-yes,” said Tommy quietly. He didn’t want to show it, but he was frightened of the Pine Pig.



"If you say so, kids. Just remember that we are not alone. Right, it's time to toast marshmallows!" said Eve. Everybody grabbed sticks and stuck marshmallows on the end.



"That story was boring. Eve might think that we're scared, but it won't work on me," said Eliza.

"I want to do something fun," said Rupinder.

"I've got it! We wait until it's midnight, when everybody's asleep, and then we go on a hike around Camp Wild Pines!" said Eliza.



“But the Pine Pig comes out at midnight. What if it sniffs and finds us?” mumbled Tommy.

“Don’t be silly, Tommy. Besides, Rupinder and I aren’t scared of the Pine Pig,” said Eliza.



“What are you kids planning now?” said Eve, sipping on a mug of hot chocolate.

“Nothing!” they said.

“I hope not. Did you all enjoy the campfire and the spooky story?” asked Eve.

“Yes it was brilliant, but I think we’re all quite tired now,” said Eliza. “I’d like to go to sleep.”



“Alright, back to your tents everyone! It’s time to sleep! I don’t want to see anybody out of their tents. And kids...”

“Yes, Eve?”

“Don’t let the Pine Pig bite!” Eve said with a grin.



“Eve knows that we’re up to something,” said Tommy, unzipping the tent. “We should just forget the midnight hike and stay asleep.”

“Don’t be a spoilsport, Tommy! Nothing bad will happen,” said Eliza.

“If the Pine Pig really exists, then I’ll shine the torch in its face,” said Rupinder, waving the torch around.

“Stop worrying about the Pine Pig, Tommy, and get some sleep. We’re going to need it!” said Eliza.

But Tommy couldn’t sleep. He wiggled and jiggled around in his sleeping bag, worrying about the Pine Pig.





Chapter Three

The Midnight Hike

“Psst, wake up. It’s time!”

“Shh, you’re being so loud!”

“Ouch! You’re hitting my foot!”

Eliza, Rupinder and Tommy were ready to go on their secret midnight hike.



Rupinder carefully unzipped the tent. She did it slowly and quietly to make sure she didn't wake up Eve.

The sky was inky black and covered in twinkling stars. The Moon was big and bright and it gave the campsite a beautiful glow.

"There's a full moon tonight. That means we'll see the Pine Pig coming," joked Eliza. Rupinder giggled.



The midnight hike was off to a good start. The night was chilly and crickets chirped from high up in the treetops. The moonlight helped the three hikers find their way through the pine trees. They needed the help because the forest floor was covered in sharp twigs, thick tree roots and prickly bushes.

“Don’t trip on any tree roots,” said Tommy.

“Where should we go first?” asked Rupinder.

“Let’s keep going up this hill. Maybe we will be able to see the campsite from the top,” said Eliza.



The three hikers made it to the top of the hill.
The stars glimmered above them.

“Wow, it’s so nice up here!” said Eliza. “But I’m itching to go even further.”

“Is it time to go back yet? I miss my pillow,” said Tommy.

“Are you still scared, Tommy? Everything’s fine! We made it to the top and nothing scary happened,” said Eliza.

Suddenly, Tommy heard a noise...



Chapter Four

There's Something in the Bushes...

"What was that?" whispered Tommy.

"What was what?" asked Rupinder.

"There was a noise coming from that prickly bush," said Tommy. "Something's hiding there!"

The hikers turned to look at the prickly bushes behind them.

"It's probably an owl or something," said Eliza.

"It's not an owl, it's the Pine Pig!" said Tommy.

"Stop it! The Pine Pig's not real!" said Eliza.

"It's going to sniff us out with its horrible snout and turn us into mini pine pigs!" cried Tommy.

"We're not safe – RUN!" yelled Rupinder.



“Quick, let’s hide behind this big rock,” said Rupinder.

“There’s no use in hiding,” said Tommy, catching his breath. “Don’t you remember? Eve said that the Pine Pig can sniff and find us.”

“What else are we supposed to do? If we go back to the campsite, we’ll get told off by Eve,” said Rupinder.

“This is stupid. We’re hiding for no reason. The Pine Pig isn’t real!” said Eliza.

SNAP!

“What was that?” cried Tommy.

“It’s just a stick snapping!” said Eliza.





The hikers were in a pickle. There was no use in running from the Pine Pig, but they wanted to go back to the campsite. Rupinder pointed the torch at the prickly bushes, looking for the Pine Pig.

"W-where are you? Come out!" she shouted, trying to be brave. The light moved across the bushes and a creature of some sort dashed out of the light.

They screamed.



That was the final straw for Tommy. Seeing the shadow of the Pine Pig was too much. He decided to save himself and ran away.



Eliza and Rupinder realised that Tommy was gone.

“The Pine Pig got Tommy! The Pine Pig got Tommy!” Rupinder screamed.

“Oh no! It’s going to come back and turn us into mini pine pigs!” yelled Eliza. “Rupinder, we have to run – NOW!”

Eliza and Rupinder were about to run away when a terrible howling noise rang out through the forest.

“I want to go home!” Eliza wailed.

“Remind me never to listen to you again!” said Rupinder. “Come on, I’m not waiting around to get taken!”





Eliza and Rupinder dashed down the hill. They zipped through the thick pine trees and jumped over the tree roots. They thought they were safe, but then they heard the Pine Pig chasing after them. Its breathing was loud, and its footsteps were thundering. It was zooming down the hill after them!

“Quick! It’s gaining on us!” yelled Rupinder.

“Oof!” Eliza tripped over a tree root. She fell to the ground with a thud.

“Eliza!”

“Get back to the campsite, Rupinder!” cried Eliza. “This is my fault! At least I’ll be with Tommy!”



Eliza closed her eyes as the Pine Pig drew closer. She held her breath and waited for the big tusks to pick her up. But she never felt the tusks. Something licked her face instead.



Chapter Five

Safe and Sound

"Mister Barkman?" said Eliza, with a giggle.

"What are you doing here?"

Rupinder ran back to Eliza. "What's going on? Where's the Pine Pig?" she asked.

"I think Mister Barkman tricked us. He was the Pine Pig after all," said Eliza, stroking Mister Barkman.

"That's a relief. Come on, let's go back to the campsite," said Rupinder.





“There you are!” said Eve, when Eliza, Rupinder and Mister Barkman made it back to the campsite.

“Tommy! We thought the Pine Pig had got you,” said Rupinder. Tommy was standing with Eve, safe and sound.

“Sorry you two – I was too scared and ran away. I bumped into Eve in the pine forest. She knew we were missing and went looking for us with Mister Barkman.”

“I’m glad Mister Barkman found you. The story of the Pine Pig was supposed to stop you from wandering off at night!” said Eve.

“It worked, Eve. I won’t go on a midnight hike again!” said Eliza.





The Pine Pig

1. What time did Eliza, Rupinder and Tommy go for their secret hike?
2. What did Rupinder point the torch at?
 - (a) The Pine Pig
 - (b) The tall trees
 - (c) The prickly bushes
3. Where did Tommy bump into Eve?
4. Why did Eve tell the story of the Pine Pig to the children?
5. Do you think the children were right to leave Camp Wild Pines? Would you have done the same?

An Introduction to BookLife Readers...

Our Readers have been specifically created in line with the London Institute of Education's approach to book banding and are phonetically decodable and ordered to support each phase of the Letters and Sounds document.

Each book has been created to provide the best possible reading and learning experience. Our aim is to share our love of books with children, providing both emerging readers and prolific page-turners with beautiful books that are guaranteed to provoke interest and learning, regardless of ability.

BOOK BAND GRADED using the Institute of Education's approach to levelling.

PHONETICALLY DECODABLE supporting each phase of Letters and Sounds.

EXERCISES AND QUESTIONS to offer reinforcement and to ascertain comprehension.

BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED to inspire and provoke engagement, providing a variety of styles for the reader to enjoy whilst reading through the series.

AUTHOR INSIGHT: **SHALINI VALLEPUR**

Passionate about books from a very young age, Shalini Vallepur received the award of Norfolk County Scholar for her outstanding grades. Later on she read English at the University of Leicester, where she stayed to complete her Modern Literature MA. Whilst at university, Shalini volunteered as a storyteller to help children learn to read, which gave her experience and expertise in the way children pick up and retain information. She used her knowledge and her background and implemented them in the 32 books that she has written for BookLife Publishing. Shalini's writing easily takes us to different worlds, and the serenity and quality of her words are sure to captivate any child who picks up her books.

This book focuses on developing independence, fluency and comprehension. It is a white level 10 book band.

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Camp Wild Pines is a safe place... most of the time. The Pine Pig lurks in the pine forest looking for campers. What will happen to Eliza, Rupinder and Tommy when they venture into the pine forest looking for adventure?

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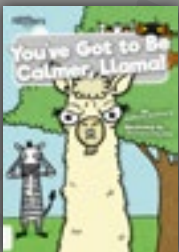
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