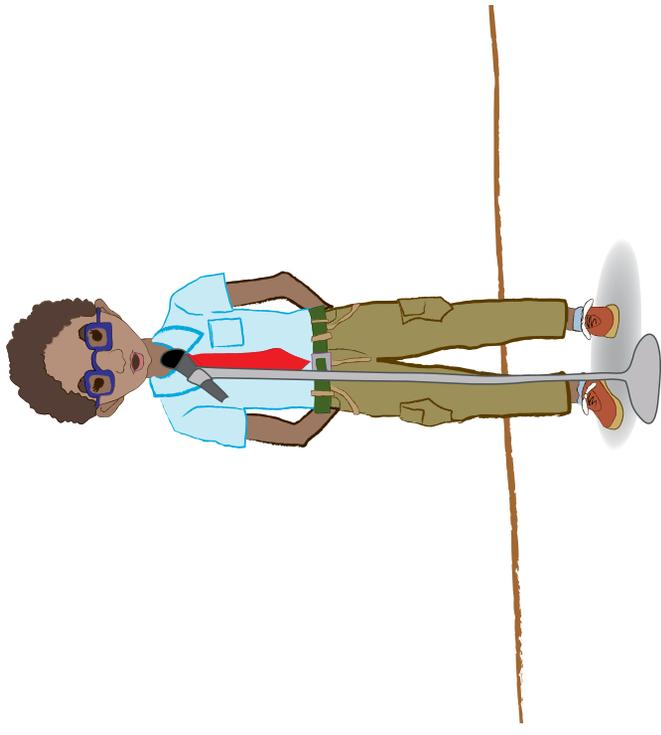


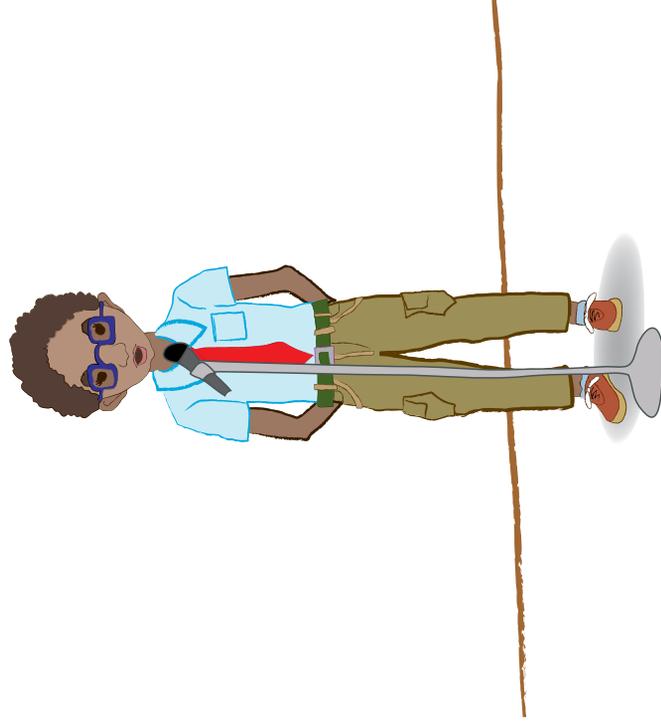
# The Spelling Bee

Cycle 9 Decodable Reader



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James had not always been a good speller, but he worked hard to get better. He dreamed of winning the spelling bee. He was so happy when his teacher chose him to go to the City Spelling Bee.

Tonight was the big night.  
Grandma made James wear  
a tie for the spelling bee. He  
tugged at the tie on his neck  
as he spelled words in his  
head. He was ready.

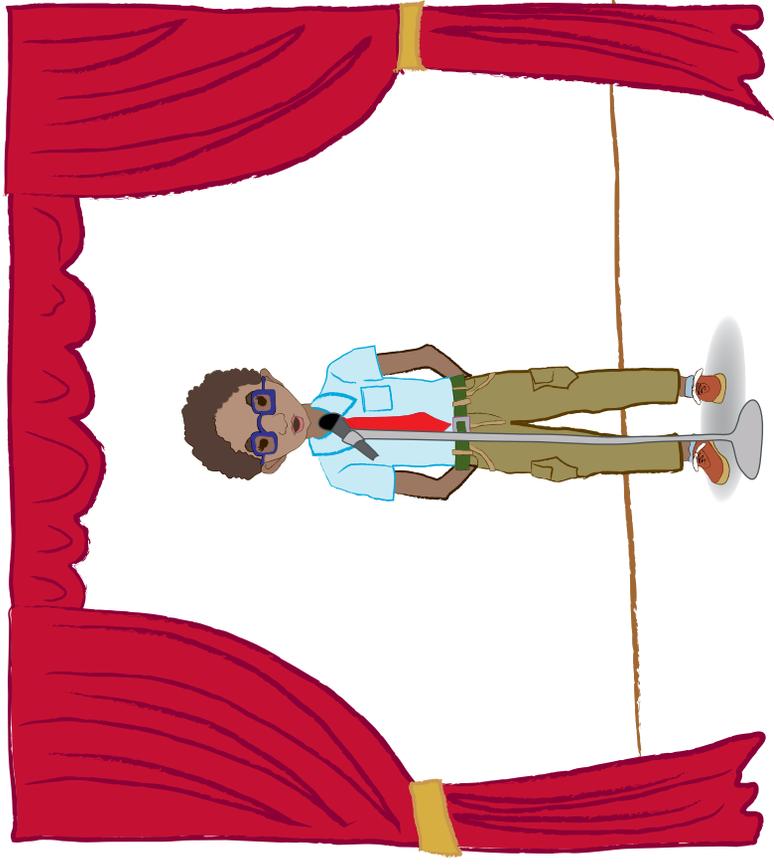
He and the other kids walked  
out on the stage to begin the  
spelling bee. There were so  
many people there to watch  
them. They all clapped as the  
kids walked out on stage.



James sat on the stage with the other kids. He saw his sister, Pat, and Grandma sitting in the front row. Pat was still clapping. James grinned.

The spelling bee began, and James was getting all the words right. Other kids were spelling words wrong, so they had to leave the stage. Finally only James and his friend Nell were left.

It was Nell's turn. A teacher read the word to her. She spelled it wrong! James stopped to think about the word. Then he spelled it. He was right. James won the spelling bee!



James almost tripped as he walked over to the teacher. She said, "James is the winner!" James grinned. He was sad for Nell, but still very happy he won. The people clapped and clapped.

He went to where Grandma and Pat were sitting. Grandma patted his head then kissed his cheek. Pat hugged him very hard. They were all filled with joy. James had worked so hard, and he had won!