Slippery Steps

Story by Wendie Old and Laura Burton Rice
Illustrations by Jennifer Clark
Practice reading these sentences.

“Yikes!” yelled Jack. “Rocks are hitting the window.”

Jim said, “It is sleet. It looks cold.”

The boys yanked the door open and slipped down the steps.
One cold January night, the twins heard something that sounded like little stones rattling against their bedroom window.

“Yikes!” yelled Jack. He sat up in bed. “Jim, get up!” yelled Jack. “Rocks are hitting the window.” Jim got up and peeked out.
When Jim and Jack looked out the bedroom window, they couldn’t believe their eyes.

“Oh, look!” said Jim. “It is sleet. It looks cold.”
“Yes,” said Jack. “I hope the sleet does not stop. Then we can skate on the pond.”
Jim said, “Let’s get to bed. We must sleep so we can skate a lot.”
Jim and Jack jumped back in bed.
“I hope I can sleep!” said Jim.
The next morning was sunny and bright. Everything outside was covered with a layer of shiny ice.

The sun rose and the boys got up. “Look, Jack!” said Jim. “Look at the trees and bushes shine.”

Jack jumped up to see. “Yes!” yelled Jack. “We can skate!”
“MOM!” yelled the boys. “Can we go out?”
Mom said, “Yes, but you must dress for the cold.”
Jim and Jack pulled on pants, jackets, hats, and mittens.
The boys ran to the door and yanked it open.
“Look at all that ice!” shouted Jack. “Now we’ll be able to skate!”

Jack clapped his hands and yelled, “Let’s go to Alligator Pond to skate!”

“Yes! Let’s go!” yelled Jim.

Jack stepped out the door, but he slipped on the steps.
“Yikes!” yelled Jack.

He was slipping and yelling “Oh! Oh! Oh!” as he bumped down the steps.

“Are you O.K.?” asked Jim.

Jack sat on the last step. He rubbed his side.

“Yes,” Jack said. “I am O.K.”
Jack tried to stand up but he slipped.
“Jim,” yelled Jack. “I can’t get up! Can you help me?”
“Here I come,” said Jim. He tried to take a step out the door.
Jim began to slip. He bumped down the steps and landed on top of Jack.
Jim tried to stand. He held onto Jack and pushed himself up. He was standing! Jim grabbed Jack’s hand and yanked him up. Jack slipped and slid. He dragged Jim back down! “MOM!!! HELP!!!” yelled the boys.
Mom heard Jim and Jack yelling and came to the back door. She saw the boys lying in a heap at the bottom of the steps.

Mom came out on the steps.
She grinned at the pile of boys.
Jim said, “Mom, we are stuck. We keep slipping and can’t get up.”
Mom tried to take a step.
“Yikes!” yelled Mom as she bumped down the steps. She landed near the boys.

“Oh, no! Mom, are you O.K.?” asked Jim and Jack. She nodded yes, and held out a hand to yank them up. “Let’s get up,” said Mom. “We can do it if we all help.”
Dad came to the top of the steps. “Don’t take a step!” yelled Mom, Jim, and Jack. Dad said, “Yes, I do not like to bump down steps. It is time to put sand on the steps so we don’t slip.”
Dad went back into the house to get the sand he always kept for slippery mornings like this one. He put sand on each step, then walked carefully down to help his family.

Dad put sand on the steps.
Mom, Jim, and Jack crept up the steps, hand in hand. At last, they were safe at the top!
“Dad, let’s go skating at Alligator Pond,” said Jack.
“Yes, let’s,” said Dad. “It is more fun than skating down the STEPS!”
1. What did the boys do at night?
   a. They went to sleep.
   b. They were up late.

2. When did Jack and Jim run to the steps?

3. What happened to Jack and Jim on the steps?

4. Why did Mom try to help the boys?

5. How did Dad take care of the problem?
Reading Roots, Level 3

Slippery Steps

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