Home with a Cold

Story by Laura Burton Rice and Meg Livingston
Illustrations by Jennifer Clark
Green Words (Phonetic):

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Red Words (Sight):

- baby
- door
- school
- visit

Practice reading these sentences.

Vick was home with a cold.

He saw a doe and her baby deer.

Mom and Eva tiptoed to the window.

Dad drove his van down the lane.
One cold, snowy day at the end of November, Vick woke up sneezing and sniffing. His throat was sore too. “Oh, no,” he thought to himself.

Vick got up and put on his robe. “Mom!” he said. “I feel sick.”

Mom came in. “You have a bad cold,” she said. “You cannot go to school. You must rest at home.”
Vick was sad that he couldn’t go to school with his friends, but he really didn’t feel well. After breakfast, he snuggled under a blanket and looked out the window.

Mom gave Vick a dose of medicine.
Vick read books. He looked out the window.
A doe and her baby deer were standing by a tree!
“Mom! Eva!” yelled Vick. “Come here fast! Look out my window!”

What did Mom give to Vick? [Mom gave Vick a dose of medicine.] Why? [Vick had a cold.] What did Vick see outside of the window? [Vick saw a doe and a baby deer standing by a tree.] A “doe” is a female deer, or a girl deer. The “doe” is the mother deer. Point to the doe. Why did Vick yell for Mom and Eva? [He wanted them to see the deer.]
Mom and Eva ran into Vick’s room.
“Look at the deer!” said Vick.
“A mom and a baby! By the tree!”
Mom and Eva looked out.
“I do not see deer,” said Eva.
“Are you making it up, Vick?”
Vick looked out. He did not see the deer!

Why didn’t Mom and Eva see the deer? [The deer ran away before Mom and Eva got to the window.] What did Eva ask Vick? [“Are you making it up?”]
If you make something up, you tell a lie. Why does Eva think that Vick is making it up? [Eva did not see deer outside of the window.]
“I DID see a doe and a baby deer!” said Vick. “O.K.,” said Mom. She shrugged and left. “Do not leave, Eva,” said Vick. “It is not fun to be alone. Play a game with me.”

Demonstrate “shrugged.” **Why did Mom shrug?** (T-P-S)  
**Why doesn’t Vick want Eva to leave?** [It is not fun to be alone.]  
**What does Vick want to do with Eva?** [Vick wants to play a game.]
“O.K.,” said Eva. “I hope I beat you!”
Eva got a game. They began to play.
“Oh! LOOK!” said Eva. She ran to the window.
“The deer came back!” said Vick. “Eva, get Mom!”
Eva rushed out. She and Mom came back into Vick’s room.

Why did Eva run to the window? [The deer came back.]
What did Eva do? [Eva rushed out to get Mom.]
“Shhh!” said Vick. “I DID see deer! Do not scare them.”
Mom and Eva tiptoed to the window.
They stared at the doe and her baby.
The doe poked her nose in the snow.
“Is she digging for pine cones?” asked Eva.
“Nope,” said Vick. “The doe is looking for seeds to eat.”

They “stared” at the doe and her baby.
“Stare” means to look at something for a long time.
What were the deer doing? [They were looking for seeds to eat.]
Dad drove his van down the lane.  
The doe and the baby deer looked up.  
They were still. They did not run.  
Dad did not see the deer as he got out of the van.

The children watched the mother deer and her baby. Suddenly, they heard Dad’s van. What do you think happened?

The doe and the baby deer were “still.” That means they did not move.  
Does Dad see the deer? [no]  
➡️ Make a Prediction: Do you think Dad will scare the deer?  
(T-P-S) Have the students support their predictions.
Dad slammed the van door shut. It scared the deer! The doe and baby deer leaped over a fence. They ran to the trees in back of the shed. “Oh, no!” said Vick. “The deer are hiding.”

Dad “slammed” the door shut. That means he shut it hard. Do you think it made a soft noise or a loud noise? [It made a loud noise.] What happened after Dad slammed the door? [The deer ran away because they were scared.]
Dad poked his head into Vick’s room.
“What is going on?” asked Dad.
Eva said, “Dad, we saw deer!
They were looking for seeds to eat.”
“They heard the van and hid by the trees,” said Vick.

What does Eva tell Dad? [“We saw deer. They were looking for seeds.”]
What does Vick tell Dad? [“They heard the van and hid by the trees.”]
Do you think the deer will come back? (T-P-S)
Dad said, “I have feed in the shed. We can leave it by the stone pile. I bet the deer will come back to eat.”

Dad and Eva tramped to the shed. They put the feed by the stones.

“Feed” is what we call food for animals. What did Dad and Eva do with the feed? [They put it on the ground for the deer to eat.] Where did Dad keep the feed? [Dad kept the feed in the shed.]

A “shed” is a small building for storing things. Point to the shed.
Vick rested in bed. Then he got up. Vick asked, “Eva, did the deer come back?” Eva said, “Dad and I put feed by the stones. I hope they come back!”

What does Vick ask Eva? [“Did the deer come back?”]
Did the deer come back? [Not yet. Eva hopes they will.]
Dad said, “We can keep feed by the stones. I bet the deer will come back a lot.”
“Let’s hope,” said Vick.
“I like the deer to visit us,” said Eva.
“I can tell the kids at school about the deer!” said Vick.
“I am glad I was home to see them.”
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Use T-P-S to discuss these questions.

1. Why did Vick have to stay home from school?
   [He was sick. He had a cold.]

2. What happened that was exciting?
   [Vick saw deer outside his window.]

3. Will the deer come back? Why?
   [Yes. They will come back because Dad and Eva put out feed for them.]
Reading Roots, Level 3

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Reading Roots Shared Stories were developed under the direction of Robert E. Slavin and Nancy A. Madden, codirectors of the Success for All Foundation Family of Programs.

Success for All Foundation is a nonprofit education reform organization that develops and disseminates research-based reading and math programs for students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary and middle schools. These programs were originally developed at Johns Hopkins University.

Illustrations for this book were colored digitally by Jason Lego.

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