Slippery Steps

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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.

Why did Jack get up? [He thought he heard rocks hitting the window.]
What did Jim do? [He got up and peeked out.]
To “peek” means to look. This is “peeking.” Pantomime “peeking.” Can everyone show me how to peek?
When Jim and Jack looked out the bedroom window, they couldn’t believe their eyes.

It wasn’t rocks that were making the noise. What was hitting the window? [sleet]

Point to the sleet outside of the window. “Sleet” is little balls of ice.
When sleet falls, it makes everything icy and slippery. What do Jim and Jack want to do tomorrow when there is a lot of ice? [They want to skate on the pond.]
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!”

Why do the trees and bushes shine? [They are covered with ice.]  
What does Jack want to do? [He wants to skate.]  
“Skating” is sliding on ice with special shoes.
“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.

What do the boys have to do before they can go out? [They must put on pants, jackets, hats, and mittens.]
“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.

Where did Jack want to go? [Jack wanted to go to Alligator Pond.]
What happened when Jack stepped outside? [He slipped on the steps.]

Why do you think Jack fell? (T-P-S)
Was Jack hurt? [No, he is 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.

What do the boys tell Mom? [“We are stuck. We keep slipping and can’t get up.”]
What do you think will happen to Mom? (T-P-S)
“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.”

What happens to Mom? [She bumps down the steps.] Is Mom hurt? [No, she is O.K.]
Dad heard the noise and wanted to know what was going on.

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.”

What do Mom, Jim, and Jack yell to Dad? [“Don’t take a step!”]
Why do they say that? [They don’t want Dad to fall too.]
What is Dad going to do so they don’t slip? [He’s going to put sand on the steps.]
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.

Did the sand fix the slippery steps? [Yes, the sand fixed the slippery steps.]

What do the boys want to do now? [They want to go skating at Alligator Pond.]
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Use T-P-S to discuss these questions.

1. Why did Jim and Jack hope the sleet would not stop?
   [The sleet would freeze and make ice on the ground. Then they could go skating.]

2. What happened when the boys and Mom tried to go down the front steps?
   [They fell on the ice and could not get up.]

3. How did Dad fix the problem?
   [He put sand on the steps.]
Reading Roots, Level 3

Slippery Steps

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