Green Words (Phonetic):

| blue jay | right | wings | grow |
| pail     | sky   | cloud | lay  |
| planting | stay  | May   | first|
| raincoats| while | garden| away |

Red Words (Sight):

| eyes | before | flew | over |

Practice reading these sentences.

Vick needed to plant seeds in May.
A pile of seeds lay near the pail.
Fran said, “Can you play with Trail Cat and me?”
It was a hot day in May. Vick was digging and weeding in the garden. A pile of seeds lay near a big pail. Vick tossed grass in the pail. Fran peeped over the fence. She held her cat. “Hi, Vick!” she said. “Can you play with Trail Cat and me?”
Vick stopped and looked up at the sky. “No, I can’t,” said Vick. “I need to plant my seeds before it rains.” “It is not going to rain,” said Fran. “The sun is hot.” “Yes, it is,” Vick said. “See that black cloud?”

Why can’t Vick play? [He wants to plant his seeds before it rains.]
How does Vick know it is going to rain? [He can see a black cloud.]
Point to the cloud.
Fran looked up at the big black cloud. “You are right! Plant your seeds! It is going to rain!” she said. “Can I help you?” “Yes! You can weed the grass while I dig up the dirt,” said Vick. Fran set Trail Cat on the fence and jumped over.
Trail Cat looked while Fran yanked grass and tossed it in the pail. He looked while Vick dug in the dirt and planted three seeds. Trail Cat began to close his eyes to take a nap.

What was Trail Cat doing while the kids worked? [He was lying on the fence watching Fran and Vick.]
What did Trail Cat do then? [He closed his eyes to take a nap.]
Then Trail Cat’s eyes popped open. He saw a big blue jay land in a tree near the fence. The jay sat in the tree and looked at the seeds by the pail. They looked good to eat!

What did Trail Cat see in the tree? [Trail Cat saw a big blue jay.] Point to the blue jay. Why do you think the blue jay is looking at the seeds? [She wants to eat them. Birds like to eat seeds.] Point to the seeds.
The jay flew to the seeds. She pecked and pecked. “STOP!!” yelled Vick. He ran to the jay. The jay flew back to the tree.

What did the blue jay try to do? [She tried to eat the seeds.]
Why couldn’t the blue jay eat the seeds? [Vick scared the bird away.]

Make a Prediction: What will Trail Cat do?
(T-P-S) Have the students support their predictions.
Trail Cat leaped at the jay in the tree.
But he missed the jay. He missed the tree! CRUNCH!!!
Trail Cat landed in the pail. The grass spilled on the seeds.
“TRAIL CAT!! STAY AWAY FROM THE SEEDS!” yelled the children.

Why did Trail Cat jump? [He wanted to jump in the tree and get the bird.]
What happened to Trail Cat? [He fell. He landed in the pail, and grass spilled on the seeds.]
The children were mad at Trail Cat! They tried to catch him.
But the cat was fast! He leaped out of the pail.
He ran up the tree to chase the jay.
The jay just flapped her wings and left for her nest.

Why were the children mad at Trail Cat? [He knocked grass on the seeds.]
Where did the cat go? [He ran up the tree.]
Where did the blue jay go? [She left for her nest.]
Trail Cat was mad that he missed the jay. He sat in the tree and cleaned his tail. Vick and Fran brushed the grass off the seeds. Then Vick held up his hand.

What did Trail Cat do next? [He sat in the tree and cleaned his tail.]
Why did Vick hold up his hand? [He checked to see if it was raining.]
A rain drop fell.
“Fran, did you feel that?” asked Vick.
“Feel what?” Fran said.
Lots of rain drops fell.
“Fran, we must finish planting fast!” yelled Vick.

Why does Vick say that they must finish planting fast? [If it starts raining hard, they won’t be able to plant the seeds.]
Rain drops fell fast. Trail Cat leaped down from the tree to get out of the rain. (Cats hate to get wet!) Vick said, “First the jay ate our seeds. Then the cat spilled the pail.” “Now rain is falling fast,” added Fran. “How can we plant the seeds?”

Why does Trail Cat jump out of the tree? [Cats hate to get wet.]
What does Fran ask? [“How can we plant the seeds?”]
“Let’s get our raincoats,” said Vick. “We can plant the seeds in the rain!”
“Yes!” said Fran. “Rain is good for seeds. It will help them grow!”

How do the children find a solution to their problem? [They put on their raincoats so they can plant in the rain.]
Planting Seeds in May

Use T-P-S to discuss these questions.

1. What was Vick doing in the garden?
   
   [He was planting seeds.]

2. How did Trail Cat cause trouble for Vick and Fran?
   
   [Trail Cat jumped to get a blue jay and spilled the bucket of grass on the seeds.]

3. How did Fran and Vick plant the seeds after the rain came?
   
   [They put on their raincoats and kept planting.]
Reading Roots, Level 3

**Planting Seeds in May**

“ay”

“ai”

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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 James Bravo.

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