Planting Seeds in May

Story by Laura Burton Rice
Illustrations by Jennifer Clark
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?"
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.
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!
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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?”
“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!”
1. Why did Vick need to plant fast?

2. How did Fran help Vick?

3. What did the blue jay do?

4. Why were the children mad at Trail Cat?

5. Why did the children get raincoats?
Reading Roots, Level 3

**Planting Seeds in May**

“ay”

“ai”

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