



*Phonics for Squirrely Kids*

**1**

# **Yaks on Tracks**



**Practice with**

**'ak' and 'ack'**

*by Marianne Hering and Lori Z. Scott  
Illustrated by Lori Z. Scott*



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# Introduction

Hello, parents, teachers, grandparents, tutors, and friends,

We'd like to introduce you to the Hering-Scott Reading Method. **Phonics for Squirrely Kids** is all about fun. We include word play, silly ideas, and adorable, full-color illustrations to create products that will make kids go nuts about learning.

**Marianne Hering** has been writing for children since 1987 when she joined the staff of *Focus on the Family Clubhouse* and *Club Jr.* magazines. Her wildly popular Imagination Station books have enlightened kids and adults alike about Christian history. Find out more about that series for kids 7 and up at [MarianneHering.com](http://MarianneHering.com).

Elementary school teacher **Lori Z. Scott** has two quirky habits: chronic doodling and inventing lame jokes. Somehow her odd musings led her to accidentally write the 10-book bestselling Meghan Rose series. On purpose, she has written more than 175 short stories, articles, essays, poems, and devotions. Find her on Instagram @lori.z.Scott.

We hope you enjoy this reading experience.

Marianne & Lori



## Getting Ready to Read

Children are ready for this book once they know the alphabet consonant sounds, the short vowel sounds, and a few consonant blends. We've identified the more difficult sounds and the sight words in this book for easy review.

For free help with consonant and vowel sounds, visit [1-2-3succeedtoread.com](http://1-2-3succeedtoread.com).

### 5 blended sounds

"qu" as in queen

"sn" as in snake

"st" as in stick

"th" as in thorn

"tr" as in truck

### 12 rhymes with yak

hack	Jack	kayak
lack	pack	quack
snack	stack	tic-tac
tracks	yack	Zack

### 5 sight words to memorize

a is of on that

### 3 short vowel sounds

Ask your child to . . .

say "ă" as in alligator

say "ĩ" as in iguana

say "ö" as in octopus

**A yak.**



**A stack of yaks.**



**A pack of yaks.**



**A lack of yaks.**

**That yak is Jack.**





**That yak is Zack.**



**Yaks that kayak.**



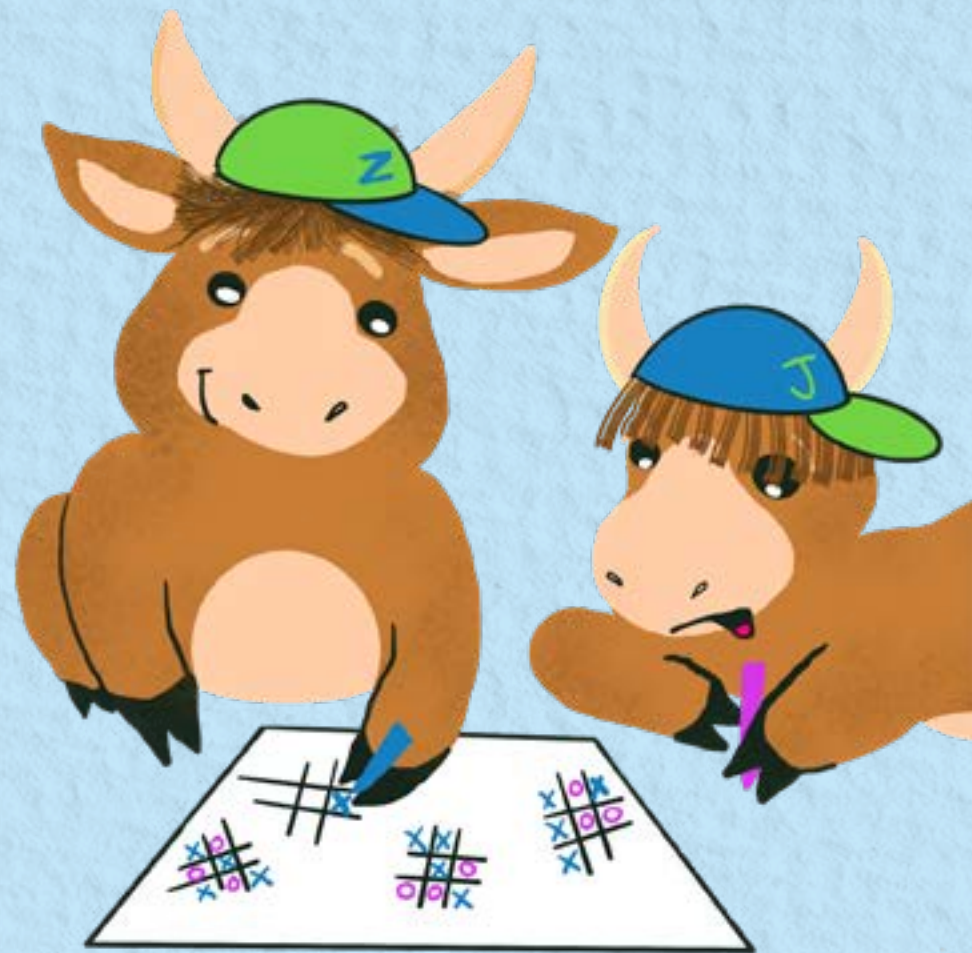
**Yaks that snack.**



**Yaks that yack.**



# Tic-tac yaks.



# **Zack and Jack on tracks.**



**Quack, quack!**



**Is that a yak?**







## Yak Jokes

**Q:** What is a yak that cuts down trees?

**A:** A lumber yak.

**Q:** What do you call a yak that knows it all?

**A:** A brainy-yak.

**Q:** How do yaks carry books?

**A:** In a yak-pack.



**Q:** What are yaks that talk too much?

**A:** Yackety-yak yaks.

**Q:** When does a yak say, "Quack?"

**A:** When it's learning a new language.

**Q:** What does a yak use to break up cement?

**A:** A yak-hammer.





# Yaks as Pets

Read to me

- If you kept a yak as a pet, you'd need a mountain at least 14,000 feet high in Tibet, China, or Mongolia.
- But don't worry about the cold. A yak can live in weather that is  $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$ . Their thick hair keeps them warm even when it's wet.
- For birthday parties, you'd need to invite their shaggy-haired cousins: bison and oxen.
- If you choose a girl yak, you'll never go hungry. Their milk can be made into yummy yogurt or cheese.
- Get ready to gather grass, herbs, and fungus to feed your pet.
- And be prepared to take your yak to high school with you. Yaks can live 20 years or longer.





## To, With, and By

A good way to help beginning readers become fluent is to identify a short section of a story or an article—two to four sentences. Read the selection **TO** your child. Then read the selection **WITH** your child. Finally, ask your child to read the passage out loud **BY** him- or herself.

## Does Your Child Need Extra Help?

If you suspect your child is a struggling reader, visit [1-2-3succeedtoread.com](http://1-2-3succeedtoread.com) to find free materials. You may also email reading interventionist Peggy Wilber MEd at [succeedtoread@hotmail.com](mailto:succeedtoread@hotmail.com) for free help for your child.

## Practice with Short *ă*

Use the “To, With, and By” method to help your child read the following sentences.

A cat ran. A rat ran. A cat ran  
after a rat. That rat was fast.

A rat can be fat. A rat can be a  
snack. A fat rat can be a snack for  
a fast cat.

A yak can have a hat. A hat can  
be flat. A hat can  
be black. A yak  
can have a flat,  
black hat.



# Tacky yaks



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