The Gifts
A Note to Families — Before Reading

You and your child can enjoy reading this book together.

The words to the right appear in the text. Tell your child the Story Words and read them together. Have your child practice saying the Memory Words and sounding out the other words. Then have him read the entire book out loud. Have fun talking about the pictures on each page.

Story Words
Brazil from into
Kenya we

Memory Words
to said was like you

Words to Sound Out
tassel hammock
zig zag
Tic’s granddad went on a big trip. Granddad went to lots of distant lands. Granddad sent gifts to Tic from the distant lands. Tic said, “The box is from Japan. Granddad sent a gift from Japan.”
In the box was a red silk fan from Japan.
The silk fan had a black dragon on it.
The fan had a black tassel.
The tassel felt soft on Tic’s hand.
Alf said, “I like the dragon fan from Japan.”
Ettabetta said, “Can we put the fan in the bus?”
Tic said, “Yes.”
Ettabetta and Alf put the fan in the bus.
Granddad sent a gift from Kenya. It was a big basket.

“Mmm,” said Tic. “The basket smells like grass in the sun.”
Hot Rod said, “Can Frits and I get in the basket from Kenya?”
Tic said, “Yes. But you must not rip it.”
Frits and Hot Rod stuck up from the basket like plants in a pot.
The next gift was from Finland. It was a hat and mittens.

Lily said, “Let’s put the hat and mittens on Golly!”
Tic said, “But Golly will get mud on the mittens.”
Lily said, “Tic will get upset if Golly gets mud on the mittens. I will just put the hat on Golly.”

Lily put the hat on Golly.
Granddad sent a box from Brazil. In the box was a hammock.

Tic said, “The hammock from Brazil is the best gift! I will put it up!”
Tap! Tap! Tap! Tic put up the hammock.

“Can we sit in the hammock?” said the Superkids.
“Yes,” said Tic.
“Let’s pretend the hammock is a camel,” said Alf.

A camel can cross the sand fast.

Let’s cross the hot sand.
“Let’s pretend the hammock is a cab,” said Doc.
“A cab can zig and zag,” said Sal.
“Yell for the cab to stop!” said Oswald.
Tac said, “Let’s pretend the hammock is a pond. Hop into the pond like frogs.”
“No!” said Tic. “Stop!”
But the Superkids did not stop.
Jump! Bump! Wump!
The Superkids landed on the hammock.
The hammock split.
The Superkids fell.

Tic was upset and ran off.
The Superkids felt sad. The hammock was Tic’s best gift. The best gift was just a ragged mess.
Tic let us put the hat from Finland on Golly.

Tic let us put the fan from Japan in the bus.

Tic let us get in the basket from Kenya.

Tic let us sit in the hammock from Brazil. Quick! We must fix the hammock.
The Superkids mended the rip. At last the hammock was set.

Toc said, “Let’s get Tic.”
“The hammock is mended, Tic,” said Icky. “You can sit in it.”

Tic sat. But the Superkids did not. “The hammock was a gift for you, not us,” said Lily.

“No. You can get on the hammock, Superkids,” said Tic. “But let’s just sit and rest.”

The Superkids sat in the mended hammock. The Superkids sat as snug and still as robins in a nest.
A Note to Families — After Reading

Talk about how Tic felt at the beginning, middle, and end of the story. Ask questions such as the following: “Were Tic’s friends taking good care of the gifts she shared? Was it a good idea for Tic to share her gifts? What would you do if you accidentally broke or damaged a toy a friend shared with you?”

Go through the book again, drawing your child’s attention to specific sounds and letters. For example, ask him to look at the pictures and name something that ends with the same sound as fox (box).

Ask your child to find and read the words that contain the letter x: box, next, fi; words that contain the letter y: yes, Kenya, you, yell; and words that contain the letter z: Brazil, zig, zag.

This book includes the Memory Words to, said, was, like, and you. Ask your child to find the words to, said, was, like, and you and read the sentences.

Encourage your child to read the book to you again. Most children love to reread books, and rereading makes them stronger readers.