

**SAXON**  
**Phonics and Spelling**

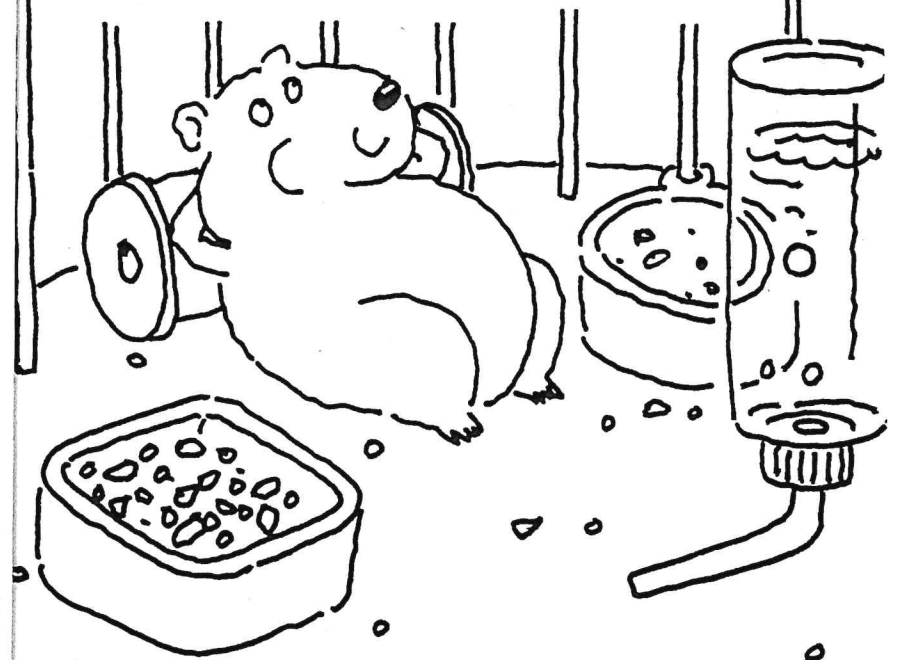
**Phonetic Concepts Practiced**

ph (photo)  
 g = /j/ (gerbil, large)

**Nondecodable Sight Words Introduced**

change  
 danger  
 strange  
 stranger

# Phil the Gerbil



written by Meish Goldish  
 illustrated by Rick Brown

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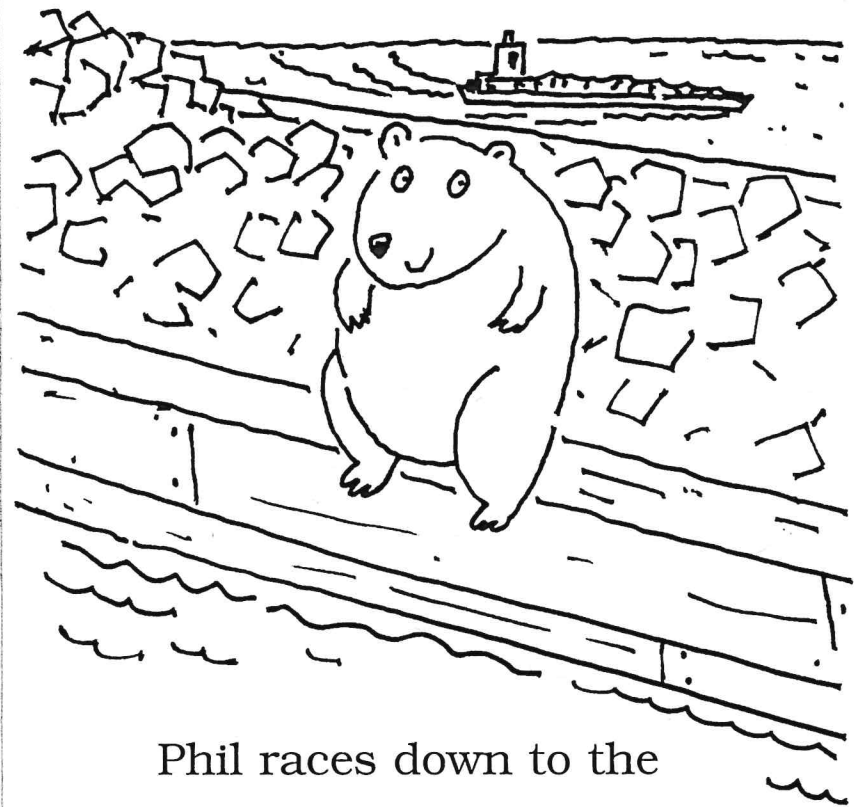
Grade 1, Decodable Reader 40  
 First used in Lesson 109

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The gerbil cage is open!  
Phil runs out and goes away.  
But where will Phil go? Will  
he be in danger?

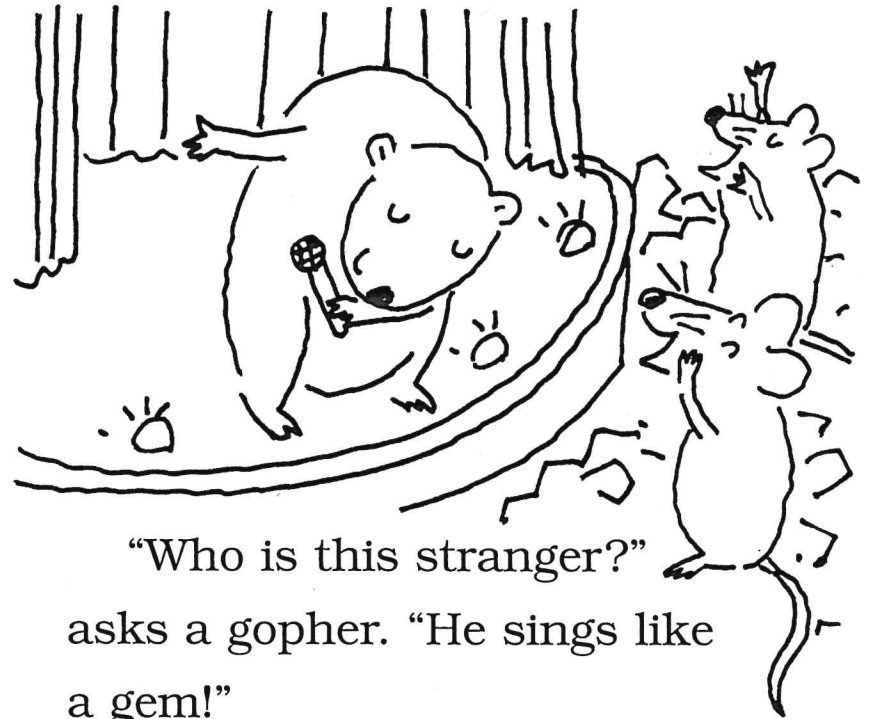


Phil races down to the  
river. He sees a large barge.  
Phil jumps onto the barge  
and takes a trip!



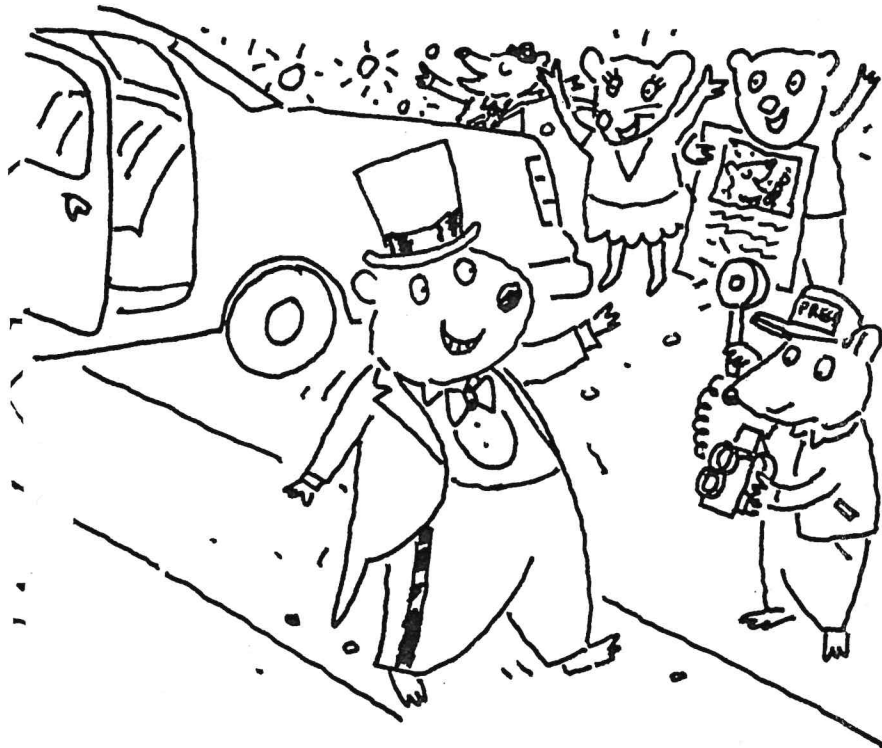
Inside the barge there is a huge stage!

Phil steps onto this large stage. Once he's on stage, he starts to sing.

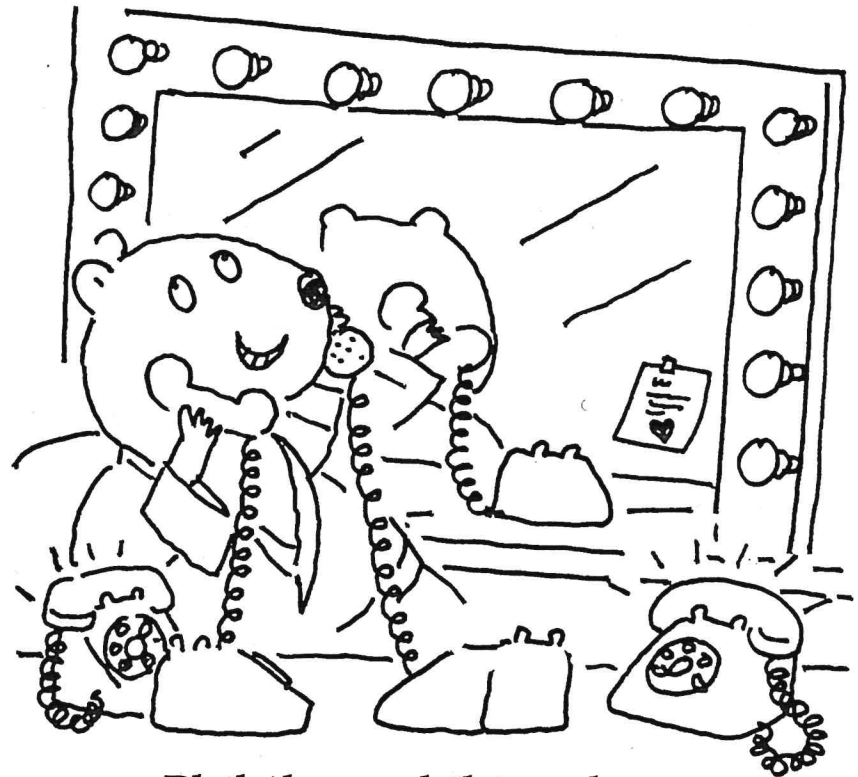


"Who is this stranger?" asks a gopher. "He sings like a gem!"

"Sing more, sing more!" the mice and gophers shout. They shout that phrase after each song.



Phil the gerbil is a big hit!  
His photo appears in the paper.  
In fact, a large photo of him  
appears on the first page!



Phil the gerbil is a huge  
star! His phone never stops  
ringing! The change in his life  
is so strange!



Wake up, Phil! It was just a strange dream! Phil the gerbil is glad. He still has his nice, large cage!

**The End**

### Understanding the Story

Questions are to be read aloud by a teacher or parent.

1. Who is Phil?
2. What kind of boat does Phil sail on?
3. What does Phil do on the boat?
4. Where is Phil at the end of the story?
5. What does Phil's adventure turn out to be?

Answers: 1. a gerbil 2. a barge 3. sings on stage 4. back in his cage 5. a strange dream

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