

STORY 45

words we know

curious	actually	normally
cover	uncover	discover
birth	first	damage
other	brother	another
strange	stranger	strangest
respond	realise	reply
orange	bread	meant
weather	feather	leather
believe	awkward	louder
invite	smoothly	enjoy

STORY 45

new sound

ir as in bird

gu as in guess

Look through the story. Find some words with the “ir” sound, and say them aloud. Then do the same for the “gu” words.

special words

delicious Brisbane
naturally cafe autumn
parents menu comfortable

Learn how to say each special word. See if you can find each one in the story. Then you are ready to read the story.

FITZROY READERS STORY NUMBER 45

Sir John and the Bear Brothers



Created by Faye Berryman & Philip O'Carroll
Illustrated by Patricia Mullins

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One autumn, when the leaves were falling from the trees, Patrick Bear and his brother Guy were travelling on the bus into Brisbane city. When they got off the bus, Guy slipped and bumped into Patrick.



Both of them fell onto another bear who had got off just before them. He was carrying a guitar, and had long black hair.

“I'm sorry, sir,” said Guy. The Bear brothers felt very embarrassed. They helped the dark-haired bear to get up. Luckily his guitar was not damaged.



“Are you hurt?” asked Patrick.
“I don't think so,” replied the guitarist.
“Can I get you a cup of tea or coffee?”
asked Guy.

At first, the long-haired bear wasn't sure whether he wanted to talk with the strangers. But he didn't know anyone else in Brisbane, and he was glad to have someone to talk to.



The long-haired bear normally worked in Sydney, with a band called “Sir John and the Palace Guards”. He was thirsty. “Besides,” he thought, “these bears might be able to guide me to a good place to stay.”

“Well... okay,” he said with a smile. They chose an outdoor cafe nearby.

“I'm Guy and this is my brother Patrick,” said Guy as they settled down at their table.



“Hi guys,” responded the other bear. But he laughed as soon as he'd said this, because he suddenly realised that one of the “guys” was actually called “Guy”.



Patrick and Guy waited for him to tell his name. But their guest just looked at the menu. Patrick couldn't wait any longer and asked, "What's your name?"

"Oh, I'm Sir John," he replied. The Bear brothers couldn't believe that any parents would call their baby "Sir John", but they thought it would be rude to say so.



“Tea, coffee or orange juice, Sir John,” asked Guy, although he felt stupid calling his guest “Sir John”.

“Oh, just call me Sir,” answered Sir John, in a friendly tone of voice.

Guy didn't know what to think of this. He took a guess that “Sir” would drink coffee, and looked around for the waiter.



After they'd ordered drinks, Patrick was frowning. "Did you notice what a dirty shirt the waiter was wearing?" he whispered. Guy looked at the waiter, then nodded. But Sir just stared at Patrick, amazed that he would care about such a thing. Then, to his horror, Patrick realised that Sir's shirt wasn't very clean. Patrick squirmed. He hadn't meant to embarrass his guest.

There was a moment's uncomfortable silence. Then Guy started talking about the weather. After a while, they had all relaxed again. "How long are you staying in Brisbane?" asked Patrick. "Maybe a week," answered Sir John.



After more coffee and more talk, the Bear brothers invited Sir to their home for dinner.



While Guy was cooking, Sir sat on the kitchen table. Patrick couldn't believe it. He desperately wanted to say, "Get off our table! Nobody sits where people eat!" But he bit his lip and kept quiet. It wasn't polite to tell a guest how to behave.

But Sir had noticed Patrick's angry face. Sir felt uncomfortable, and mumbled, "Maybe I should be getting along now..." Patrick felt guilty for upsetting someone they had invited. "No, make yourself at home," he said with a red-faced smile.



Sir started playing his guitar. At first he sang softly, then got louder and louder. The Bear brothers just stared.



Sir John really enjoyed Guy's soup. He gobbled it down, making quite a lot of noise. Then he lifted his bowl and drank what was left. "Delicious!" he said, holding up the bowl for some more. Guy and Patrick hadn't even started theirs yet! Some things about Sir were charming, but at other moments the Bear brothers felt disgusted.

That evening, things went more smoothly. They all liked playing cards - they played thirteen games! Then because it was late, they asked Sir to stay the night. But when Guy and Patrick were trying to get to sleep, Sir had the radio on and was humming along.



Next morning, the Bear brothers felt they had had enough of Sir. But he was still asleep. It would be impolite to wake him. He didn't stir till lunchtime.

Guy was making some eggs on toast.
“Smells good!” remarked Sir as he walked into the kitchen - without his shirt on.
This was too much for Patrick. “How dare you behave like this,” he blurted out.
“Nobody comes to lunch with a bare chest!”



Sir looked shocked. He was hurt that his new friends didn't seem to like him any more.
“But where I live, bears often walk around with no shirt on,” he explained softly.



At first the Bear brothers couldn't believe their ears. Then they realised that their way of doing things wasn't the only way. They had always thought everybody lived like them. Now all three had learned something new. Patrick felt bad - he had upset his guest. He sat on the floor and shook his head. "I'm sorry, I don't know what came over me," he groaned.

Sir, who was actually a kind bear, helped Patrick up. He offered him some of Guy's coffee! Guy didn't mind - he was getting used to Sir now. In fact, it was exciting to be discovering new ways of doing things.



After this the three became good friends. Sir invited the Bear brothers to his place in Sydney. That winter, they went to Sydney for three days. Sir John and the Palace Guards lived on the third floor of a block of flats. "The Palace Guards" were all blond bears who played guitars, but by now nothing surprised Guy and Patrick. They just relaxed - and enjoyed their stay.

THE END

STORY 45

words we've used

Brisbane	discover	above
delicious	curious	cafe
naturally	actually	autumn
parents	menu	comfortable
world	work	special
couple	trouble	touch

some new words

dirt	firm	stir
skirt	third	thirst
guide	vague	plague

STORY 45

teacher's page

teacher, information from this page may be shared with students when you feel they are ready for it

When we meet a new *extra sound*, such as **aw** as in **straw**, we are usually getting to know another English *digraph*. A *digraph* is a combination letters that has a particular pronunciation, distinct from the letters from which it is made up. Sometimes the *extra sound* involves a combination of three letters – like **ure** as in **nature** or **future**.

The word *digraph* comes from the Greek **di** meaning “two” and **graph** meaning “written symbol”. Nevertheless, the word *digraph* is often used whether two, three or even four letters are involved.

An *extra sound* usually involves a *digraph*, but not always. In just a few cases, an *extra sound* is represented by a *single* letter.

The most obvious example is the letter **c**. The *basic sound* of the letter **c**, the sound we learn when we first learn the alphabet, is **c** as in **cat**. This is how **c** is used in most simple words such as **cat, can, cap, cow, cup, cut**, etc.

But there is also a widespread use of **c** having the same *basic sound* as **s**. We see this in words like, **ice, nice, voice, race, face, ceiling, acid**, etc.