

Before reading

- Talk with your child about the grapheme ph - What sound does it make?
- Explain that ph makes the same sound as f
- Can they spot the 'ph' s in the text?
- Ask your child to read the story - Encourage your child to use their phonics to help them read but give assistance if necessary. If they get stuck on a word, ask them if they can 'chop it up'. They should be able to show you how they do this (they chop the word in to phonemes (sounds) and then blend them together to help them decode).
- If you can print the text - ask your child to use a pencil to underline all the ph graphemes. If you cannot print, you can still go through the story on the screen and spot as many words which have 'ph' in as you can.

After reading

Ask your child the questions below. If they can't remember the answers encourage them to go back and reread the text to find them.

- What kind of text is this? (postcard - fiction)
- Who is the postcard written to?
- Who wrote the postcard?
- Who is Phillis's nephew?
- Where did Phillis take her nephew?
- What does the word 'nephew' mean?
- What time did they arrive at the zoo?
- Where did they pick up the pamphlet?
- What is a pamphlet? Why did they pick it up? What information do you think it gave them?
- Have you ever looked at a pamphlet before? What was it for?
- What animals did they see at the zoo?
- Complete the sentence. They saw five \_\_\_\_\_.
- What does the word orphan mean?
- Do you think Pharris enjoyed the zoo? How do you know? What word in the text tells you this? (discuss the word and its other meanings - explain that words can mean different things depending on the context in which they are used).
- Have you been to a zoo before? If so, what did you do and see?
- Would you like to go to the zoo? Why?
- If you went to the zoo, what would you like to see and do there?
- Would you like to take a picnic lunch or maybe buy some lunch when you got there?

Activity

Ask your child to imagine that they are Steph and to write a reply in answer to the postcard from Phil. Would they agree to go to the zoo with him? What would they say to Phil? Would they suggest anything they would like to do or see at the zoo? What kind of weather would they be hoping for if they were going to visit the zoo? If it was a nice sunny day, is there anything they would like to have (e.g. ice cream/cold drink etc?)

Your child could illustrate their reply and maybe draw some of the things they might see at the zoo.