

DANNY LONG LEGS AND THE DANCE OFF



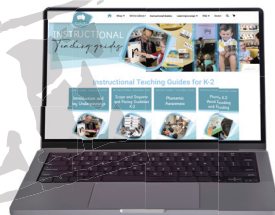


The Danny Long Legs set of decodable chapter books match up to Decodable Readers Australia's Level 7 scope and sequence.



Learn more about
Systematic Synthetic Phonics
through our free
Instructional Teaching Guides.

www.decodablereadersaustralia.com.au/pages/instructional-teaching-guides



Published by Decodable Readers Australia

All rights reserved. Copyright 2025 Decodable Readers Australia Pty Ltd. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, mechanical (including photocopying unless stated), recording, taping or by information storage and retrieval systems, without prior permission in writing of the publisher.

www.decodablereadersaustralia.com.au

Meet Danny Long Legs!



NOTES FOR EDUCATORS

The Danny Long Legs books are decodable which means that they are phonetically controlled, matching our level 7 letter-sounds. Follow the steps when using these books during supported reading time.

Supporting the Reader

1. Read the title of the book and predict what might happen.
2. Read through the sounds by having the student tap and say the sounds that match the letters.
3. Read through the sight words. These words will appear often in the book and may have spelling that is either irregular or unknown to the reader at this stage.
4. Read through the word warm up words to practise decoding.
5. Encourage the reader to read the story. If the reader comes to a word that they may not know, it is important to encourage the blending process (sounding out and sliding the sounds together). Reread the sentence if errors are made to help with fluency and comprehension.
6. Stop at each chapter and talk about the events and characters in the story. There are questions at the back.
7. At the end of the story discuss the plot (beginning, complication, resolution) and do a story retell.
8. Lots of positive praise is recommended for struggling readers, as reading can sometimes be strenuous for some.

SOUND WARM UP

These are our focus sounds of Level 7.

Tap and say the sounds!

Level 7 Sounds

a_e

e_e

i_e

o_e

u_e

a

baby

e

we

y

funny

i

find

y

sky

o

go

SIGHT WORD WARM UP

all

are

as

call

called

come

could

do

have

his

into

is

oh

one

onto

other

put

should

the

there

they

to

want

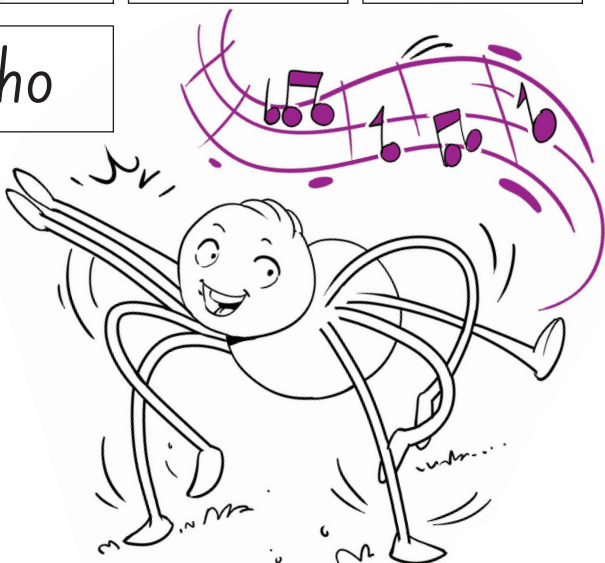
was

were

who

would

you



WORD WARM UP

a_e (cake) words

gave
face
shapes
mates

e_e (these) words

these
compete

i_e (like) words

mite
pile
smile
surprise

o_e (home) words

hope
woke
froze
spoke

u_e (rule) words

tunes

a (baby) words

waving
making

e (we) words

he
be
she
even

i (find) words

shiny
Friday
sliding
silent

o (go) words

so
cosy
oval
local

y (fly) words

cry
flying
trying
myself

y (funny) words

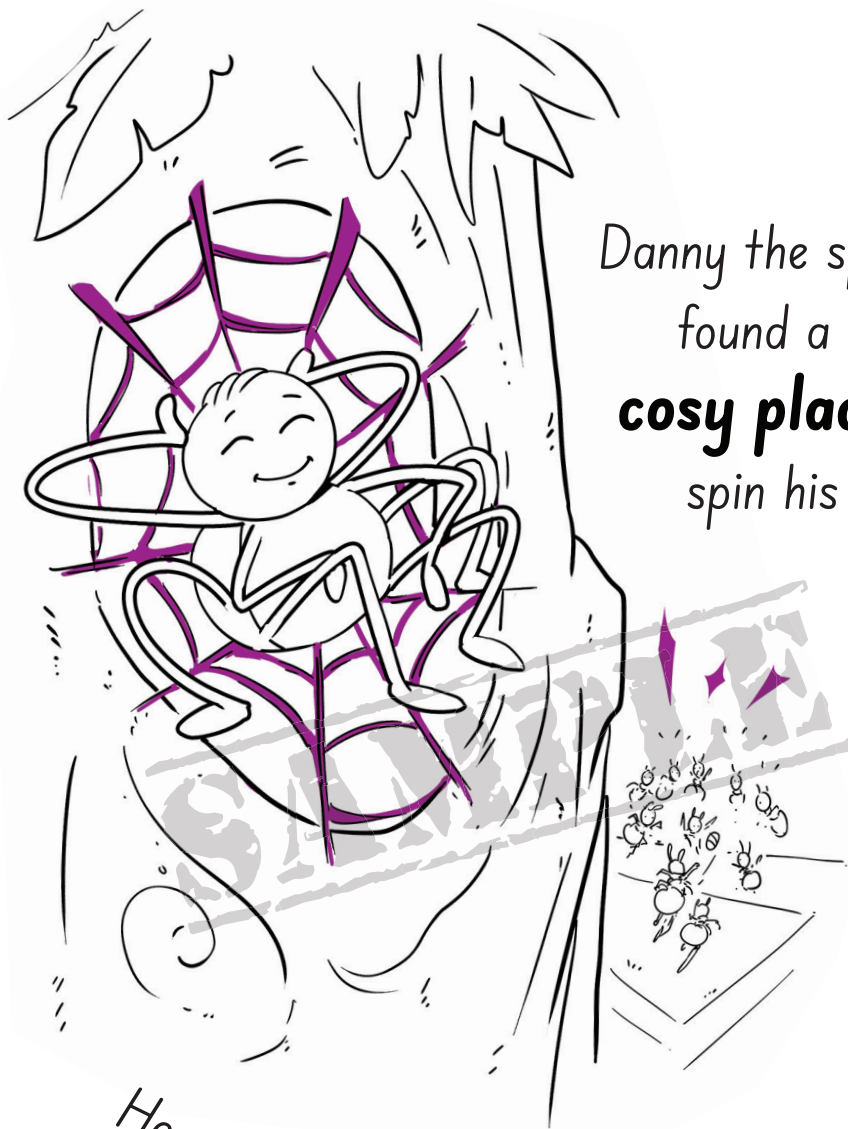
cosy
trophy
loudly
quickly

DANNY LONGLEGS AND THE DANCE OFF





Too Shy



Danny the spider
found a **new**
cosy place to
spin his web.

He spun his web in a big tree by an oval,
so he could see all the **sports games**.

Danny was not like most spiders. He had **very long legs**, and he was known for being clumsy.



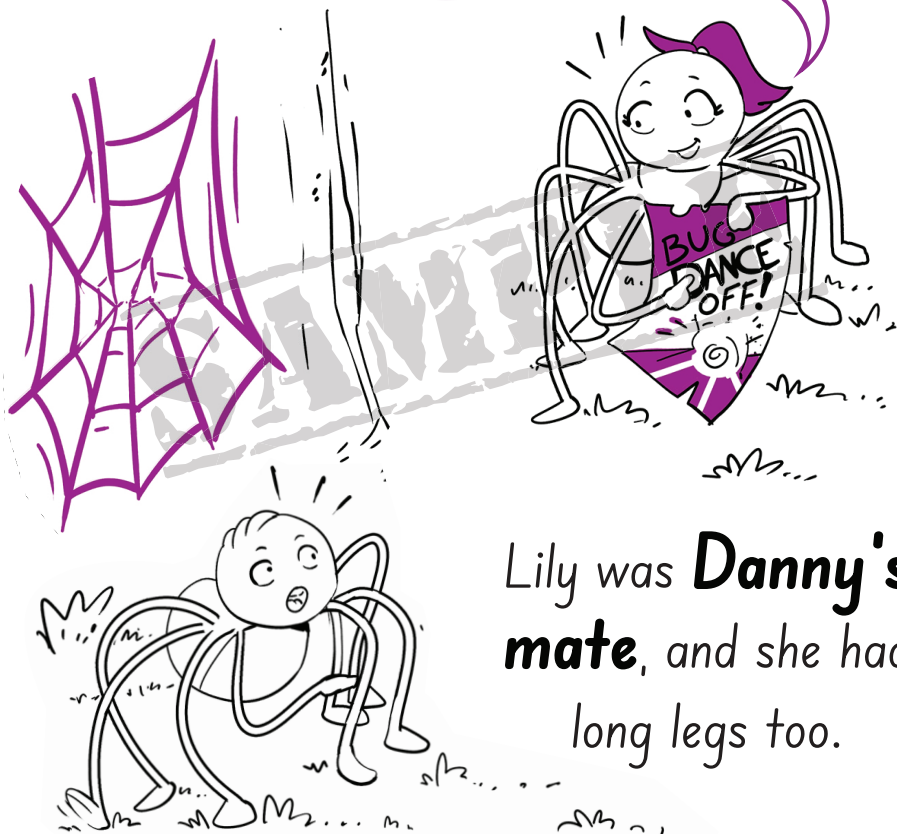
Danny liked to **dance** but when he did, he would trip. If he tried to **swing around**, he would tangle his legs up and tumble over.



Still, Danny liked to dream.
He imagined being a **dancing star**.

Danny, Danny! Look!

There is a Bug Dance Off at the
local oak tree on Friday night.
You should compete in this!



Lily was **Danny's**
mate, and she had
long legs too.

The Bug Dance Off was a **big event** and lots of bugs would attend.



Bugs from all over would come to **dance, sing,** and **have fun.**

There were bright lights, shiny streamers, and a big stage. The winner would get a **golden trophy.**

Danny had never entered a Bug Dance Off. He was shy, and he knew he might trip over and make a fool of himself.

Come on Danny.

You might just surprise yourself.

**You should
give it a try!**



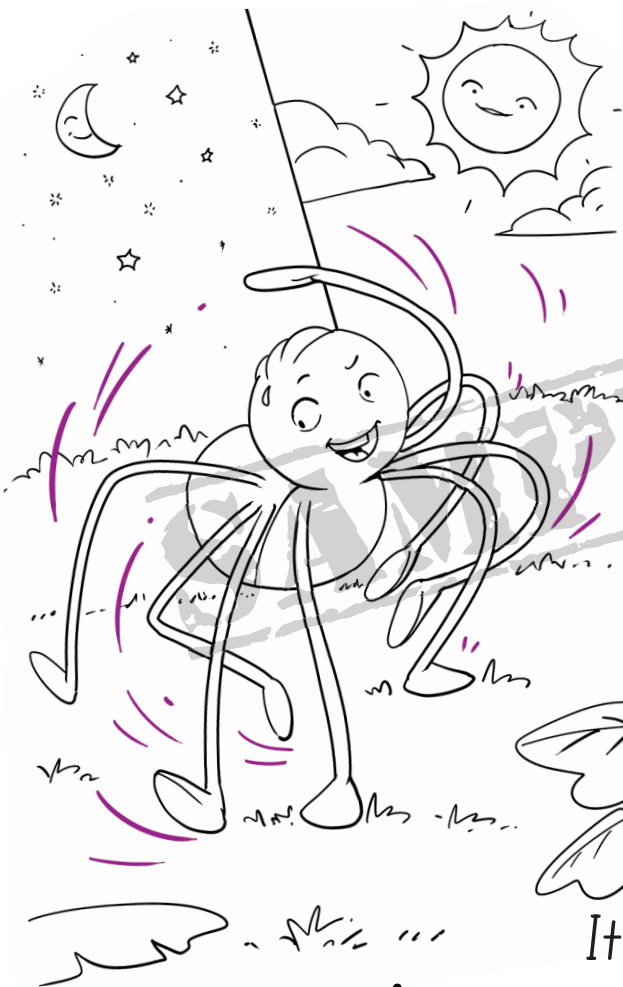
Lily smiled.



2

Bright Lights

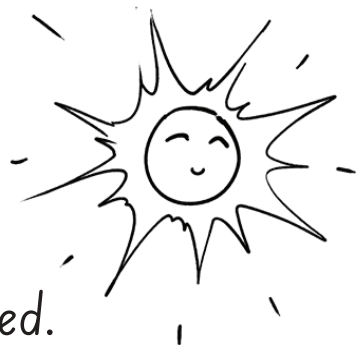
On the days leading up to the event
Danny would dance **day** and **night**.



He would spin
and swing.
At times, he
would trip,
but he just got
up and kept
going.

It was easy when
no bugs were looking at him.

On the day of the event,
Danny woke up with a
spring in his step. He
looked at his web and smiled.



Danny put on his **best hat** and
set off to the oak tree.



On his way, Danny skipped and tried to spin, but his legs got **tangled up**.

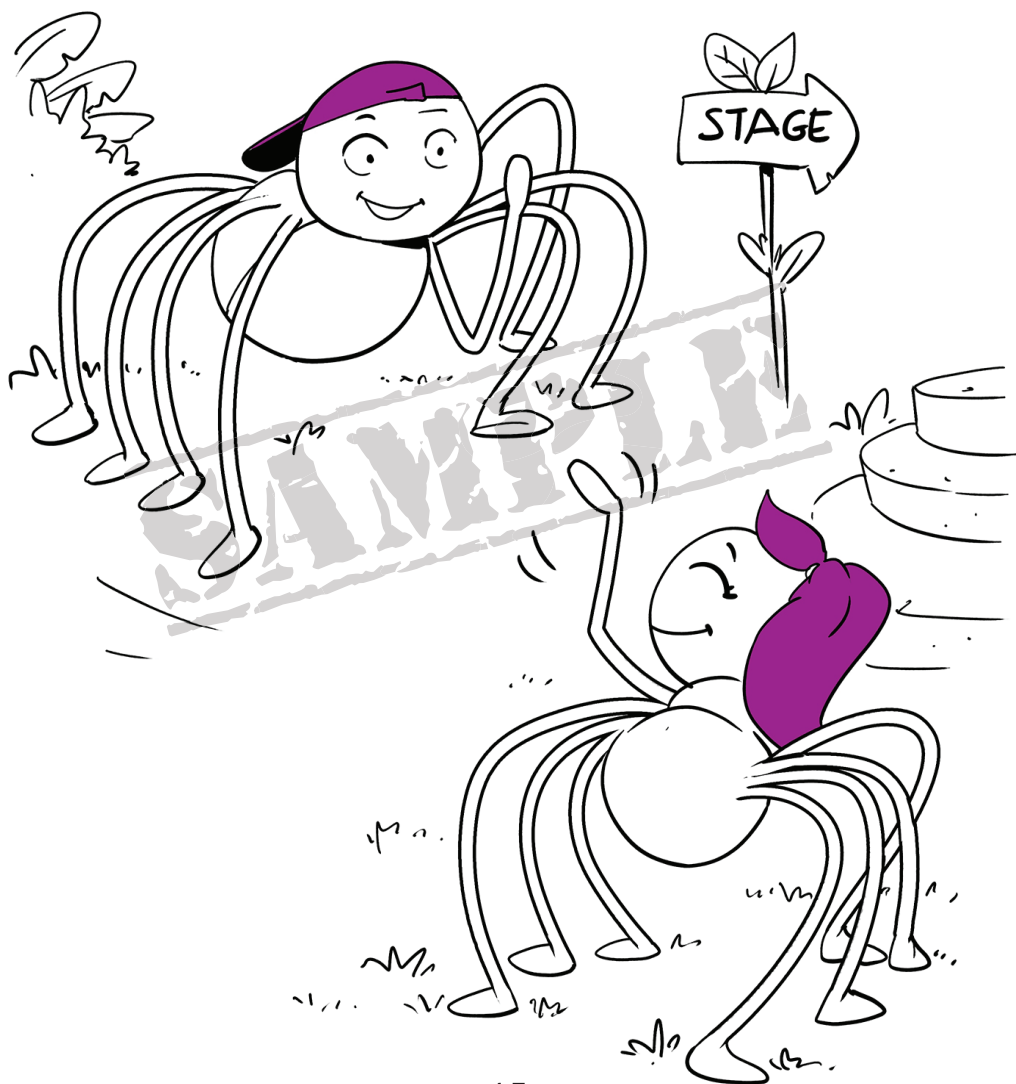
Danny landed on his back.



Oh no!

I hope I do not **trip over** on the stage.
I do not want to make a fool of myself.

When Danny got to the oak tree, he met
Lily and followed her to **the stage**.



There were lots of **talented bugs**.



There was Betty the bee, who could **buzz** and **spin**.

There was Mike the mite, who could **jump high**.



There was even a snail who could **slide** in time to the tunes.



The tunes were loud, and the
lights were bright.



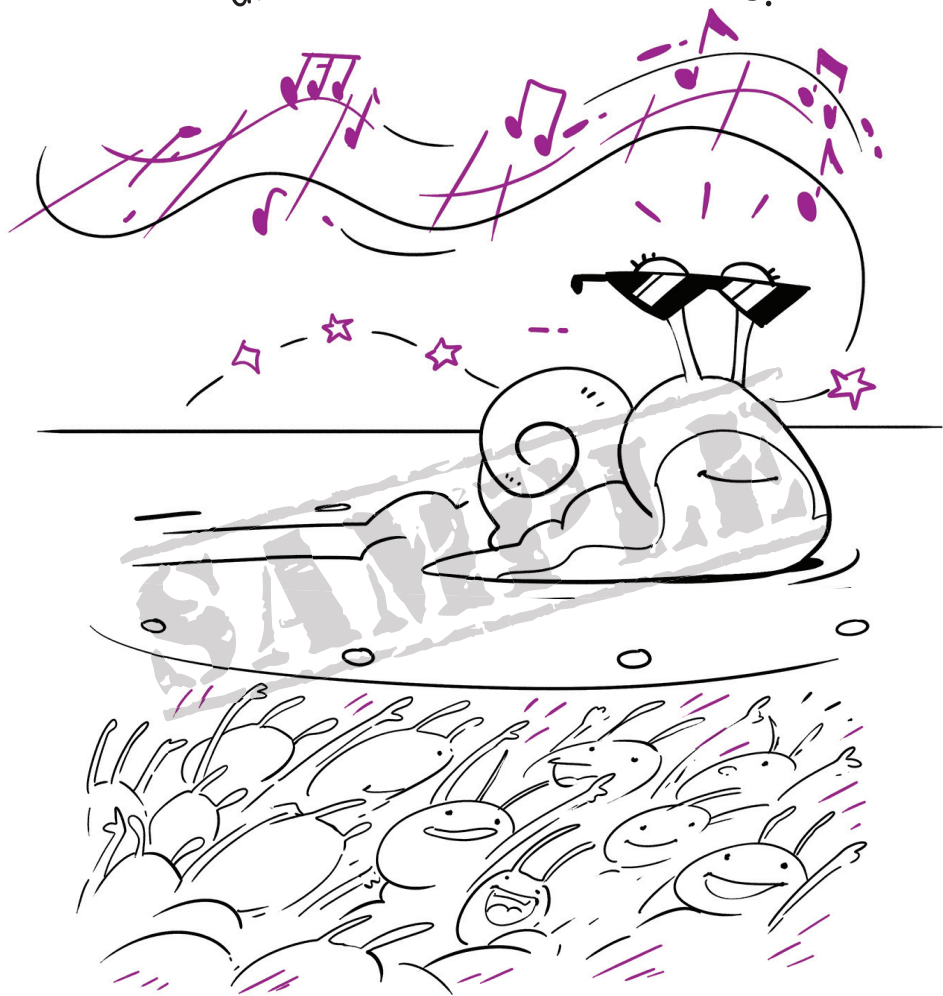
Each bug went on the stage. First,
Betty Bee did lots of quick spins.

Mike the Mite was next on the stage.
He did big **jumps** and **flips**.



The crowd was **clapping** loudly.

Sandy snail slid onto the stage and
did a **slow, funny slide**.



The crowd was **sliding** with her.

All the bugs were good at dancing.
Danny just wanted to run home. He
did not want to **get up** on the stage.

**Danny,
you can
do it!**



Lily was waving
and shouting.

**He had to
do this.**



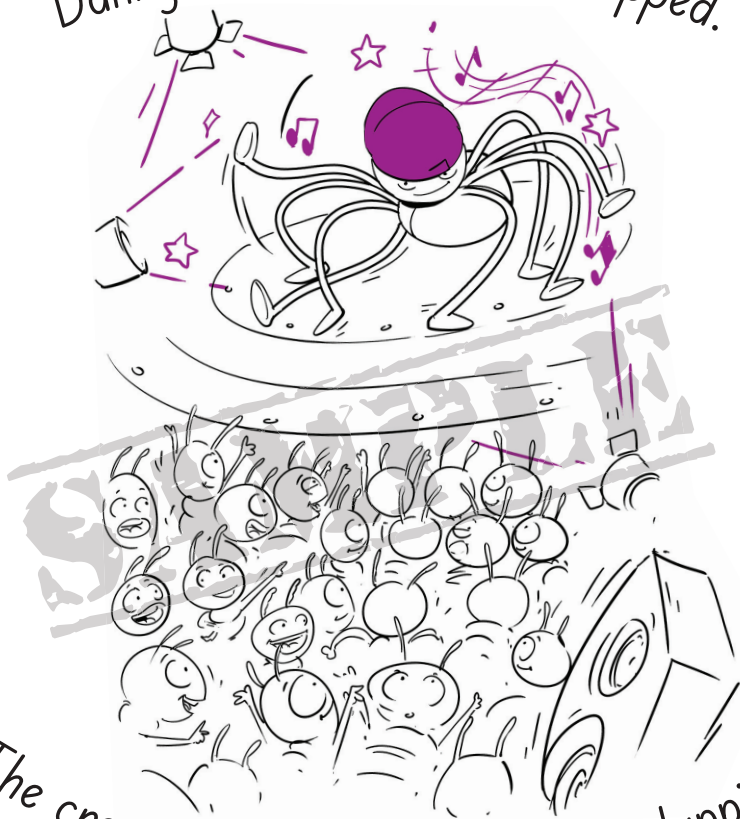
Legs, legs, skinny and
long, **help me dance**
to the beat of this song!



3

Danny's Turn

Danny slowly stepped onto the stage.
The song started. It had a **good beat**.
Danny lifted each leg and tapped.



The crowd liked this and started clapping.
Danny started to **swing** and **spin**.
This made the crowd clap louder.

Just as Danny was just starting to groove and get into it, his legs began to **tangle up**.



Danny tripped and slid across the stage.
The crowd went silent. Danny
felt his face go red.

As Danny tried to stand back up, his long legs **swung out** and he swept a pile of streamers out into the crowd.



The crowd giggled.

Danny tried to get up, but his legs got stuck in a **string of lights**.



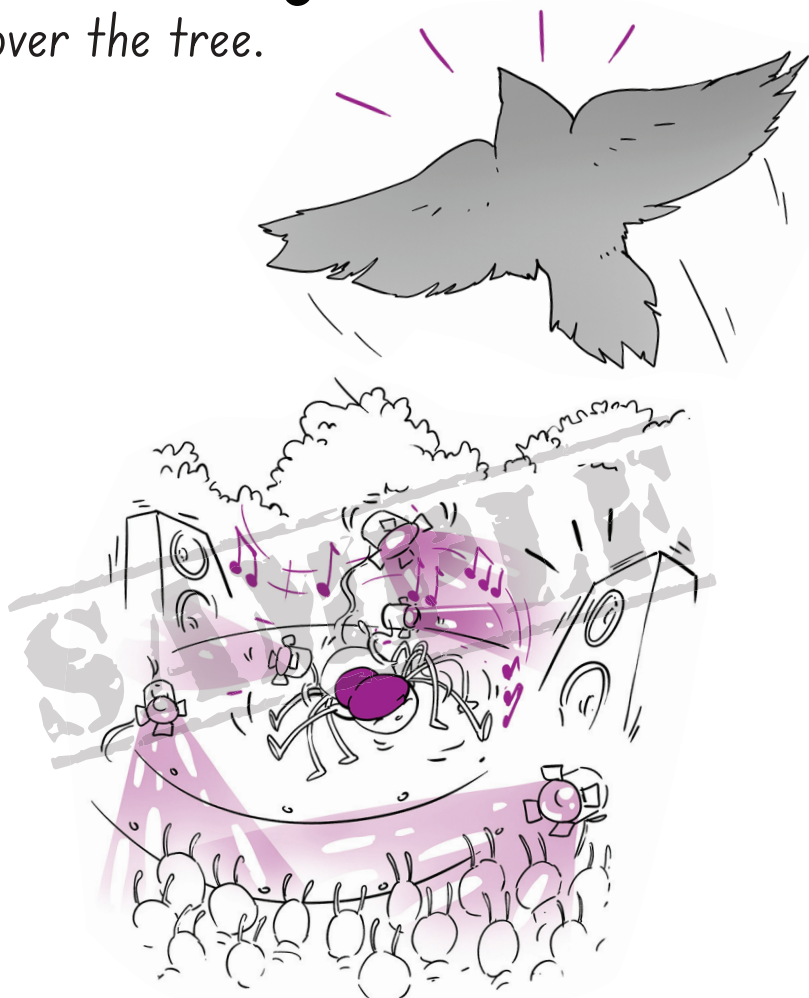
The lights swung back and forth,
making funny shapes on the stage.
The bugs smiled and clapped.

Danny felt silly, but he kept going.
The crowd seemed to be enjoying it.



Danny waved his legs to the beat.
He was having fun.

Suddenly, a **big dark shadow** went over the tree.



All the bugs froze.
Danny did not notice and kept dancing.



4

Danger!

A bird was flying low and its focus was on the **stage**.



The bird was big, with a **sharp beak** and wide wings. It was looking for a snack.

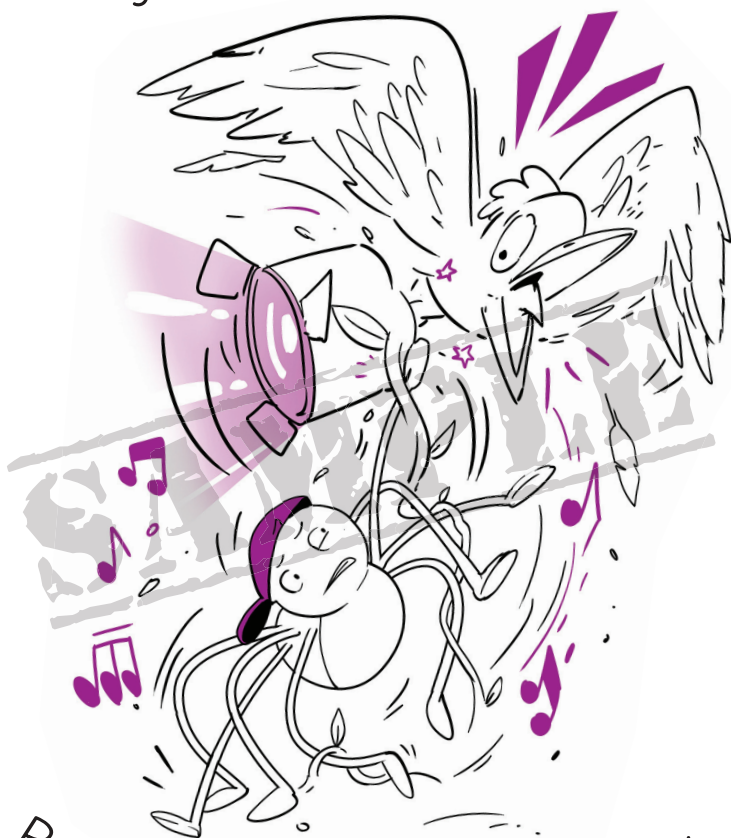
The bugs were in a panic.



But there was no time. The bird swooped down, aiming for the stage.

Aiming for Danny!

Danny did not see the bird at first. He was still trying to dance while untangling his legs from the string of lights.



But as he spun around, one of his long legs swung up high...right into the bird!

With a loud "**thump**,"
the string of lights
from Danny's legs hit
the bird's wing.



The bird gave
a **loud cry**
and tumbled.

In shock, Danny quickly **spun** the other way, and the string of lights hit the bird again.

The bird **flapped** and **flapped**, trying to get away.



The crowd stood still. The bird went out, away from the tree and did not come back.

The bugs started to clap and yell.

Danny
saved us!

Danny, you
are so brave!



You have saved the
Bug Dance Off!



5

Danny the Dancer

Danny was in shock. He looked
at his long legs and smiled.

Maybe my legs are
good for something.

even if I am
clumsy.

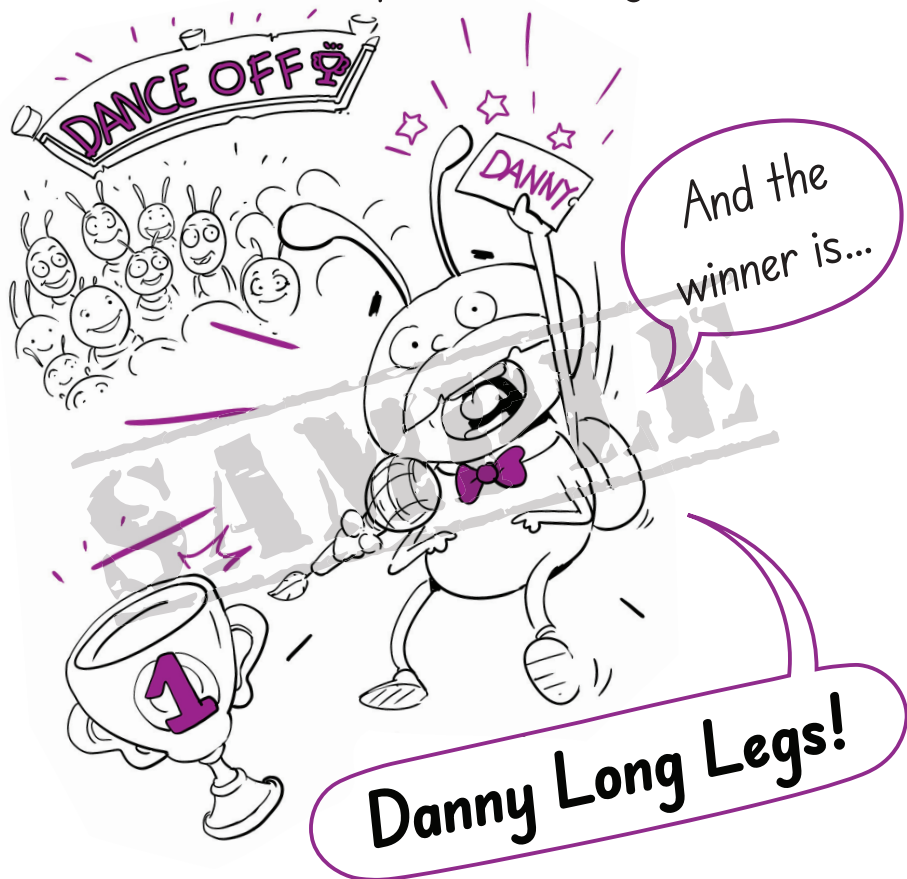


The next song started, and Danny stayed on stage, waving his **legs to the beat.**



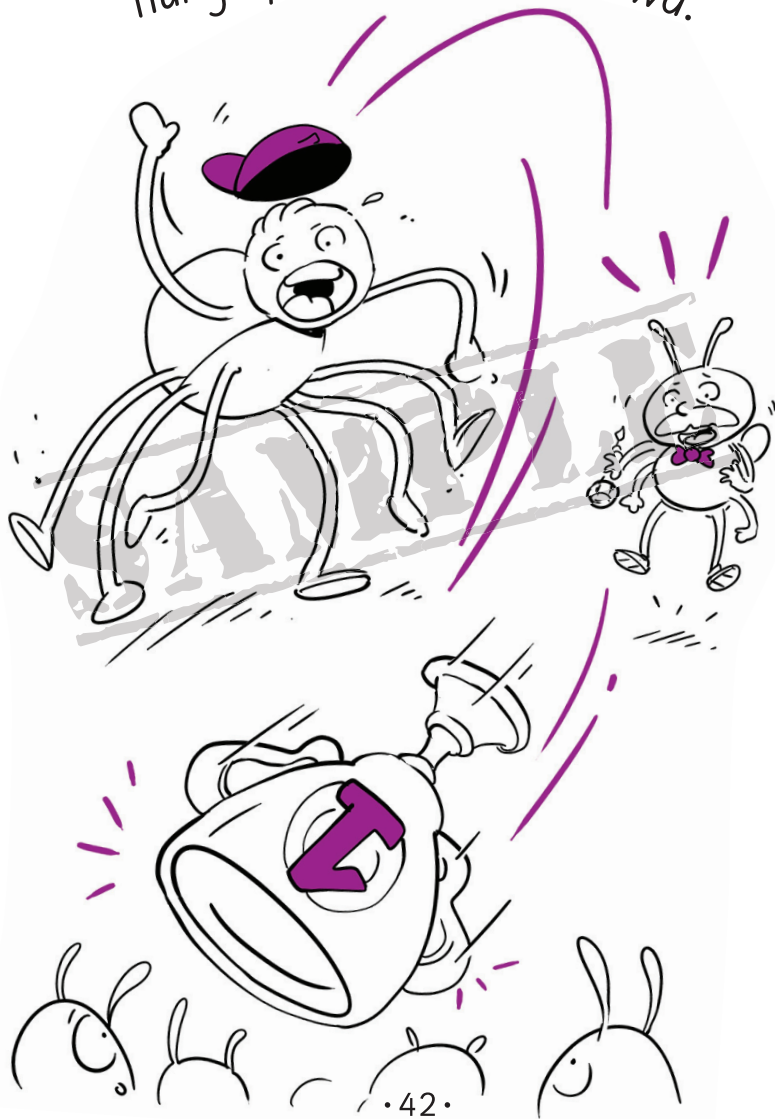
He did not mind if he looked silly.
He was happy.

At the end of the night all the bugs that entered the Dance Off were called up to the stage.



The crowd erupted with **shouting** and **clapping**.

As Danny went across the stage to get his trophy, he **slipped**, and the trophy was flung up and into the crowd.



Lily was in the crowd and lifted her long legs up, **grabbing** the trophy.



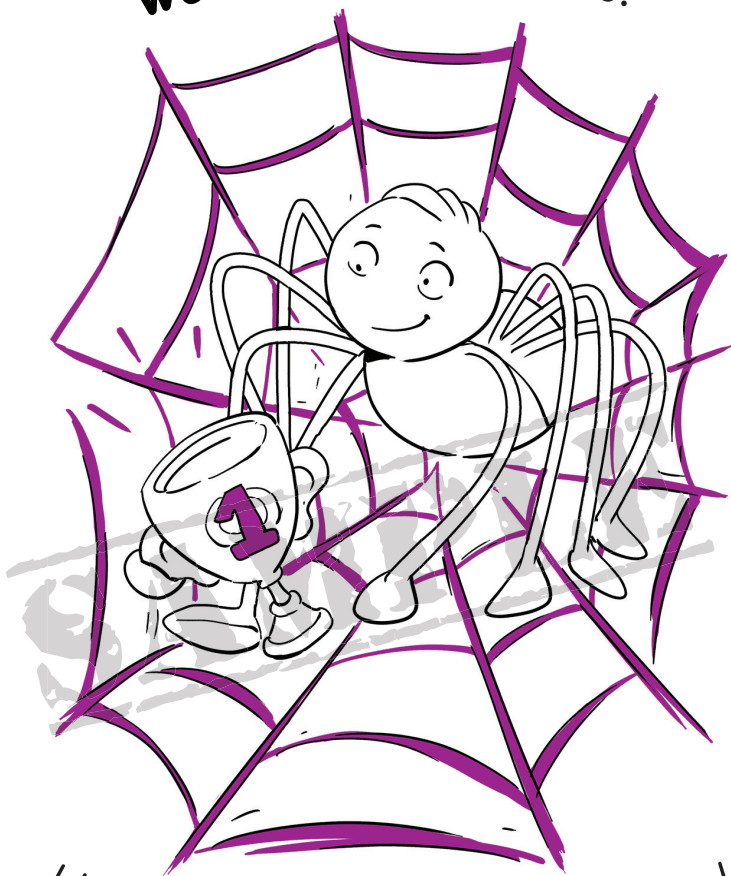
The crowd smiled. Danny smiled. Lily made her **way up** to the stage to give Danny his trophy.



You did it! You are the best dancer and the bravest bug.

Good job Danny.

It was time to go home, and Danny
went back to his web.



He felt so proud that he had tried
something new. He had made
new mates and had fun.

The next day, all the bugs spoke about Danny.
They now call him **'Danny the Dancer.'**



Danny liked his new name.

He liked his long legs, too. He knew
he could do big things, even if he
was clumsy. He just had to try.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

These questions can be asked at the end of each chapter.

Chapter 1 - Too Shy

1. What does Danny like to do, but he's not very good at?
2. What does Lily suggest Danny enter?

Chapter 2 - Bright Lights

3. What did Danny do on the days leading up to the Dance Off?
4. What other bugs had entered the Dance Off?

Danny's Turn

5. What happened to Danny when he had his go at dancing on stage?
6. Why did Danny not notice the dark shadow?

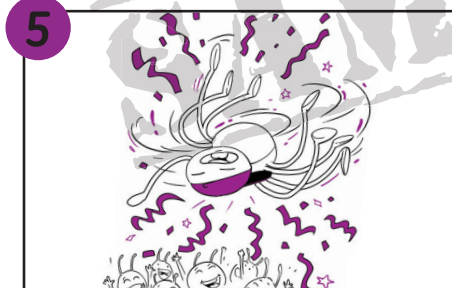
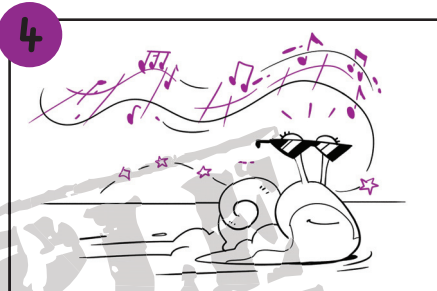
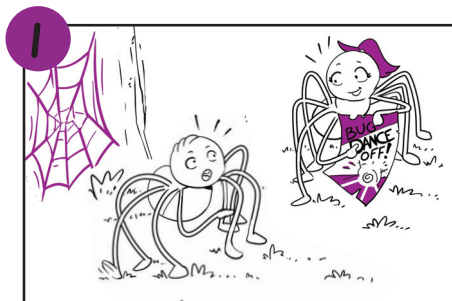
Chapter 4 - Danger!

7. What did all of the bugs do when they saw the bird?
8. How did Danny save the day?

Danny the Dancer

9. How did Danny feel?
10. What is Danny's nickname now?

LET'S RETELL THE STORY



WORD SEARCH

she

froze

brave

tunes

waving

local

cosy

flying

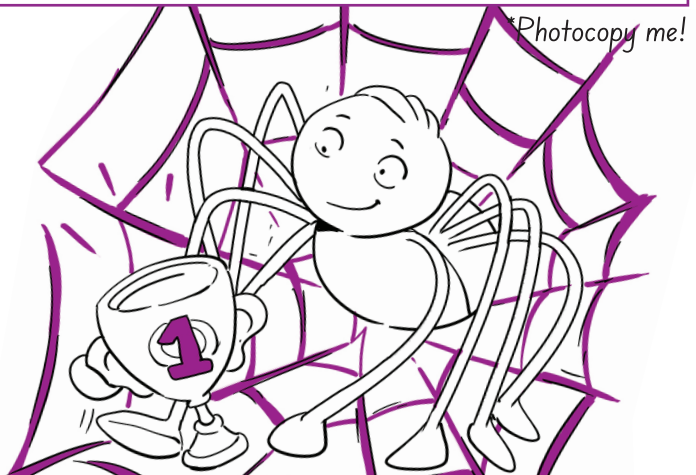
silent

trophy

surprise

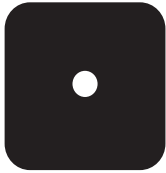
compete

t	h	e	f	r	o	z	e	n	g	o
j	t	u	g	b	r	a	v	e	t	
c	r	c	o	s	y	n	a	t	e	
s	s	h	e	w	a	v	i	n	g	a
k	s	c	o	m	p	e	t	e	q	
f	l	y	i	n	g	a	h	e	k	d
s	u	r	c	l	s	i	l	e	n	t
e	b	d	t	r	o	p	h	y	i	a
a	s	s	u	r	p	r	i	s	e	s
t	u	n	e	s	l	o	c	a	l	



ROLL AND READ

2-3 players. Each player takes a turn to roll the dice and read a word on the list under that number. If the word is read correctly it can be covered by a coloured chip or highlighted. Play continues until all the words are covered. The player who has the most words covered wins.



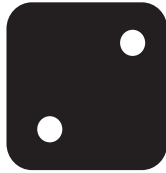
he

no

tunes

smile

compete



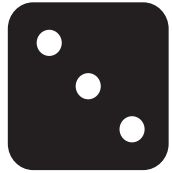
go

she

shiny

local

Friday



try

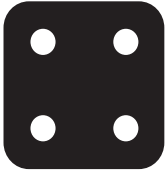
mite

stage

even

surprise

**Photocopy me as a double page.*



these

cry

Mike

froze

notice



face

mind

Lily

waving

making



like

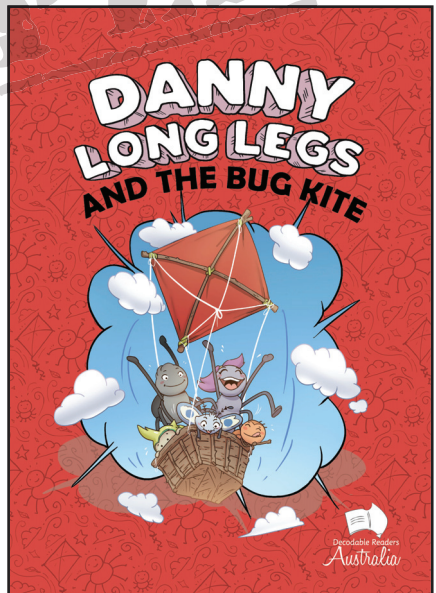
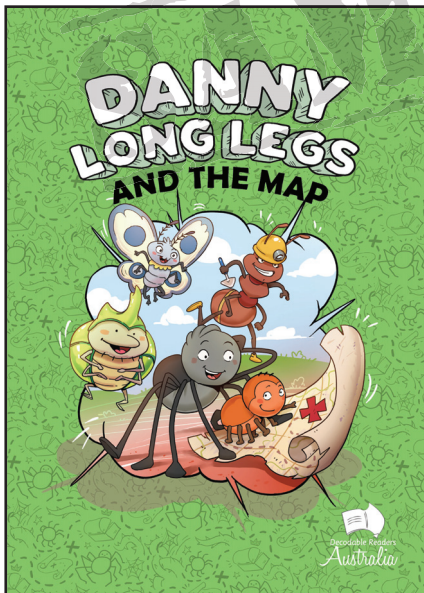
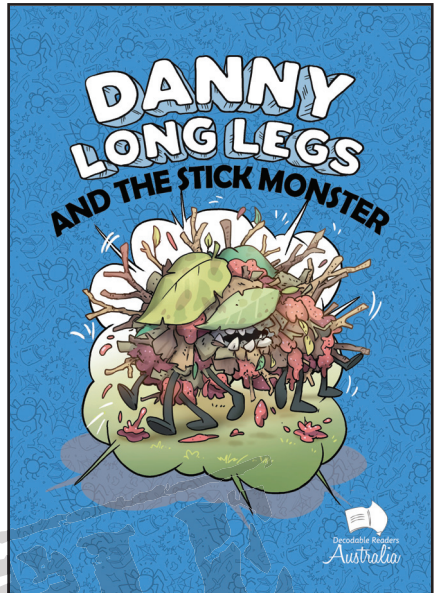
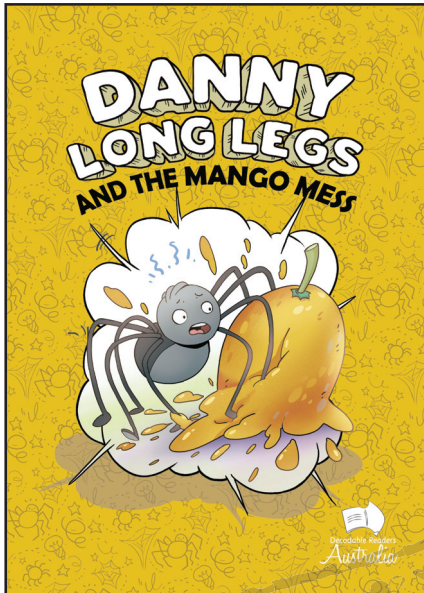
over

Betty

silent

trophy

Keep reading the Danny Long Legs Set.....





Decodable Readers
Australia

DANNY LONG LEGS AND THE DANCE OFF



Danny loves to dance and when his mate Lily tells him about the Dance Off, Danny gives it a go. Will Danny be able to dance or will he end up in a tangled mess?



Decodable Readers
Australia
Level 7

The Danny Long Legs set of decodable chapter books match up to Decodable Readers Australia's Level 7 scope and sequence.

ISBN 978-1-923082-79-3



9 781923 082793

www.decodablereadersaustralia.com.au