

READY★TO★READ

LEVEL TWO



HENRY AND MUDGE

The First Book



by Cynthia Rylant illustrated by **Suċie Stevenson**

Winners of the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award

Ready to read?

THEN REACH FOR THE STARS!

Each child is a rising star in our Ready-to-Read program, gaining confidence as they launch from one reading level to the next. With a constellation of engaging, soon-to-be favorite stories and starring characters to lead the way, we encourage beginning readers to enjoy the journey of learning to read.

The Ready-to-Read stories are grouped into four reading levels:

PRE-LEVEL ONE ★ RISING STAR READER!

Stories are shared reading experiences, featuring familiar characters and simple words.



LEVEL ONE ★ STAR READER!

Stories feature easy sight words and words to sound out, simple plot and dialogue, as well as familiar topics and themes.



LEVEL TWO ★ SUPERSTAR READER!

Stories have simple chapters, longer sentences, and high-interest vocabulary words.



LEVEL THREE ★ MEGASTAR READER!

Stories have longer, more complex plots and character development, challenging vocabulary words, and more difficult sentence structure.



Confidence is a big key to learning to read, and whether a child is a Rising Star or a Megastar, this program is designed to help kids feel like stars at every reading level. With the help of their favorite characters, every reading star will sparkle and shine as they take pride in their abilities and learn to love reading.

Blast off on this starry adventure . . . a universe of reading awaits!

Henry and Mudge

The First Book of Their Adventures



Story by Cynthia Rylant
Pictures by Suçie Stevenson

Ready-to-Read



Simon Spotlight
New York London Toronto Sydney

For Nate and his dog—CR For Grandma and Biffy—SS

THE HENRY AND MUDGE BOOKS

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Henry



Henry had no brothers
and no sisters.

“I want a brother,”
he told his parents.

“Sorry,” they said.

Henry had no friends
on his street.

“I want to live
on a different street,”
he told his parents.

“Sorry,” they said.

Henry had no pets
at home.

“I want to have a dog,”
he told his parents.

“Sorry,” they *almost* said.





But first they looked
at their house
with no brothers and sisters.
Then they looked
at their street
with no children.
Then they looked
at Henry's face.

Then they looked at each other.

“Okay,” they said.

“I want to hug you!”

Henry told his parents.

And he did.



Mudge



Henry searched for a dog.

“Not just any dog,” said Henry.

“Not a short one,” he said.

“Not a curly one,” he said.

“And no pointed ears.”

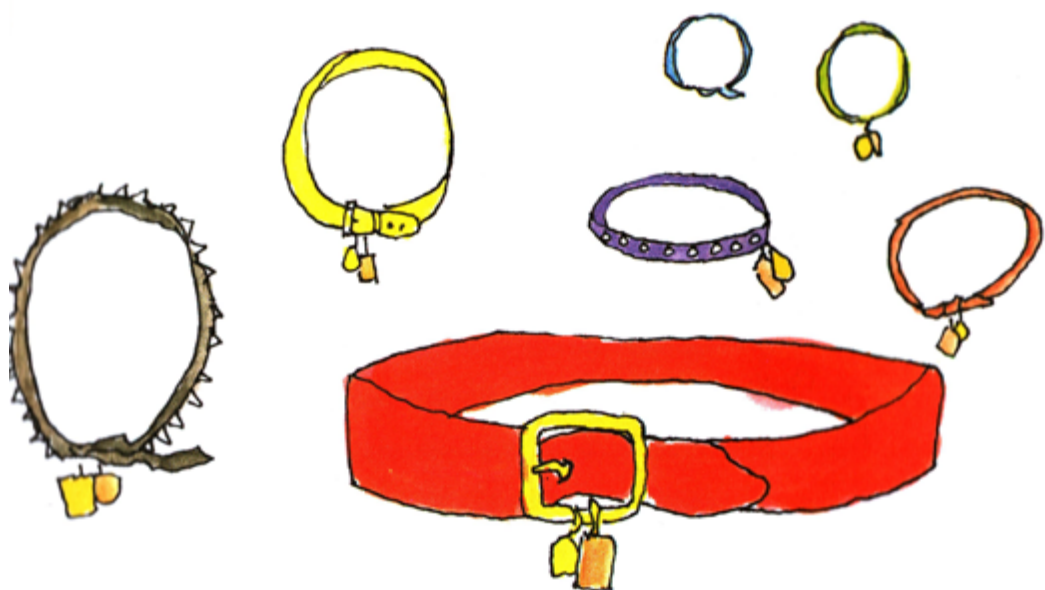
Then he found Mudge.
Mudge had floppy ears,
not pointed.
And Mudge had straight fur,
not curly.
But Mudge was short.
“Because he’s a puppy,”
Henry said.
“He’ll grow.”



And did he ever!

He grew out of his puppy cage.

He grew out of his dog cage.



He grew out of seven collars
in a row.

And when he finally
stopped growing . . .



he weighed one hundred eighty pounds,
he stood three feet tall,
and he drooled.

“I’m glad you’re not short,”
Henry said.

And Mudge licked him,
then sat on him.



Henry



Henry used to walk
to school alone.
When he walked
he used to worry about
tornadoes,
ghosts,
biting dogs,
and bullies.

READING ★ WITH ★ THE ★ STARS!

Simon Spotlight Ready-to-Read books showcase your favorite characters—the stars of these stories!

At every level, you are a reading star!

PRE-LEVEL ONE ★ RISING STAR READER!

Shared reading ★ Familiar characters ★ Simple words



LEVEL ONE ★ STAR READER!

Easy sight words and words to sound out ★ Simple plot and dialogue
Familiar topics and themes



LEVEL TWO ★ SUPERSTAR READER!

Longer sentences ★ Simple chapters ★ High-interest vocabulary words



LEVEL THREE ★ MEGASTAR READER!

Longer, more complex story plot and character development
Challenging vocabulary words ★ More difficult sentence structure



In this first book in the series, Henry learns he is allowed to get a dog. He searches for just the right dog until he finds Mudge. Mudge is a small puppy but then he grows and grows until he weighs one hundred eighty pounds! And Henry and Mudge become the very best of friends.

by Cynthia Rylant illustrated by Suçie Stevenson

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A Ready-to-Read Book/Fiction
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