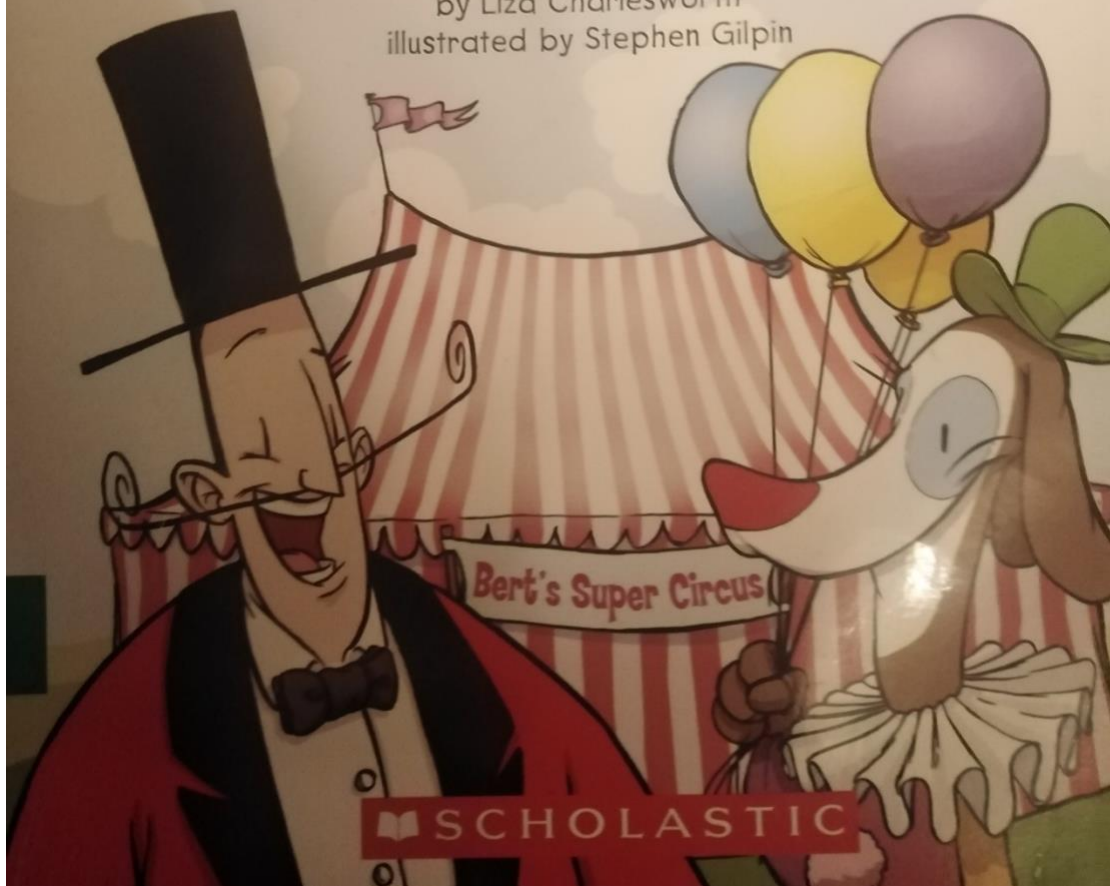


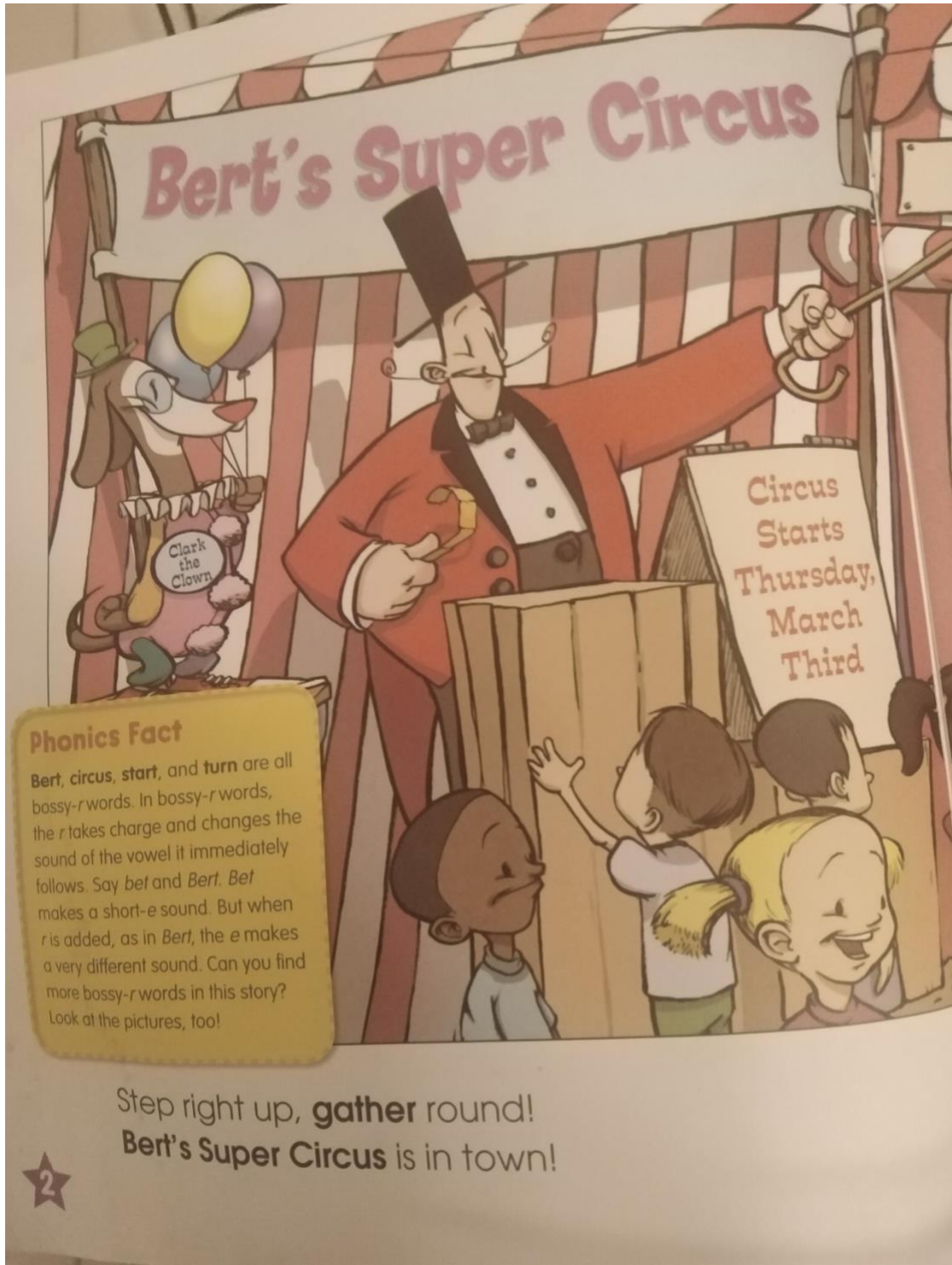
Phonics Tales!

bossy r

# Bert's Super Circus

by Liza Charlesworth  
illustrated by Stephen Gilpin



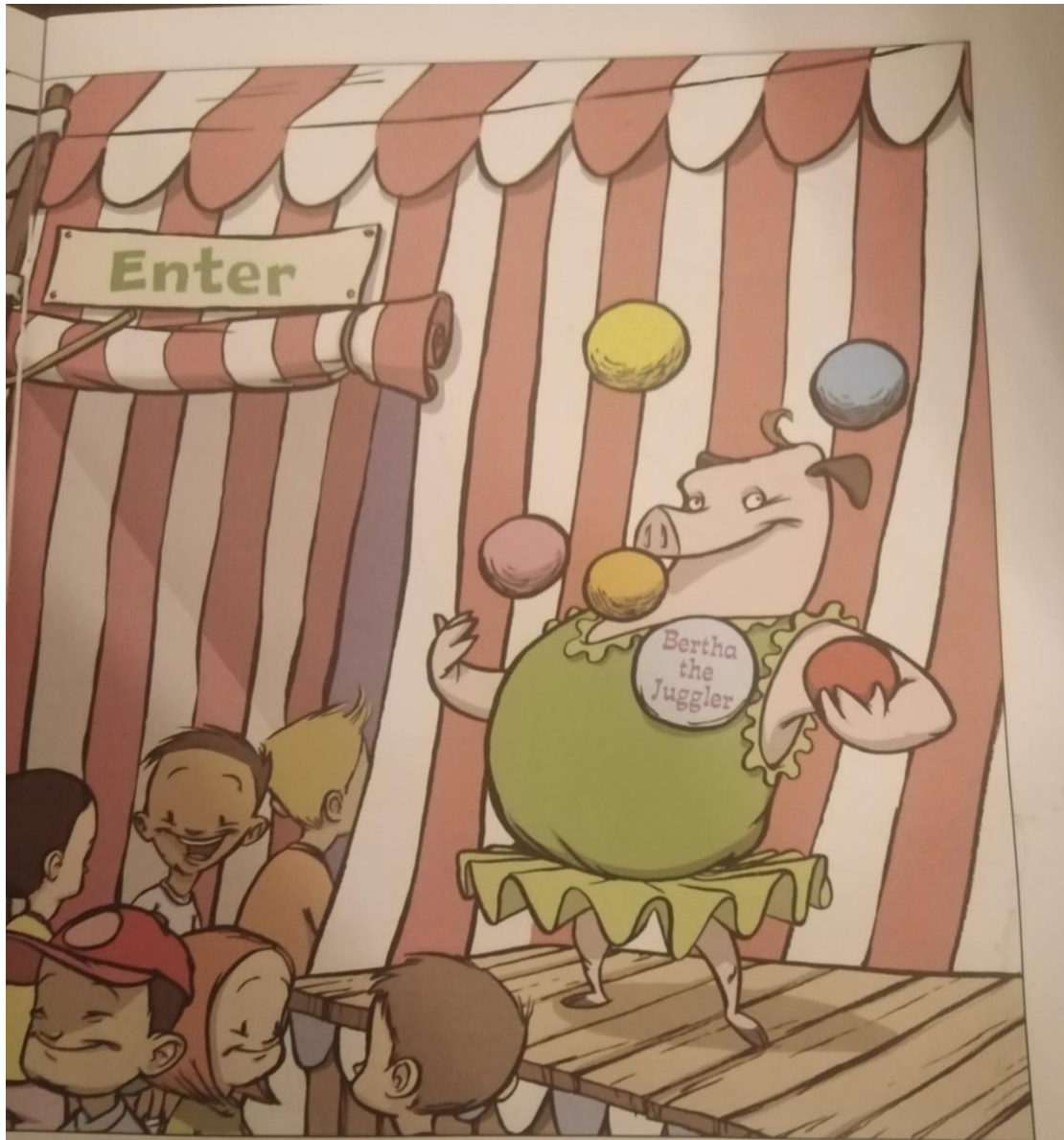


**Phonics Fact**

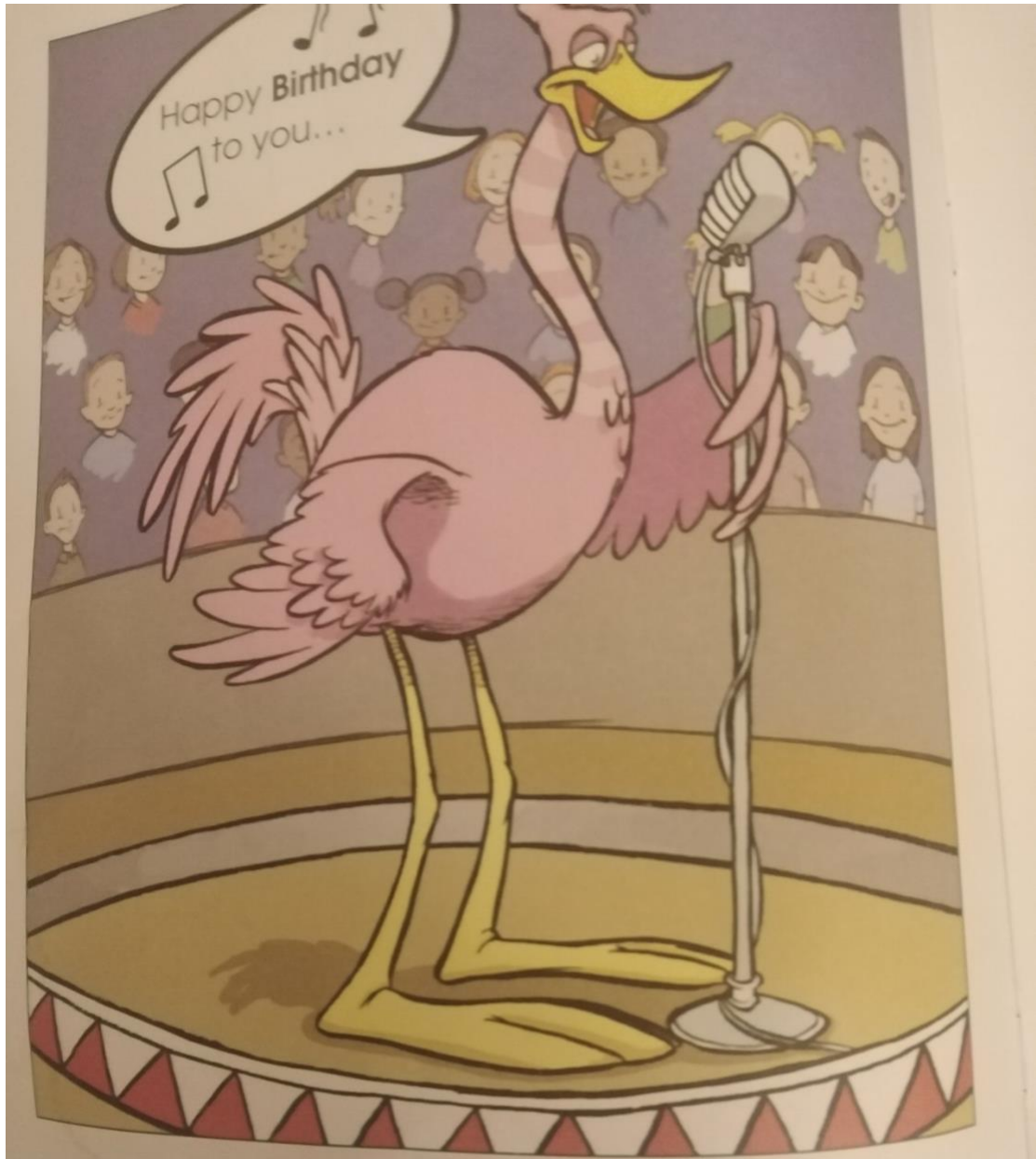
Bert, circus, start, and turn are all bossy-r words. In bossy-r words, the r takes charge and changes the sound of the vowel it immediately follows. Say bet and Bert. Bet makes a short-e sound. But when r is added, as in Bert, the e makes a very different sound. Can you find more bossy-r words in this story? Look at the pictures, too!

Step right up, **gather** round!  
Bert's Super Circus is in town!

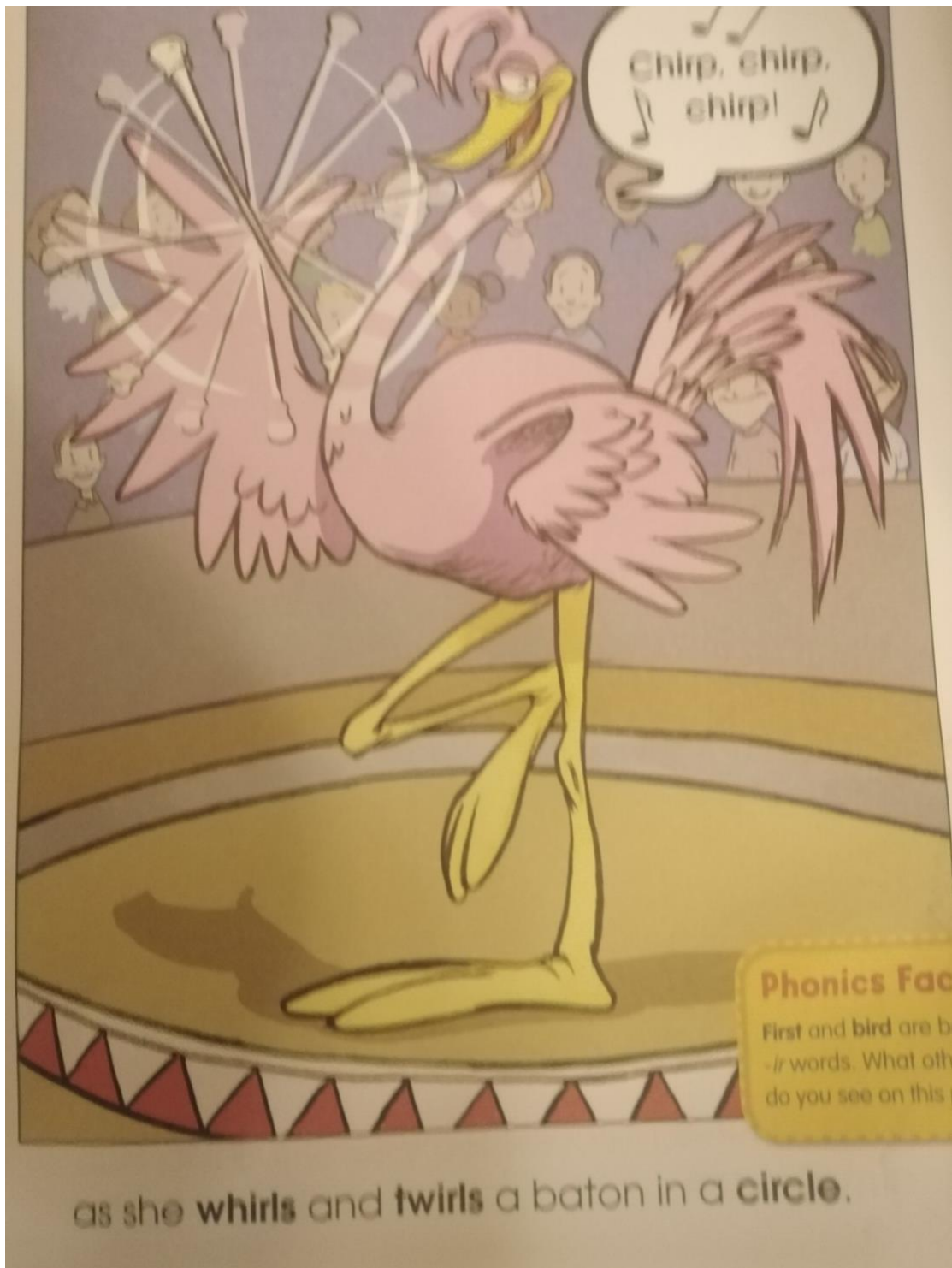




Boys and **girls** of any age,  
to **start** the show, just **turn** the page!



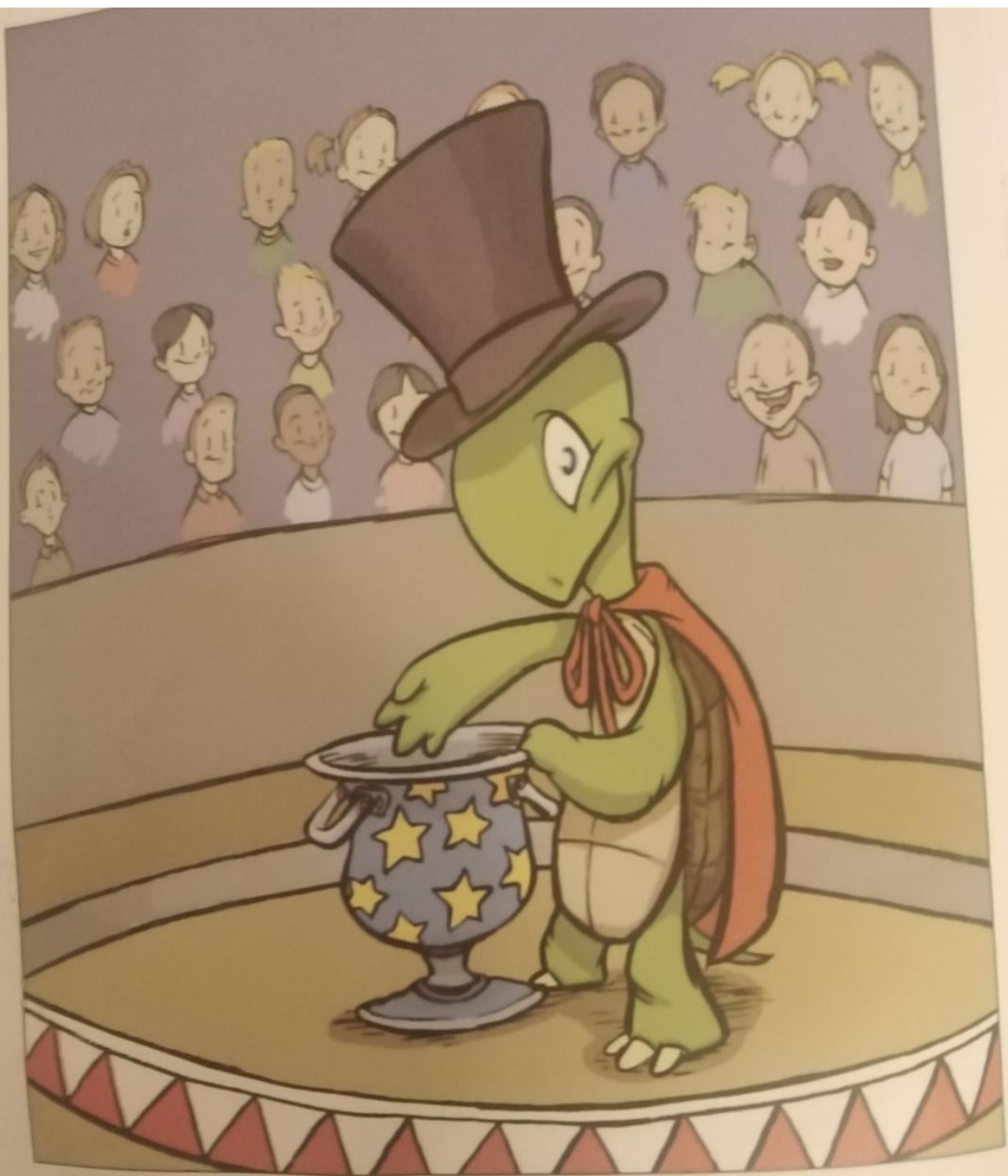
First, a bird named Shirley will chirp "Happy Birthday"



chirp, chirp,  
chirp!

**Phonics Fact**  
First and bird are both  
-ir words. What other  
do you see on this page?

as she **whirled** and **twirled** a baton in a **circle**.



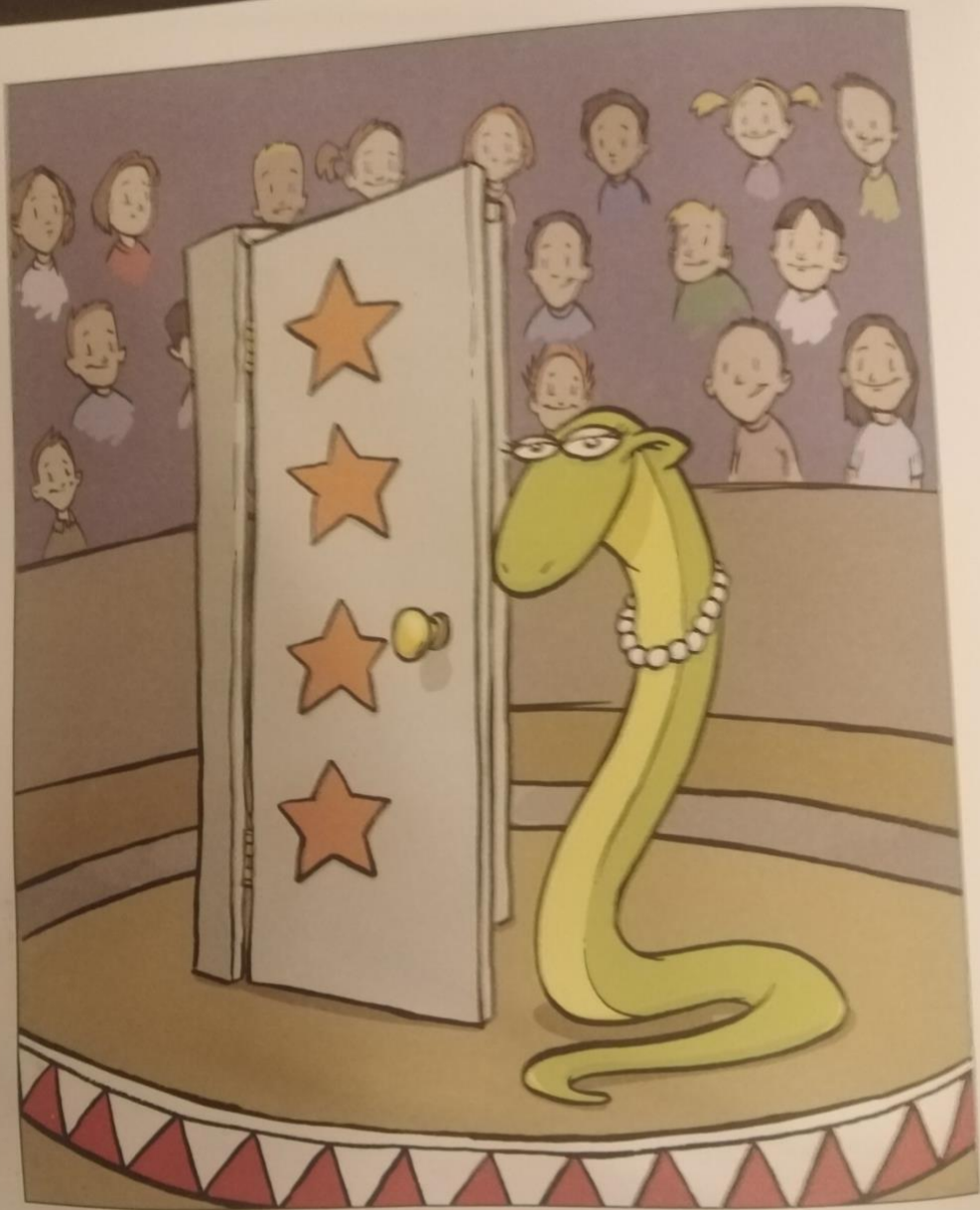
Then, a **turtle** named **Kurt** will reach into a magic **urn**

6



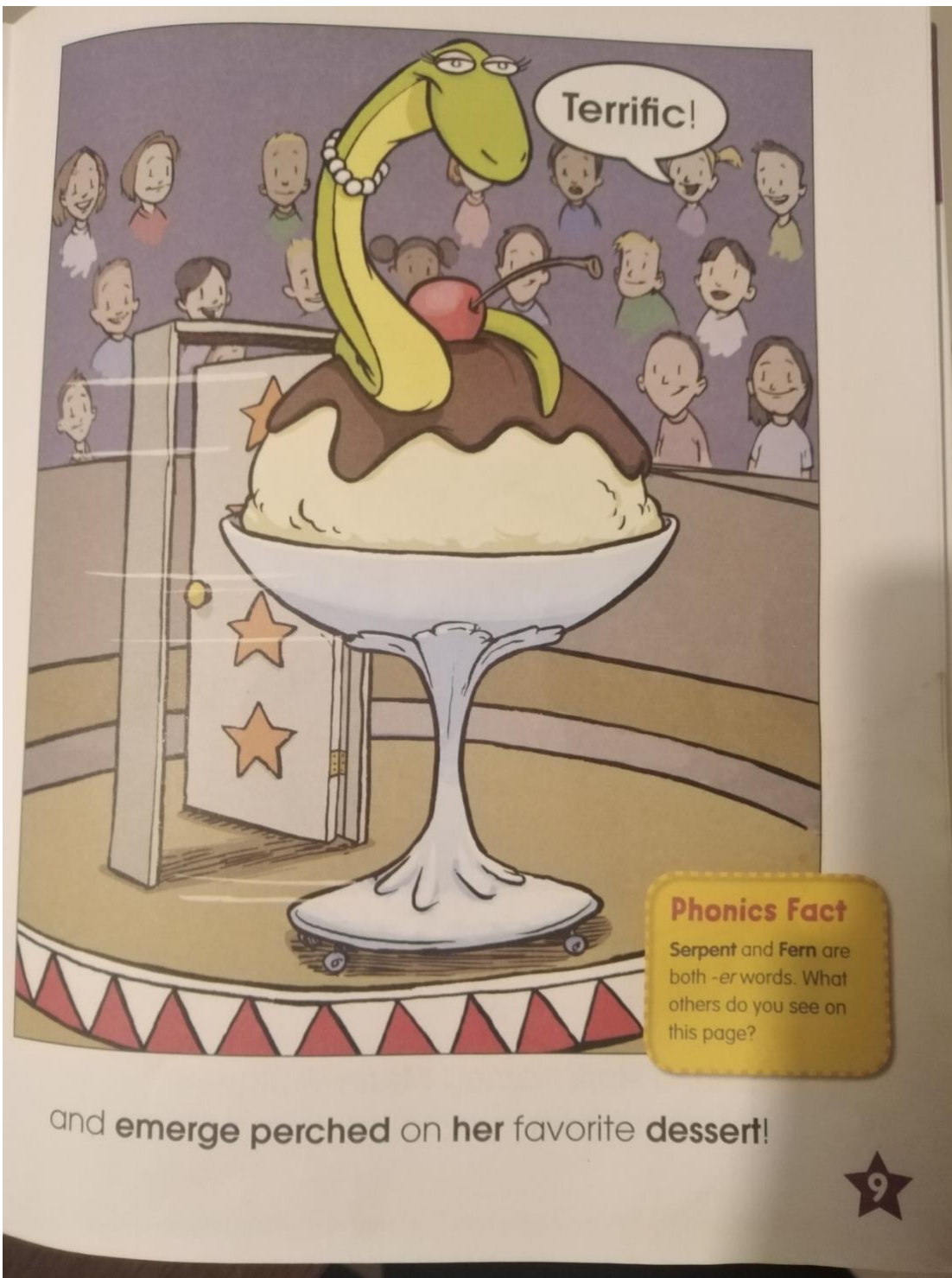
and pull out a **furry purple** rabbit  
with a **curly** tail!

**Phonics Fact**  
Turtle and Kurt are both  
-ur words. What others  
do you see on this page?



Then, a **serpent** named **Fern** will enter  
a **silver** door





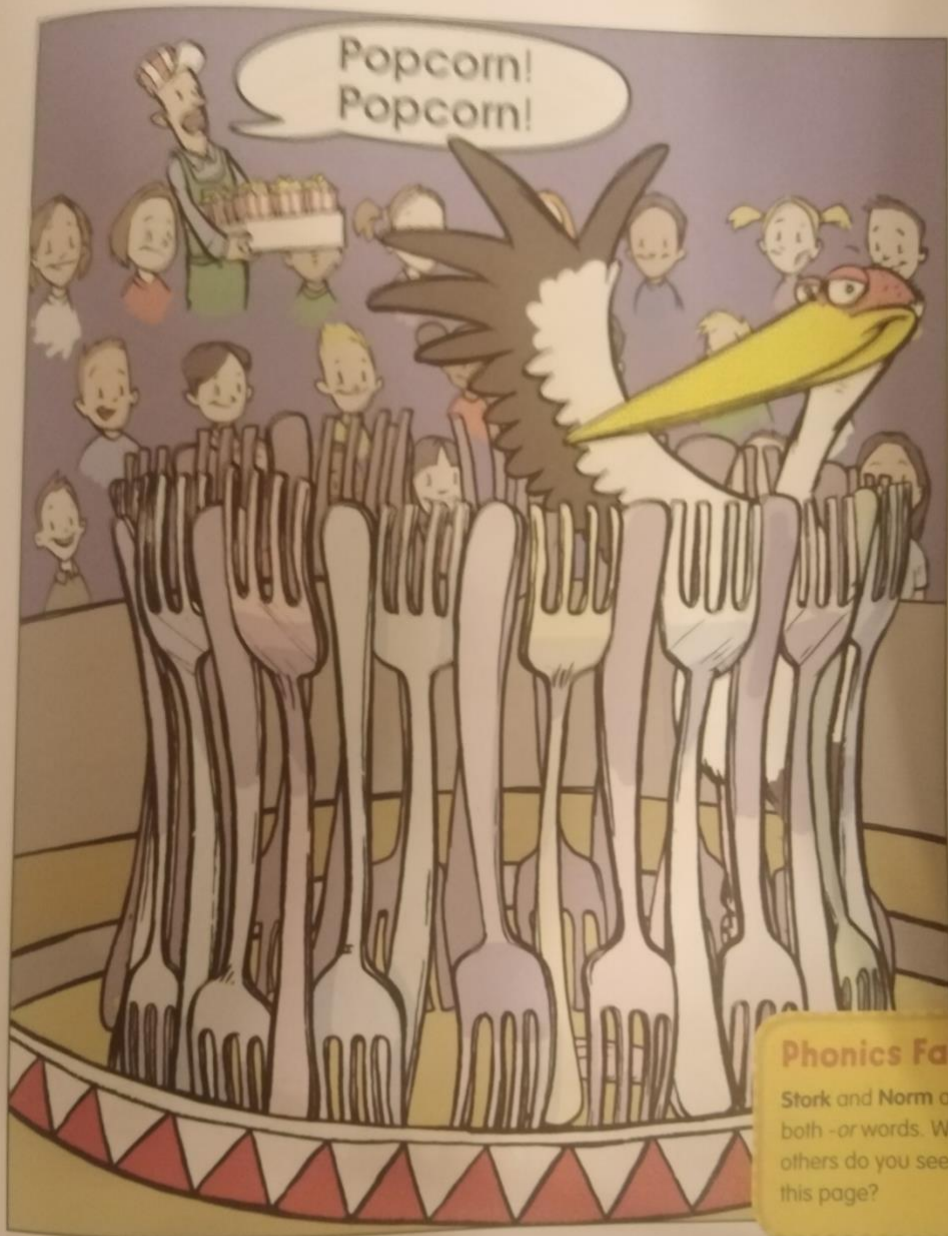
Terrific!

**Phonics Fact**  
Serpent and Fern are both -er words. What others do you see on this page?

and **emerge** perched on **her** favorite **dessert!**



Then, a **stork** named **Mort** will play an enormous horn



**Phonics Fact**

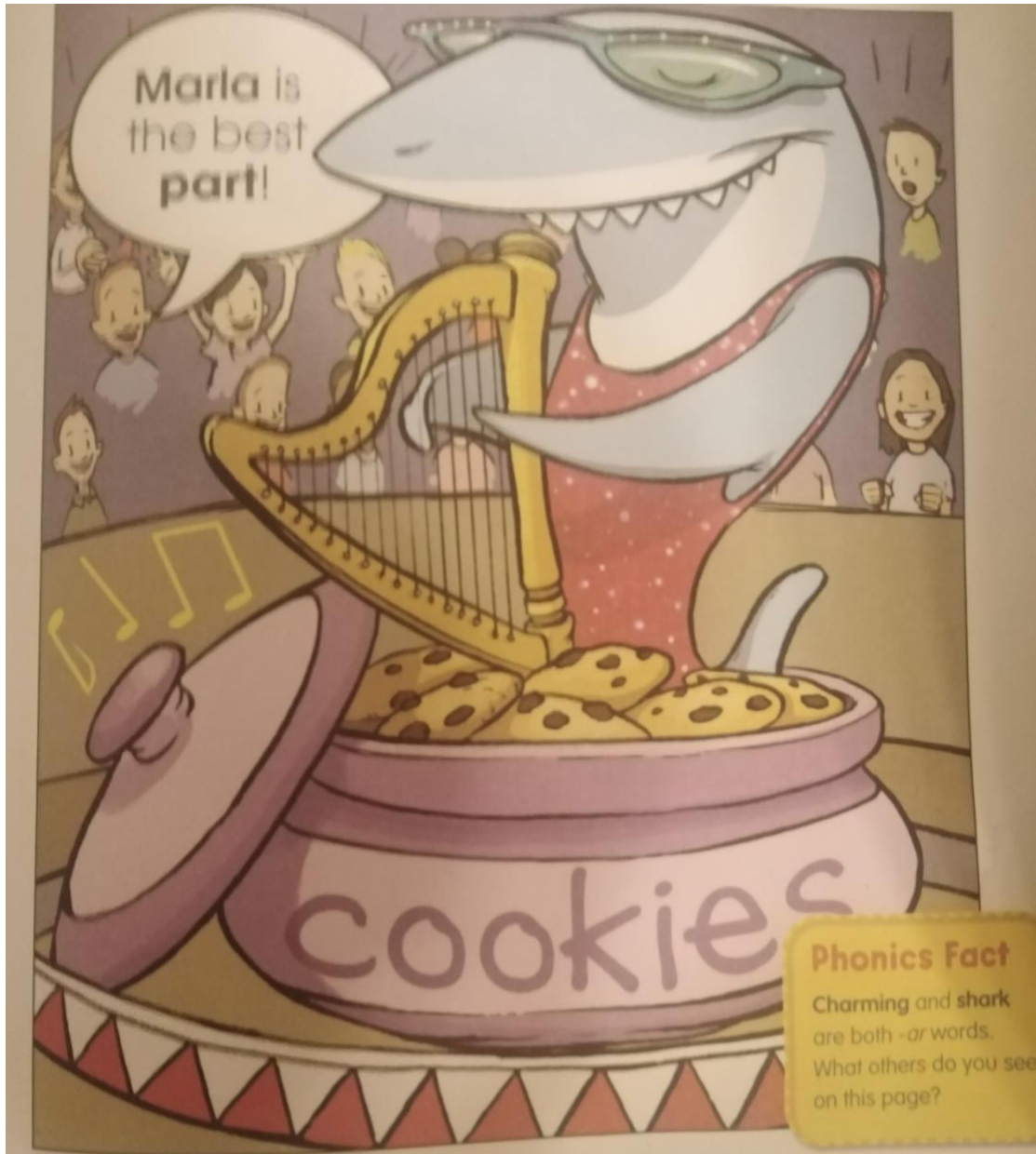
Stork and Norm are both -or words. What others do you see on this page?

and use **forty forks** to **form** an amazing **fort**.

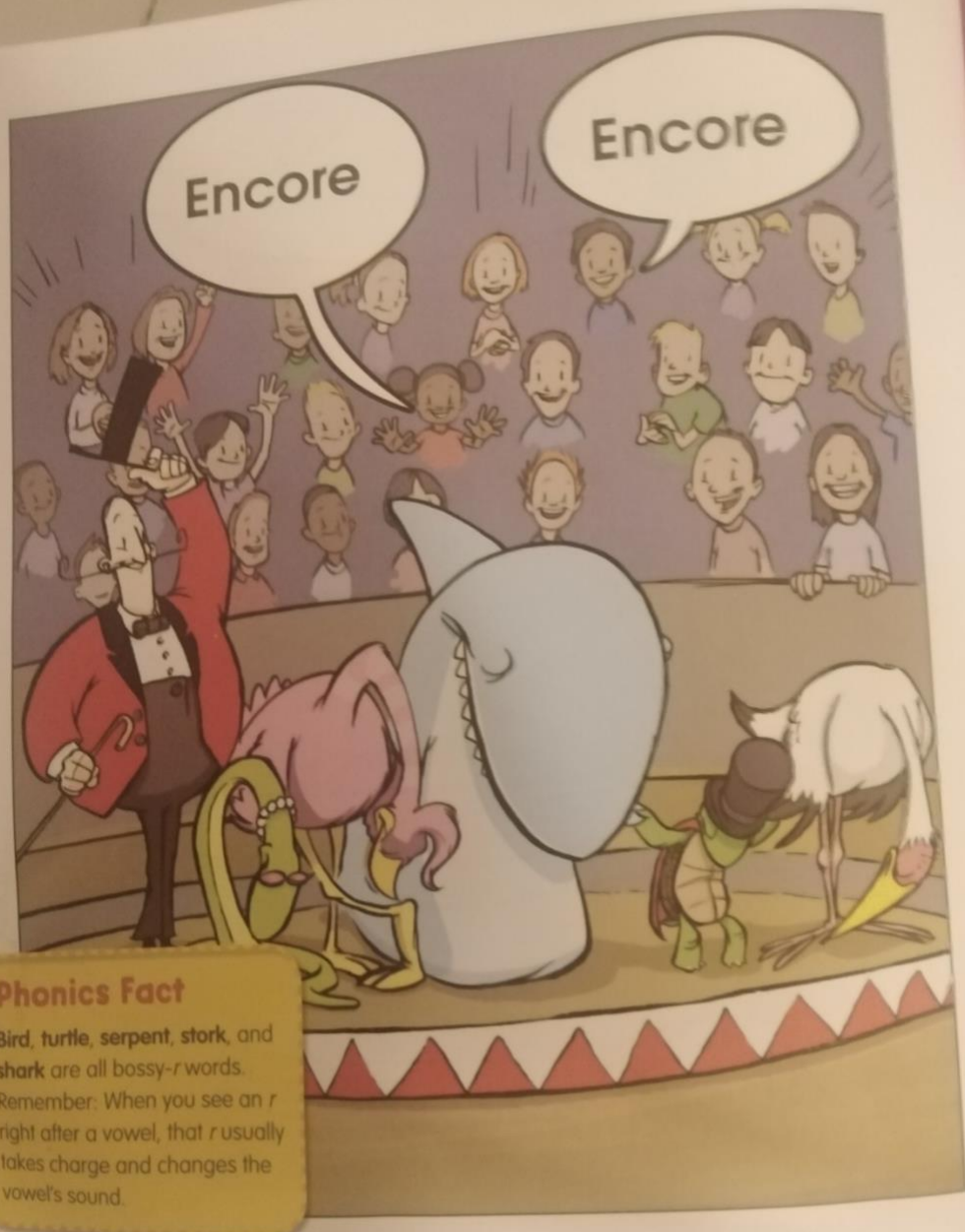




Last, a **charming shark** named **Marla** will play **guitar** in a **car**



then strum a **harp** atop a **large** cookie **jar!**  
What a **star!**



**Phonics Fact**  
Bird, turtle, serpent, stork, and shark are all bossy-*r* words. Remember: When you see an *r* right after a vowel, that *r* usually takes charge and changes the vowel's sound.

Wow! Bert's Super Circus has come to an end. The **performers** do hope you will all come again