

The Mopsy Rescue

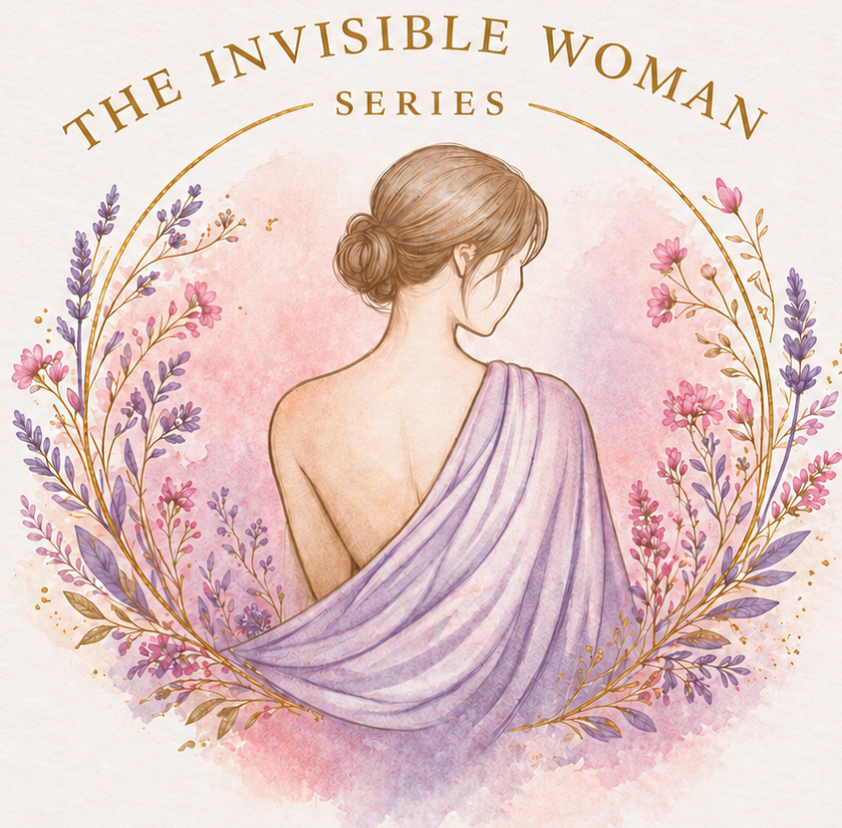
and the Prairie Showdown at Gregory Farm

An Easy Reader for Grade 2



A story about being brave — even when you feel scared.

Reading level: Developing Reader



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The wind blew through the tall, golden wheat. Flopsy, Big Bertha, Cheeto Puff, and Fluff Butt marched ahead. They had one important job: rescue Mopsy! The rabbit team and the cat team left home together and walked into the wide world.



Cheeto Puff's tummy rumbled. Not a small rumble — a long, loud, dramatic rumble! He held his round, burrito-shaped belly. "I have never missed a meal in my life," he whispered sadly.



They made their way toward Gregory Farm. None of them saw the shapes moving in the wheat, or the eyes watching from far away. They had escaped Stinky Pete, but they had not rescued Mopsy. Not yet.



Big Bertha led the way like a fearless ninja. Cheeto Puff was so busy staring at his belly that he tripped over everything. “You are too soft for an adventure!” laughed Fluff Butt. But Fluff Butt was hungry too. She kept stopping to look for snacks. She couldn’t find any. Not one.



Flopsy stayed close behind, her little heart beating fast.

“Mopsy, my poor sister,” she thought. Then the wheat shifted. Just a little. Eyes gleamed in the tall grass. “DINNER, eh??!” howled Baron Von Biteyface as the coyote crew burst forward.

Flopsy froze. Big Bertha gasped.



“Not again!” cried Cheeto Puff. “I want to eat dinner — not BE dinner!” The coyotes circled closer. And closer. And closer. But these rabbits were not like other rabbits. They were smart and tough, and they could hear everything.



But far across the prairie, Mopsy was not waiting to be rescued. Not even a little. She stood beside her new friends — or rather, she rode one of them. She sat proudly on the back of Murph: the hockey-loving, Canadian, talking rodeo goat.



Murph the billy goat stomped the ground with great confidence. Once. Twice. Dust kicked up beneath his hooves. He was a real hero. And beside him, someone else was getting ready.



SKRRRT — WHOOSH! Millie rolled forward on two legs, like a real hockey hero. Her roller skates rattled under her hooves. Her helmet had two holes so her horns could poke through. Her hockey stick was taped and ready. Always ready.



Millie tilted her head toward the prairie. “Looks like your friends are in trouble ... eh?” Mopsy didn’t hesitate. Not for a second. She leaned forward, steady and sure. “Then let’s go.”



Back in the wheat, the coyotes crept closer. Closer ... closer ...
until —



THUNDERING HOOVES. "MOVE!" shouted a familiar voice. Flopsy blinked. "MOPSY?!" Mopsy charged in on Murph's back, with Millie racing beside them like a blur. Millie didn't slow down. CRASH! She body-checked a coyote into a rock.



WHACK! Another coyote spun into a hay pile. Millie skidded to a stop and pointed her stick.



"I can drop the gloves — eh?!" Millie said. She was not scared at all. The coyotes watched her.



She lifted her helmet slightly. Her horns poked out. The coyotes hesitated. But only for a moment.



Then they spotted something new: LUNCH! The cats and rabbits were huddled near some trees. The coyotes grinned. "New plan," growled Baron Von Biteyface. "Leave these goats. We will eat them instead." They turned and charged.



But by now, the cats and rabbits were ready. "AWE MAN!" moaned Flopsy. "How many times are we going to get eaten in one day?!" "Team Crunch & Thunder, LET'S GO!" chanted the cats. "Ready, Midnight Muncher?" Big Bertha asked. "Yeah ... okay! Let's save ourselves, and then save Mopsy!" said Flopsy, a little braver this time.



In a flash, the rabbits leapt onto the backs of Cheeto Puff and Fluff Butt. And up they went — climbing, scrambling, and scratching their way into the trees. Quick as two shakes of a rabbit's tail!



High above the ground, Cheeto Puff and Fluff Butt balanced on thick branches. The rabbits hopped onto the branches and turned around. Backsides out. Bent over. What were they up to now? Cheeto Puff and Fluff Butt shared a serious nod.

“READY!” shouted Cheeto Puff. Carrots went in.



And then — POP! POP! POP! Rabbit beans blasted through the air in bright, colourful bursts, like a jellybean-shooting machine! Cheeto Puff and Fluff Butt aimed straight at the coyote gang and fired. Again. And again. And again.



PING! PLOP! POP! Beans smacked the coyotes on their snouts, ears, and eyes. "TAKE COVER!" yowled the Baron. Then Bitey Boots opened his big mouth — and POP! A rabbit bean flew right in. Gulp. He froze.



He smacked his lips and licked his chops. "Uh ... guys?" he said slowly. "That bunny bean was tasty." The coyotes paused. They sniffed. They tasted another one.



“THESE ARE DELICIOUS!” yelled Bitey Boots. Suddenly, the coyotes weren’t dodging. They were SNACKING! They gobbled beans in the air and fought over the tastiest ones. And just like that, the plan had completely backfired.



Flopsy watched everything. Mopsy was brave. Millie was fearless. Murph was strong. Something inside her changed. Bravery wasn't about being the biggest or the loudest. It was about stepping forward, even when you were scared. Flopsy took a deep breath. Then she ran and JUMPED right out of the tree! OWW! BLAM! OOOOF! She stood, shook her ears, and dusted herself off.



“Let’s do this,” said Mopsy. Murph charged. THUMP! He kicked a coyote backward. STOMP! Another tripped and tumbled. Millie skated circles around them. “LAST CHANCE, EH?!” she shouted. The coyotes looked at the chaos — and at Flopsy, no longer afraid. They panicked. Slipping on jellybeans and crashing into each other, the coyotes ran.



“We’ll be back!” they howled from a distance ... but not very convincingly. The prairie grew quiet again. Millie rolled to a stop. Murph snorted proudly. Cheeto Puff and Fluff Butt were so hungry that they started eating the leftover carrots.



Big Bertha puffed up. "We had that handled," she said smugly. "Um, guys, can someone get me down, please?"

Everyone stared, then laughed. Flopsy looked at Mopsy. Mopsy smiled. No words were needed. Flopsy had changed.

She hadn't hidden. She hadn't waited. She had stepped forward. She had been brave. Far beyond Gregory Farm, the coyotes gathered again. "Next time," growled Baron Von Biteyface, "we bring something bigger."

Sound Play: Phonemic Awareness

Listen for the sounds inside each word, then play with them.

1. Middle (vowel) sounds: what vowel do you hear in bean (long e), hop (short o), run (short u)?
2. Swap a sound: change the /h/ in hop to /t/ → top. Change the /b/ in bean to /m/ → mean.
3. Segment longer words: tap the sounds in brave (/b/ /r/ /a/ /v/) and in stick.
4. Syllable split: prai-rie, coy-o-te, jel-ly-bean. Say each part and count the syllables.
5. Blend and rhyme: blend /th/ /u/ /n/ /d/ /er/ → thunder.
Find a story word that rhymes with bun.

Words to Know

mission — an important job or goal

rescue — to save someone from danger

prairie — a large, flat, grassy land

fearless — not afraid of anything

confident — sure of yourself

panic — to feel sudden, strong fear

courage — being brave when something is hard

backfired — went wrong; the opposite of the plan happened

Let's Talk About It

Questions to check understanding and spark discussion.

1. What are the friends' important mission at the start of the story?
2. How are Juniper Snow's rabbits different from ordinary rabbits?
3. What surprising thing happens when the rabbit beans hit the coyotes?
4. How does Flopsy change from the beginning to the end?
5. The story says bravery is "stepping forward even when you are scared." Tell about a time you were brave.

For Teachers & Families: Alberta Curriculum Tie-In

This reader aligns with the new Alberta Grade 2 English Language Arts and Literature curriculum. It builds reading fluency and Comprehension (using reading strategies such as rereading, making predictions, and identifying problems and solutions), expands Vocabulary, and explores Text Forms and Structures (the parts of a narrative). The discussion questions strengthen Oral Language and connect the bravery theme to students' own experiences, supporting Literature and creative and critical thinking.

Reference: Alberta Education, English Language Arts and Literature (K–6), new LearnAlberta curriculum (curriculum.learnalberta.ca).