

# The Mopsy Rescue

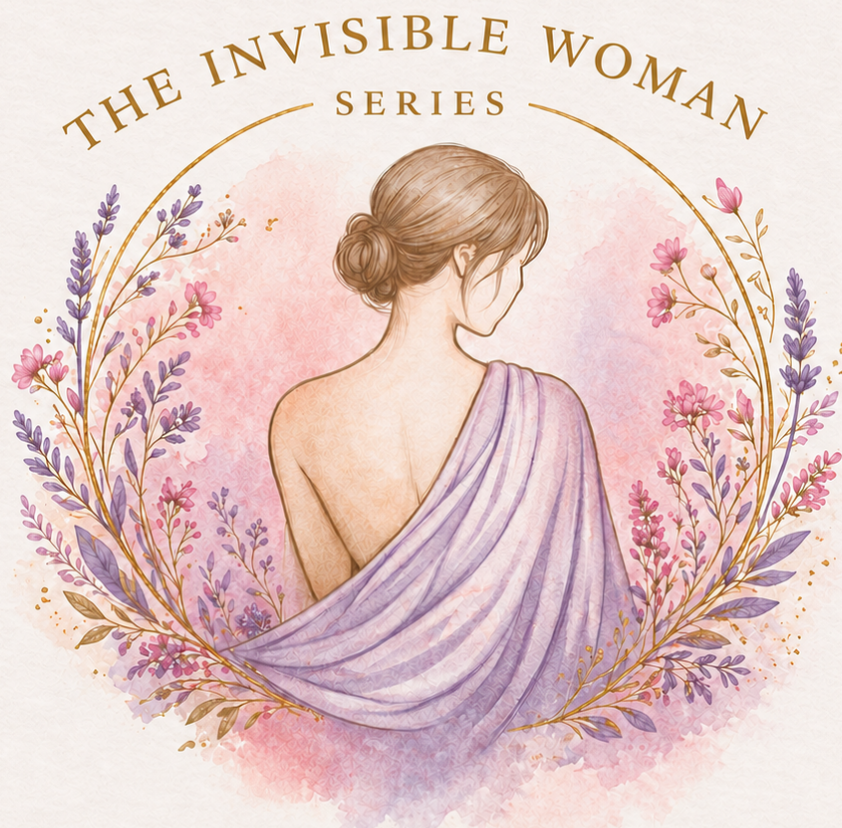
*and the Prairie Showdown at Gregory Farm*

**An Easy Reader for Grade 1**



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

Reading level: Early Reader



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Flopsy, Big Bertha, Cheeto Puff, and Fluff Butt walked through the tall wheat. They had one big job. They were going to rescue Mopsy!



Cheeto Puff's tummy rumbled. It was a big, loud rumble! He held his round belly. "I never miss a meal," he said.





They walked toward Gregory Farm. They did not see the shapes in the wheat. They did not see the eyes watching them. They had run from Stinky Pete, but they had not found Mopsy. Not yet.



Big Bertha led the way like a brave general.

Cheeto Puff looked at his belly and tripped on everything. Fluff Butt looked for snacks too, but she could not find any. Not one!



Flopsy stayed close behind. Then the wheat moved. Eyes shone in the grass. "DINNER!" howled Baron Von Biteyface as the coyotes jumped out. Flopsy froze. Big Bertha gasped.





Cheeto Puff fell down. "Not again!" he cried. "I want to eat dinner, not BE dinner!" The coyotes circled closer. And closer. And closer.



Far across the prairie, Mopsy was not waiting to be rescued. Not even a little! She sat on the back of her new friend, Murph the goat. Murph was a hockey-loving goat who could talk.



Murph the billy goat stomped the ground. He was  
sure of himself. Once. Twice. Dust kicked up  
under his hooves.





WHOOSH! Millie rolled forward on roller skates. She had a hockey helmet with two holes for her horns. She held her hockey stick tight. She was ready!



Millie looked at the prairie. "Looks like your friends are in trouble, eh?" Mopsy did not wait.

"Then let's go," she said.



Back in the wheat, the coyotes crept closer.

Closer. Closer. Until —





THUNDERING HOOVES! "MOVE!" shouted a voice.

"MOPSY?!" said Flopsy. Mopsy charged in on  
Murph's back. Millie raced beside them. CRASH!

She body-checked a coyote into a rock.



WHACK! Another coyote spun into a hay pile.

Millie was fast and strong.



"You wanna go?!" Millie shouted. She held up her stick. The coyotes stopped to look.





Millie lifted her helmet a little. Her horns poked out. The coyotes were not so sure now.



Then the coyotes saw something new. LUNCH!

The cats and rabbits were near the trees. “New plan,” growled the Baron. “We will eat them instead.”



But the cats and rabbits were ready! “How many times will we get eaten today?!” cried Flopsy.

“Let’s save ourselves, and then save Mopsy!”





In a flash, the rabbits jumped onto the backs of  
Cheeto Puff and Fluff Butt. Up they went!  
Climbing and scrambling into the trees, quick as  
two shakes of a rabbit's tail.



High in the trees, the cats balanced on the branches with the rabbits. "READY!" shouted Cheeto Puff. The rabbits ate their carrots. Something funny was about to happen.



And then — POP! POP! POP! Rabbit beans blasted through the air in bright colours. The cats aimed at the coyotes and fired. Again and again!





PING! POP! Beans hit the coyotes on their ears  
and noses. One zipped into Bitey Boots' big  
mouth. Gulp! He froze.



He smacked his lips. "That bean was tasty," he said. The other coyotes stopped. They tasted the beans too.



“These are DELICIOUS!” yelled Bitey Boots. Now the coyotes were not running. They were snacking! The plan had backfired.





Flopsy watched it all. She saw that being brave means stepping forward, even when you are scared. She took a deep breath. Then she JUMPED out of the tree! OWW! BLAM! She stood up and shook off the dust.



“Let’s do this!” said Mopsy. Murph charged!  
THUMP! He kicked a coyote back. Millie skated  
circles around them. The coyotes slipped on  
jellybeans and ran away.



“We’ll be back!” the coyotes howled from far away. But they did not sound very brave. The prairie was quiet again. Millie rolled to a stop. Murph snorted proudly.





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

Everyone laughed. Mopsy smiled at Flopsy.

Flopsy had changed. She had not hidden. She

had been brave. Far away, the coyotes met again. "Next time," growled the Baron, "we bring something bigger."

## Sound Play: Phonemic Awareness

*Read or say each word aloud. Tap or count the sounds you hear.*

1. Blend to read: /j/ /u/ /m/ /p/ → jump ... /b/ /ea/ /n/ → bean ...  
/h/ /e/ /l/ /p/ → help.
2. Segment: say cat and tap each sound — /c/ /a/ /t/ (3 sounds). Now try goat and brave.
3. Rhyme family: bean, mean, lean, clean. Add one more word to the -ean family.
4. First and last: in Mopsy, what is the first sound? the last sound? Try it with coyote.
5. Syllable count: clap for ad-ven-ture (3) and de-li-cious (3).

## Words to Know

**mission** — an important job to do

**rescue** — to save someone from danger

**prairie** — a wide, flat land with lots of grass

**wheat** — a tall plant that food is made from

**helmet** — a hard hat that keeps your head safe

**scared** — feeling afraid

**carrot** — an orange vegetable rabbits like

**brave** — doing something even when you are scared



## Let's Talk About It

*Questions to check understanding and spark discussion.*

1. Why do the friends go on a mission across the prairie?
2. Who comes to help them on Murph the goat?
3. What do the rabbits shoot at the coyotes?
4. Why do the coyotes stop being scary and start eating?
5. Name one way Flopsy is brave at the end.

## **For Teachers & Families: Alberta Curriculum Tie-In**

This reader aligns with the new Alberta Grade 1 English Language Arts and Literature curriculum. It supports Phonics and Word Knowledge (decoding and high-frequency words), Reading fluency and Comprehension (predicting, asking and answering questions, retelling events in order), and Vocabulary growth. Through the story, it draws on the strands of reading, listening, speaking, and viewing, and develops an appreciation of Literature and reading for enjoyment.

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