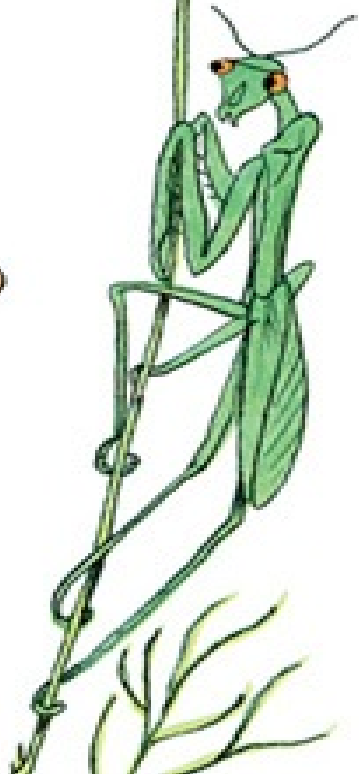
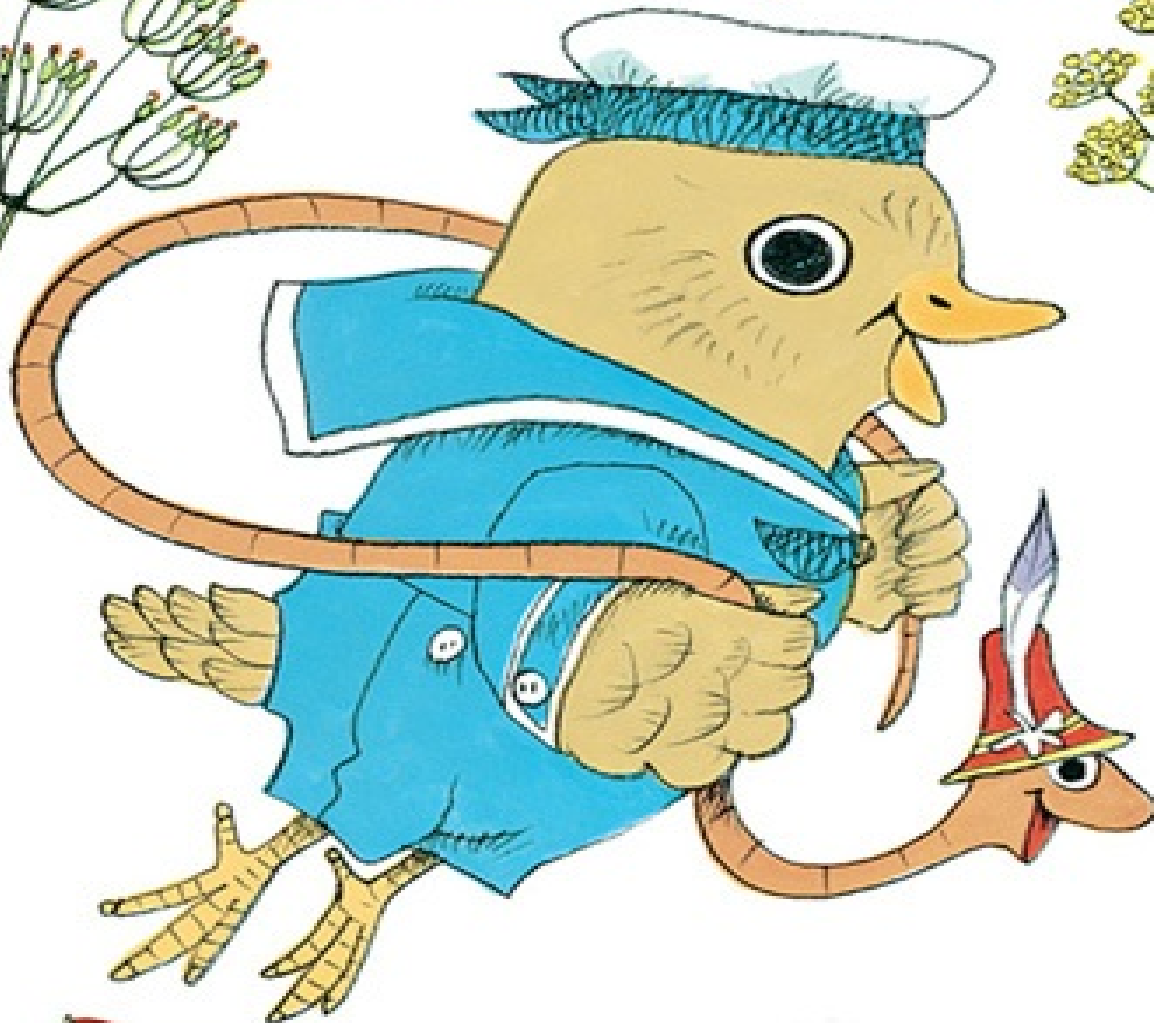
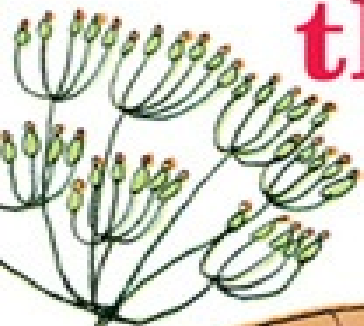


STEP INTO READING®

reading with help

STEP
2

Richard Scarry's
Lowly Worm
Meets
the Early Bird



Published previously as The Early Bird



Dear Parent:

Congratulations! Your child is taking the first steps on an exciting journey. The destination? Independent reading!



STEP INTO READING® will help your child get there. The program offers five steps to reading success. Each step includes fun stories and colorful art. There are also Step into Reading Sticker Books, Step into Reading Math Readers, Step into Reading Phonics Readers, Step into Reading Write-In Readers, and Step into Reading Phonics Boxed Sets—a complete literacy program with something to interest every child.

Learning to Read, Step by Step!



Ready to Read **Preschool–Kindergarten**

• big type and easy words • rhyme and rhythm • picture clues

For children who know the alphabet and are eager to begin reading.



Reading with Help **Preschool–Grade 1**

• basic vocabulary • short sentences • simple stories

For children who recognize familiar words and sound out new words with help.



Reading on Your Own **Grades 1–3**

• engaging characters • easy-to-follow plots • popular topics

For children who are ready to read on their own.



Reading Paragraphs **Grades 2–3**

• challenging vocabulary • short paragraphs • exciting stories

For newly independent readers who read simple sentences with confidence.



Ready for Chapters **Grades 2–4**

• chapters • longer paragraphs • full-color art

For children who want to take the plunge into chapter books but still like colorful pictures.

STEP INTO READING® is designed to give every child a successful reading experience. The grade levels are only guides. Children can progress through the steps at their own speed, developing confidence in their reading, no matter what their grade.

Remember, a lifetime love of reading starts with a single step!

STEP INTO READING®




Lowly Worm Meets the Early Bird

by Richard Scarry



Published previously as The Early Bird

Random House  New York

Copyright © 1968 by Richard Scarry. Copyright renewed 1996 by Richard Scarry II.

All rights reserved. Published in the United States by Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc., New York. Originally published in different form in 1968 by Random House Children's Books, New York, with the title *The Early Bird*.

Step into Reading, Random House, and the Random House colophon are registered trademarks of Random House, Inc.

Visit us on the Web!

StepIntoReading.com
randomhouse.com/kids

Educators and librarians, for a variety of teaching tools, visit us at
RHTeachersLibrarians.com

The Library of Congress has cataloged the previous edition of this work as follows:

Scarry, Richard. The early bird / by Richard Scarry.

p. cm. — (Step into reading. A step 2 book)

“Adapted from *The early bird*, 1968 by Richard Scarry.”

Summary: After several cases of mistaken identity Early Bird finally finds a worm to play with.

ISBN 978-0-679-88920-5 (pbk.)

ISBN 978-0-679-98920-2 (lib. bdg.)

ISBN: 978-0-449-81705-6 (eBook)

[1. Birds—Fiction. 2. Worms—Fiction. 3. Animals—Fiction.]

I. Title. II. Series: Step into Reading. Step 2 book.

PZ7.S327Ear 2003 [E]—lcac 2002013879

Random House Children's Books supports the First Amendment and celebrates the right to read

v3.1

Contents

Title Page

Copyright

First Page

The sun
was shining.





Early Bird hopped
out of bed.

He went to the bathroom
and washed his face.



Early Bird
brushed his beak and
combed his feathers.





Then he put on
his blue sailor suit.

Look at what
Early Bird
ate for breakfast!



“Why don’t you find a worm
to play with?”
Mommy Bird said.
“What is a worm?”
asked Early Bird.





“A worm wiggles.
It lives in a hole
in the ground,”
said Mommy Bird.



So Early Bird went out
to find a worm.

“Are you a worm?”
asked Early Bird.



“No,” said a bug
on a flower.
“I am a ladybug.”



“Are you a worm?”
asked Early Bird.





“No, I am a frog,”
said a fat fellow on a log.
“Worms live in holes.”



Early Bird
saw something
in the ground.
“Are you a worm?”
asked Early Bird.

“I am *not* a worm!”
said Bunny Rabbit.
“Worms wiggle all over.
Go look in the garden.”



In the garden
Early Bird saw
a wiggly thing.





“Hello, worm,”
Early Bird said.

“You mean,
‘Hello, mouse tail!’”
said Freddie Field Mouse.





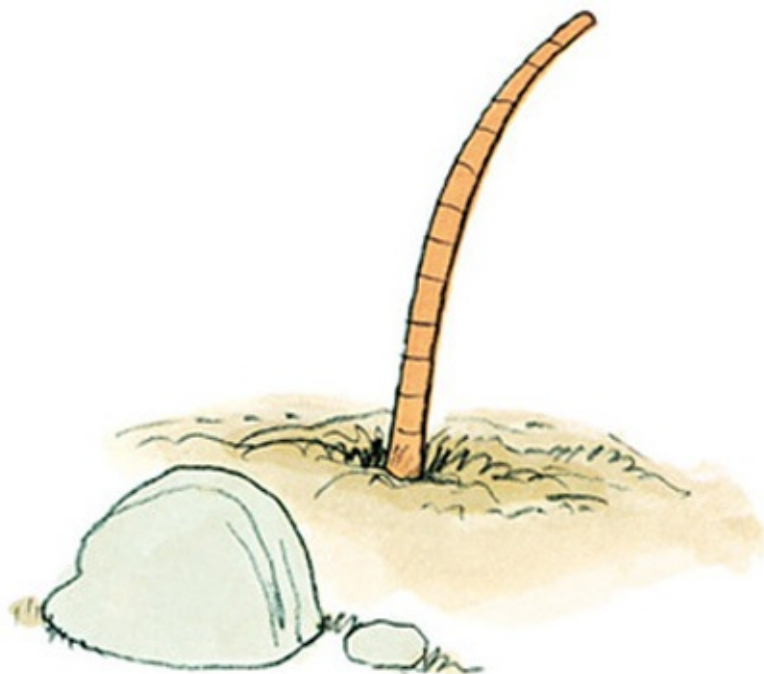
Then he scampered
back into his hole.



Early Bird began to cry.
“What’s the matter?”
said a funny fellow.
“I can’t find a worm,”
said Early Bird.



“Don’t cry,”
said the fellow.



“There’s a worm
right over there.
Just hop over
and pull him out.”

Early Bird took the worm
in his beak and pulled.



But the worm was stuck
in his hole.





“Give a *big* pull,
Early Bird!”

Pppppop!
“Why, it’s you!”
said Early Bird.



“That’s right,”
said the fellow.
“My name is
Lowly Worm.”

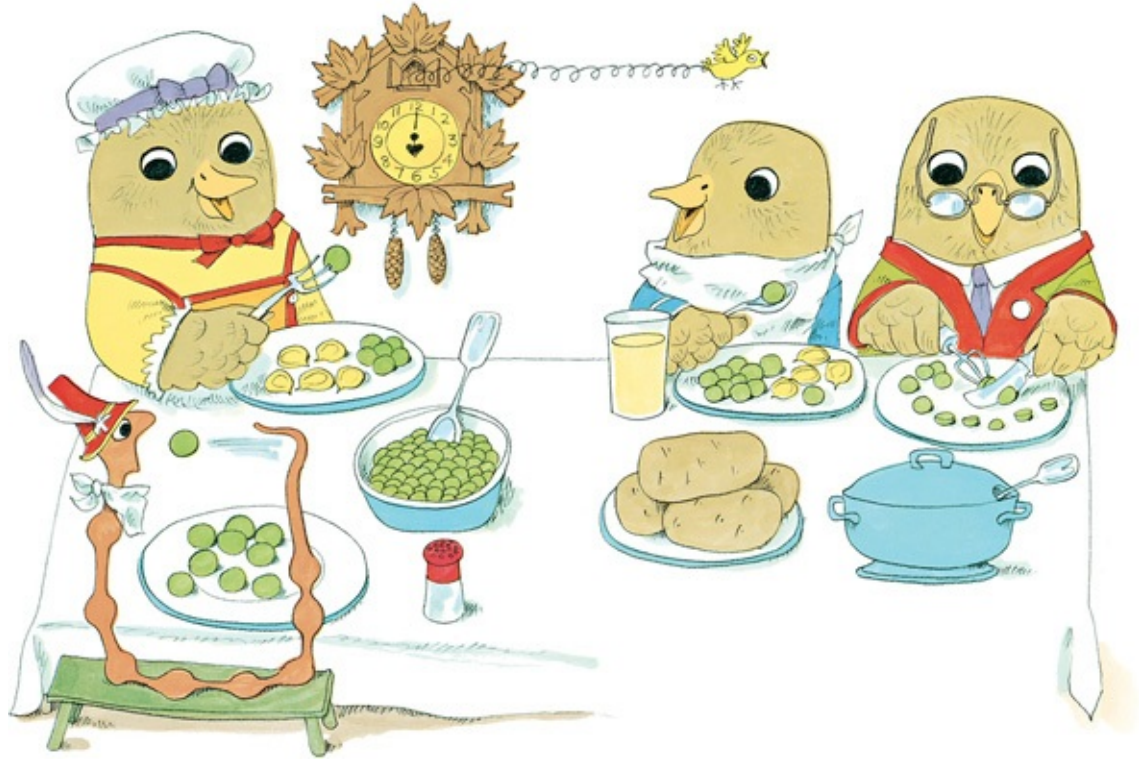




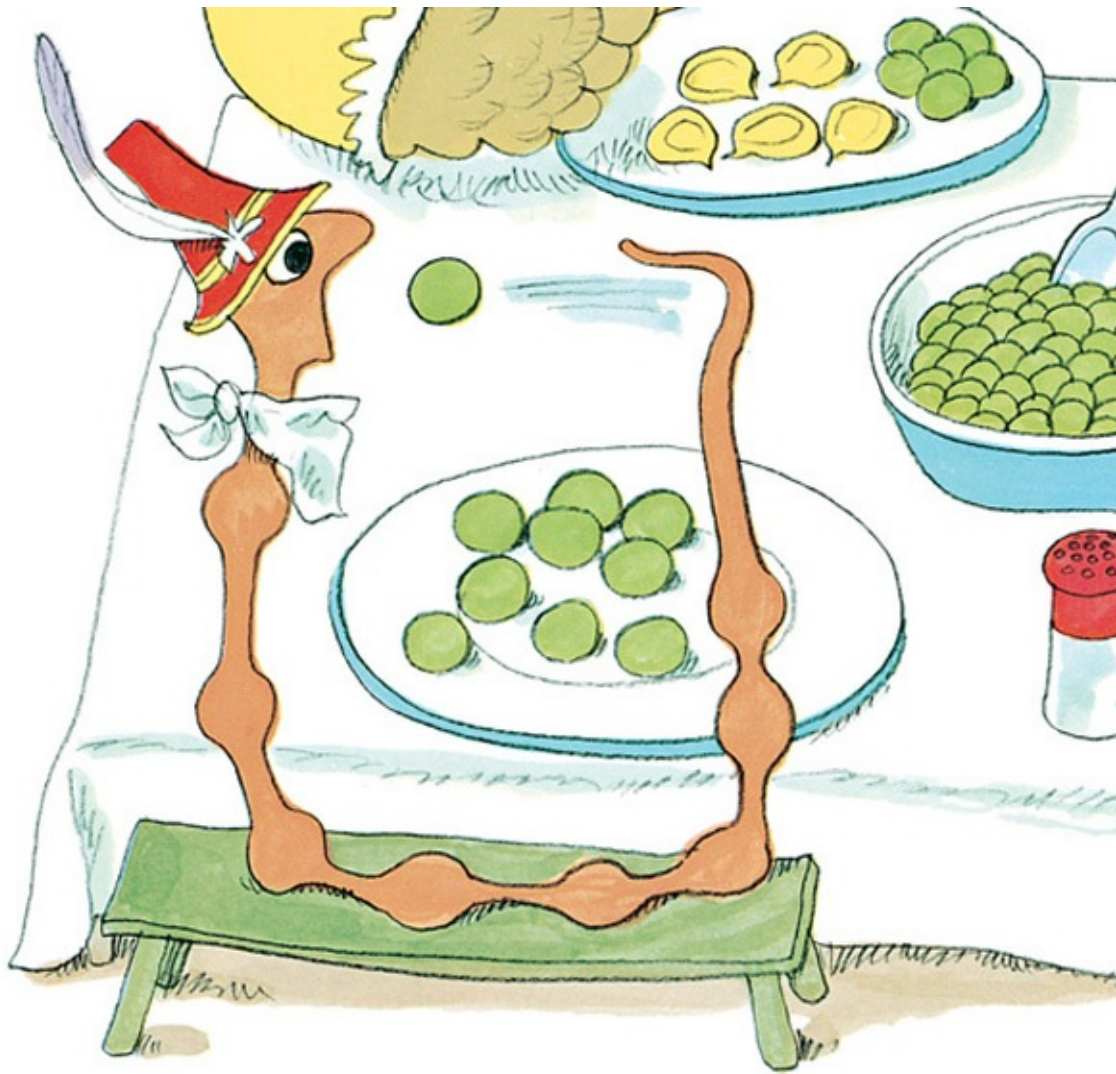
The sun was going down.
Early Bird
had to hurry home
for supper.



“Come with me,”
said Early Bird.
All the way home,
Lowly Worm
and Early Bird
played jump-worm.



They had a good supper.



Lowly Worm ate
a lot of peas.

Daddy gave Early Bird
and Lowly Worm
a piggyback ride upstairs.





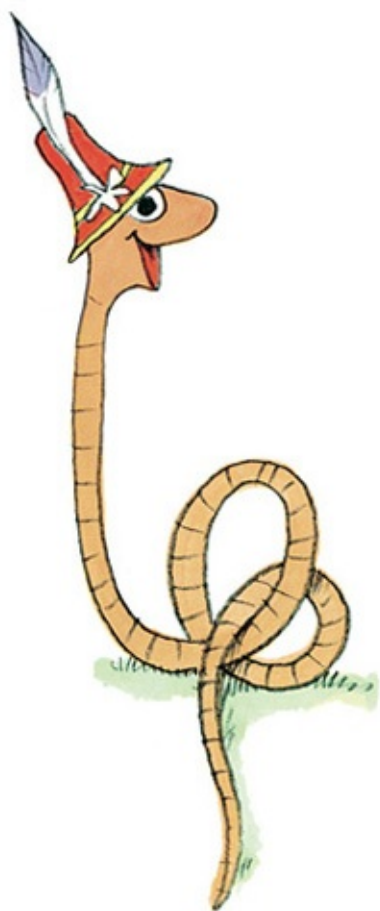
Early Bird took his bath
with a sailboat.
Lowly Worm took *his*
bath with his hat on.



Time to go to sleep!
Early Bird got into bed.
Lowly Worm went to bed
in the flowerpot!



Good night, Lowly Worm!
Good night, Early Bird!



STEP INTO READING®

reading with help

It's time for YOU!
Pick your favorite
spot to read.
This is going to be
a great book!

What this book is about . . .
Lowly Worm Meets the Early Bird
Early Bird wants to find a new friend.
Where should he look first?
Can Early Bird catch the worm?



Learning to Read, Step by Step!



1 Ready to Read **Preschool–Kindergarten**



2 Reading with Help **Preschool–Grade 1**
Does your child recognize familiar words on sight and
sound out new words with help? Step 2 is just right.
Basic Vocabulary • Short Sentences • Simple Stories



3 Reading on Your Own **Grades 1–3**



4 Reading Paragraphs **Grades 2–3**

To learn about
all the Steps,
turn to page 1.



5 Ready for Chapters **Grades 2–4**



RANDOM HOUSE
StepIntoReading.com
randomhouse.com/kids