

## Decodable Texts: R-Controlled (ir)

*"This story includes 'ir' pattern words like 'bird,' 'twirl,' and 'whirl.' Join Fern as birds help her dance in the yard!"*



### Fern and the Whirling Birds

Fern sat in her yard watching birds spin and swirl.

One bird with bright feathers twirled near her skirt.

"It's like a flying dance!" Fern chirped.

She held up her arms and gave a spin.

The birds flew in a big circle, fast and firm.

Fern giggled, then made a whirl of her own.

Soon, the yard turned into a bird ballet!

"I think they picked me as their dancer," she smiled.

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

bird

swirl

twirl

whirl

skirt



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Fern and the Whirling Birds

1. What was Fern doing in the yard?

- A. Planting flowers
- B. Watching birds
- C. Reading a book
- D. Feeding a dog

2. What did the birds seem to do?

- A. Chase her
- B. Copy her dance
- C. Hide in the tree
- D. Build a nest

3. Fill in the blank:

His sister \_\_\_\_\_ from the yard.

4. What makes Fern's time with the birds feel magical?

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5. How do the "ir" words in the story help describe the motion and mood?

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# Coaching Guide

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**Target Skill:** ir R-Controlled Vowel

**Genre:** Fiction – Animal Fantasy

**High-Frequency Words:** in, her, then, into, they

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## Before Reading

1. This story features “ir” words like *bird*, *twirl*, *whirl*, and *skirt*.
  2. Have you ever danced outside or imagined animals dancing too?
  3. What kind of birds have you seen in your yard or a park?
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## During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Tap and blend “ir” sounds in words like *swirl*, *twirl*, *Fern*, and *skirt*.
  2. Watch for ir words that describe motion, sound, or surprise
  3. How do the birds move with Fern?
  4. Read Fern’s line with delight and energy
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## After Reading

1. Retell how Fern and the birds danced together
  2. Why do you think she felt like part of their group?
  3. What kind of animal dance would you like to join?
  4. Skill Check: Highlight six “ir” words in the story
  5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again with rhythm and joy—like you're part of the dance!
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## Activity Idea

Draw Fern dancing in the yard with birds twirling all around her. Label items using ir words like *bird*, *whirl*, *Fern*, or *skirt*. Write one sentence about why this moment was special.

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## Coaching Tip

Let rhythm and imagination build decoding—movement and phonics make a strong team!

