

## Decodable Texts: R-Controlled (ir)

"This story uses 'ir' pattern words like 'Kirk,' 'mirror,' and 'third.' Follow the clues as Kirk hunts down a backyard surprise!"



### The Third Step

Kirk found a list with three clues taped to his mirror.

It said: *Look near the bird, check the dirt, then find the third step.*

He ran outside and saw a bluebird by the porch.

Next, he brushed dirt from a flower pot and saw a tiny card.

He raced to the third step and lifted the board.

Underneath was a box marked "SURPRISE!"

Kirk burst into a grin. "This is the best trick ever!"

His sister smirked from the yard.

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

Kirk

bird

dirt

third

smirked



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

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## The Third Step

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1. What did the list tell Kirk to do?

- A. Water the plants
- B. Find a snack
- C. Follow three clues
- D. Look under his bed

2. What was under the third step?

- A. A book
- B. A card
- C. A bird
- D. A box with a surprise

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3. Fill in the blank:

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

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4. What do the clues tell us about how the mystery was planned?

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5. Why do you think his sister enjoyed watching Kirk search?

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# Coaching Guide

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

**Genre:** Fiction – Mystery

**High-Frequency Words:** his, from, the, into, saw

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## Before Reading

1. This story includes “ir” words like *third*, *mirror*, *dirt*, and *bird*.
  2. Have you ever gone on a clue hunt or found a surprise someone hid?
  3. What makes a good mystery fun and exciting?
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## During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Help your child break down “ir” words like *mirror*, *Kirk*, and *third*.
  2. Watch for ir words that guide the hunt and describe actions
  3. What did Kirk do at each clue spot?
  4. Read the ending lines with playful energy and mystery
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## After Reading

1. Retell the steps Kirk followed to reach the surprise
  2. What clues show that his sister was behind the trick?
  3. What kind of mystery would you create for someone in your yard?
  4. Skill Check: Highlight six “ir” words in the story
  5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again like a storyteller giving clues to the audience
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## Activity Idea

Draw Kirk lifting the third step with a box underneath, and his sister smirking nearby. Label items using ir words like *Kirk*, *third*, *mirror*, or *dirt*. Write one sentence about what could be inside the box.

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## Coaching Tip

Mystery stories keep kids decoding with purpose—every clue is a reason to read on!

