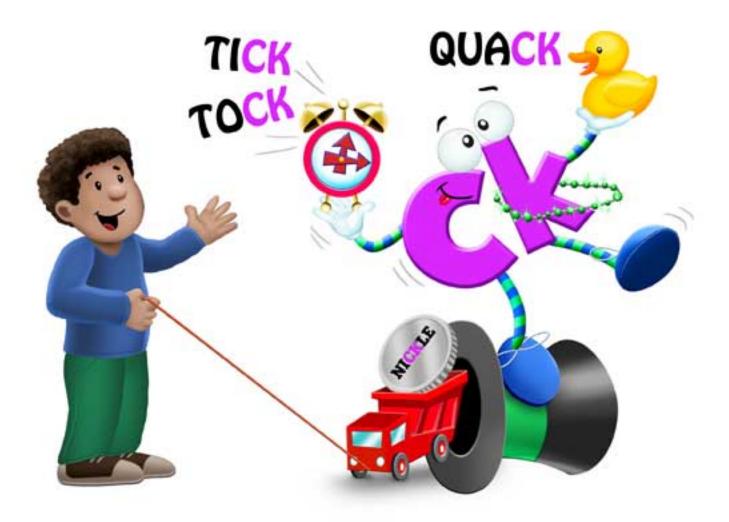


By Mary Jo Nyssen • Illustrated by Joe Palmisano



Acting together, the letters c and k make the sound of k for you When used after the short vowel sounds of a,e,i,o and u

As in sack, deck, kick, block and luck, to name a few.



In the center ring, Jack is performing his tricks.

From his magic black hat, he pulls out a clock that ticks,

A sparkling green necklace, a yellow rubber duck,

A silver nickel and a red toy truck.

Thank you for performing your hat trick act!

Next year, the circus wants you to come back.



Joining together, the letters **e** and **y** have two sounds they say.

Their first sound says the long sound of the letter a

As in grey, obey, prey and survey.



Reynard joins us in the ring today
With his cat, Heyzell, and his handsome mouse, Mr. Grey.
Even though a cat's instinct is to chase a mouse as its prey,
Heyzell does a Spanish dance instead with the handsome Mr. Grey.
Hey now! This we surely can convey:
They are best pals, and Heyzell doesn't chase Mr. Grey as her prey.



Their second sound says the long sound of the letter e
As in words like honey, monkey, turkey and key.



Now entering the ring is Ashley, dressed in a tutu made of money.
With Ashley are Courtney, her monkey, and Toney, her donkey.
Courtney plays the keyboard for a jar of honey.
Ashley balances gracefully on the back of Toney
As he prances around, nibbling a slab of balancey.
Ashley does a curtsey, while Courtney and Toney take a bow,
For their fantastic performance is over now.



When the letters w and r perform together, the w is silent and allows r to say its sound As in wrinkle, wring, wrong and wreath, we have found.



To the circus ring, welcome Wrisley and Wren, who are truly pros.
Wrisley balances a writing pen on his wrinkled nose,
While twirling wristwatches on his two big toes.
Wren wriggles a wreath like a plastic hoop around her hips,
While balancing a wrench on her finger tips.
What an astonishing act presented by Wrisley and Wren
With a wreath, a wrench, wristwatches and a writing pen.