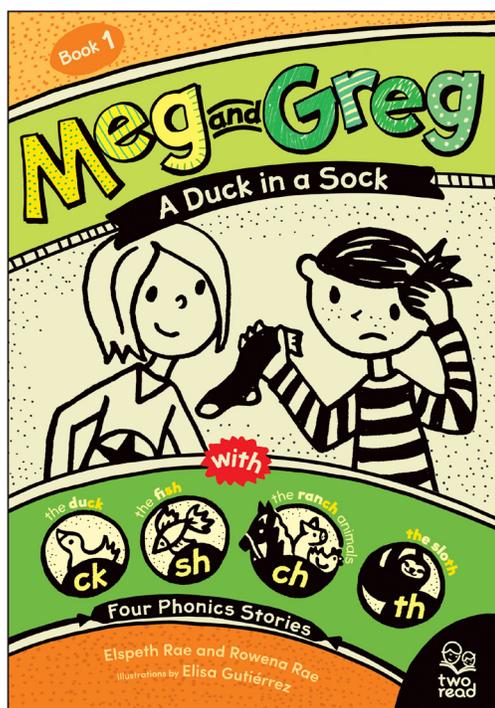


Meg and Greg: A Duck in a Sock

First book in new series offers engaging, accessible reading experience designed for children with learning difficulties.



A Duck in a Sock

The Meg and Greg Series

By Elspeth Rae and Rowena Rae

Illustrated by Elisa Gutiérrez

Published by 44 Sounds Publishing

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It's a challenge to find the right books for children struggling to learn to read. Those still learning the fundamentals at ages 6–9 are often bored or frustrated by the simplicity of stories at their reading level, perceiving books they can read as “baby books.” For them, books are either too simple in story or too difficult in language complexity.

A Duck in a Sock fills this gap as part of the newly launched *Meg and Greg* book series, designed specifically to foster reading in children with learning difficulties such as dyslexia through the use of phonics.

Developed by two sisters—Orton Gillingham teacher for children with language-learning difficulties, Elspeth Rae, and children's writer and editor, Rowena Rae—the series follows two neighbourhood friends who love to have adventures, especially those involving animals.

Meg and Greg books—including *A Duck in a Sock*—use a range of innovative design features to aid reading, including two sets of interconnected text, designed for two people to read out loud together. The adult text uses wider vocabulary and longer sentences to keep the story interesting and engaging without overwhelming the learner. Kid-specific text is tightly controlled, has shorter sentences, and introduces only one new letter-sound combination at a time, so that children feel confident in reading their part of the story.

Additional features include comic-book style illustrations to increase the accessibility of the text the child reads, typeface mimicking the shapes of hand-printed letters to ensure children recognize the shape of each letter, and children's text printed on subtly shaded paper to reduce contrast between the two—something cited as a difficulty for some people with dyslexia.

Impeccably researched and creative, this original series offers a reading opportunity to an underserved demographic of children trying to learn to read, but requiring the right tools to do so.

About the Authors and Illustrator

Elspeth Rae is a certified Orton Gillingham teacher for children with dyslexia and other language-learning difficulties. She runs 44 Sounds Orton Gillingham Learning Studio where she teaches reading, spelling, and writing to children ages 4–12. Elspeth was diagnosed with dyslexia when she was 8 years old. She lives with her husband and three children in Vancouver, BC.

Rowena Rae has an M.A. in science writing and two biology degrees. She works as a freelance editor and children's writer. She has written science and nature articles for a children's magazine, *Yes Mag*, and writes nonfiction children's books. She lives with her two children in Victoria, BC.

Elisa Gutiérrez is an award-winning book designer and illustrator. She is author/illustrator of *Picturescape* and *Letter Lunch*, the first of which was shortlisted for a BC Books Prize. She lives with her husband and two children in Vancouver, BC.