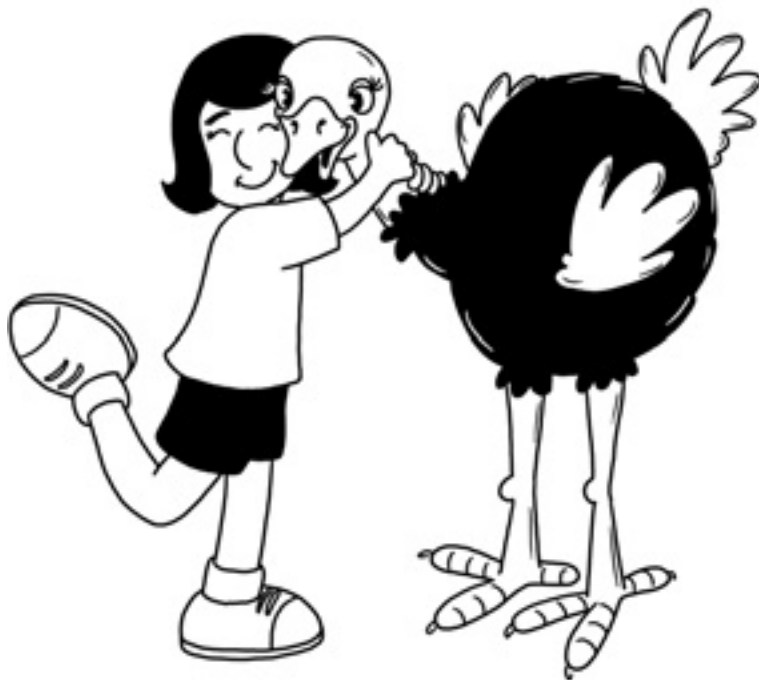




A Plan Is Hatched

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Phonics Skill

Syllable pattern VCCCV

complain
impressed

constant
instant

exclaimed
Mildred

hungry
monster

inspect
surprise





Constance has a big dream. Her friends think it is a very strange dream. In fact, they think her plan is a little bird-brained. That's because Constance plans to own an ostrich farm!

"An ostrich farm?" Sandra asked. "Last time we talked you were going to be an actress!"

"That's a long story," Constance replied. She then told Sandra her long ostrich tale.





One day I heard an odd noise outside. That constant, loud noise went on and on, and soon I couldn't stand it a moment longer. I went to my window to complain. Little did I know as I opened the window that my goal in life would change.






Miss Mildred, the lady next door, had a huge crate in her yard. That knocking, banging noise came from inside her crate!

"Miss Mildred," I yelled over the racket. "Why is so much noise coming from that crate?"

The banging inside Miss Mildred's crate got louder.





 Miss Mildred was in a state of distress! She was so frustrated that she burst into tears.

"Constance, my dear," she replied. "I don't know how to handle this mess! This monster is a birthday gift sent by my crazy Uncle Clem, but I cannot do a single thing to control it!"

Miss Mildred slumped down sadly on her knees.





I went out to inspect Miss Mildred's "monster."
When I peeked in the noisy crate, I got a
complete surprise.

"It's an ostrich!" I shouted, jumping back in
shock.

"Yes," Miss Mildred moaned, shaking her
head. "Please, can you help me with it?"





"Maybe it's hungry. When did it last eat?" I asked Miss Mildred, edging slowly closer.

Uncle Clem had sent big food bags with this crate. We gave that ostrich a nice snack. In an instant he was quiet. He made happy little sounds as he gobbled his food.





"It was such fun to help with that big bird," Constance said. "So now I am planning a huge ranch myself, with at least a hundred ostriches!"

Sandra was impressed by Constance's grand plan. "That's exciting!" Sandra exclaimed. "It sounds like fun."

"So, Sandra," Constance added with a wink, "do you want to help me work with the ostriches?"

