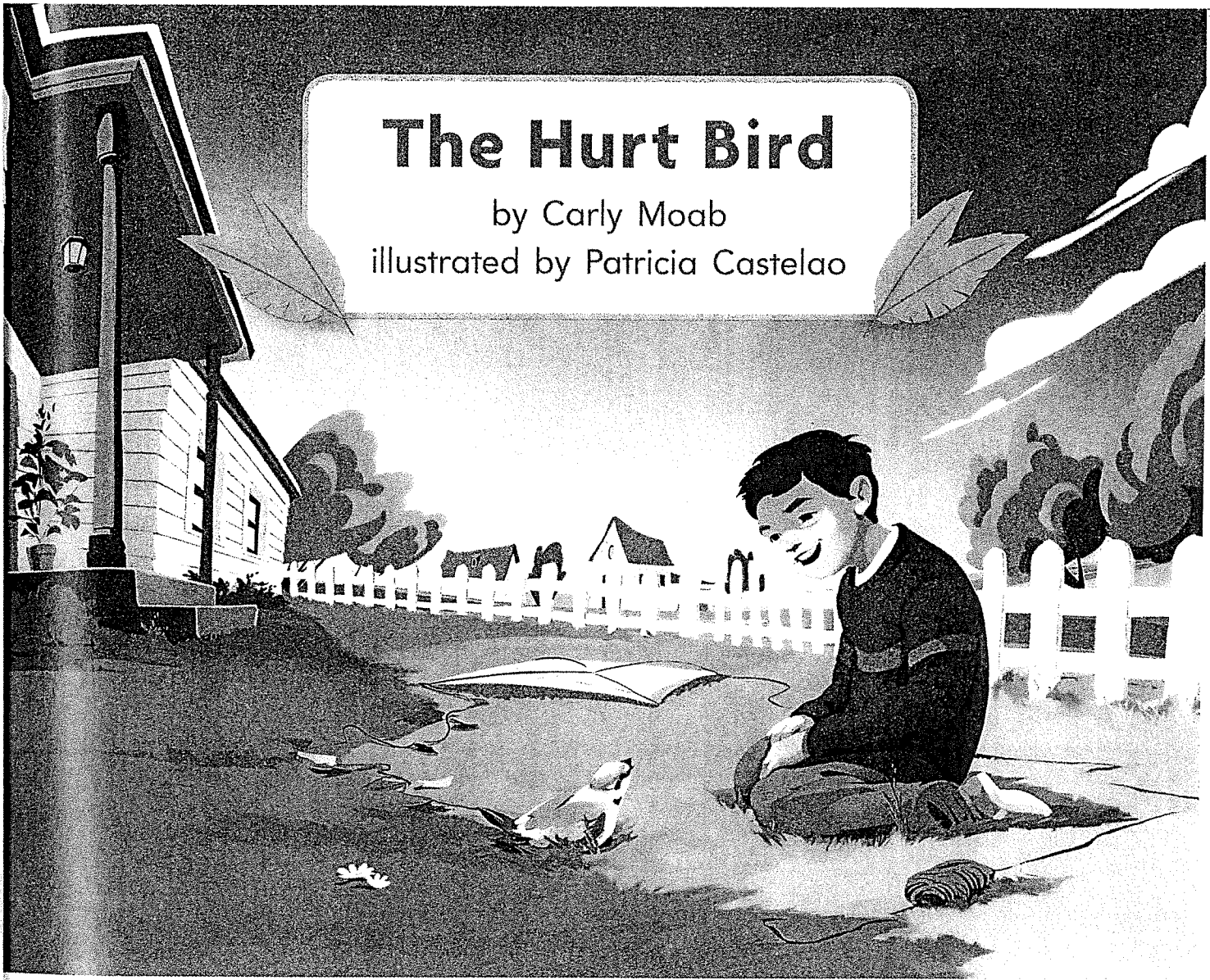


The Hurt Bird

by Carly Moab

illustrated by Patricia Castelao



One day, Clark played in his yard. He ran fast to get his kite to go up in the sky.

Then Clark saw something stir in the grass. He got on his knees to look. A bird peeked up at him! It started to hop but did not fly away. It seemed weak.

"It might be hurt," Clark said to himself. "I'll go get Dad."



Clark ran as fast as he could. He ran up the porch steps to the back door and burst into the house.

"Dad!" he shouted. "Quick!"

Clark waited until he saw his father. Then he blurted out, "Dad, I found a hurt bird in the backyard!"

Clark led his father to the hurt bird.

"You were smart to fetch me," Dad told him. "This bird needs help. We will take it to Barb. She has helped lots of sick or hurt birds. Maybe she'll know what to do."

Clark and his dad put the bird in a box with holes, got in the car, and drove off to see Barb.



Clark knocked on Barb's door.

"Hi, Barb," said Dad. "Clark has a hurt bird. Can you help it, please?"

"I hope so," said Barb. "Let me take a quick peek." It was hard for Clark to wait for Barb to check the bird. He wanted an answer fast!





"Yes, I can help it," Barb told them at last. "Clark, this bird is a horned lark, and it's a girl. She broke her leg. First, I will put a brace on it. I'll keep her until her leg heals. Then we can set her free."

Clark felt glad. He and Dad went home.

Clark met his mom at the door with a big smile. "Barb says she can help the bird!"



Soon it was time to set the bird free.

Clark, Dad, and Barb went to the nearest park with the bird in a big cage. Clark opened it. The bird chirped at him, and then off she went.

"She can fly!" Clark shouted. "She's just a speck in the sky. Go, bird, go!"

Blend and Read

1. girl chirp curl burst twirl
2. fern herd turn burn germ
3. tie toes foe flow pie
4. churn clerks squirt thirsty surfing
5. The bird squirmed and chirped.
6. The boy put the hurt bird in a box.



