

OXFORD
SCHOOL EDUCATION

Revised
Edition

2

Oxford Reading Circle

Nicholas Horsburgh
Claire Horsburgh

Ruby's Garden

Ruby's mother was standing at the school gate. She was waiting for Ruby. It was the end of Ruby's first day at her new school. The bell rang loudly. The children came out of their classrooms. They were laughing and chatting with their new friends. How happy they were to see their mums and dads!

Ruby soon saw her mum. She was smiling and waving her hands. Ruby ran up, and gave her a big hug.

'Hello, Ruby,' said Mum, giving her a big kiss. 'Did you have a good day at school?'

Ruby nodded her head.

12

chatting talking in a friendly way
wavmg moving the hand or arm from side to side
nodded lowered, then raised the head quickly



'Did you like your new teacher?' asked Mum.

Ruby nodded her head again.

'Tell me what you did in school today,' said Mum.

'Mrs Thomas made us write our names on sticky labels,' said Ruby.

She pointed to the label on her blouse. It said: RUBY.

'We have to wear them all week,' said Ruby, 'till Mrs Thomas knows our names.'

'What did you do then?' asked Mrs Dibbins.

sticky covered in glue
label a piece of paper giving information

OXFORD
SCHOOL EDUCATION

Revised
Edition

3

Oxford Reading Circle

Nicholas Horsburgh
Claire Horsburgh



Suddenly she stopped shrieking, and peered at Pratap.

'You are a naughty boy, Pratap!' she said, not too loudly, because people were looking.



Pratap wanted to smile, but did not dare-not with Mum looking like a volcano! He stood by and watched Mum and the girl unpack and repack the bags.

The journey home was very, very quiet. As the car pulled into the drive, Dad came out and waved.

'Where have you two been?' asked Dad, helping to carry, the shopping. 'Your car was just ahead of mine, on the main road, and then ...'

'We've been shopping,' replied Mum. 'And your son has been very naughty. You must have a word with him.'

When they got indoors, Dad sat down with Pratap and Mum.

'What's all this about, Pratap?' asked Dad. 'Tell me what happened.'

'Mum would not let me read,' wailed Pratap. 'And she called me an ancient woman's chin!'

'A what?' cried Mum. 'I never did!'

'You did!' said Pratap. 'That's what you said: an ancient woman's chin!'

'Is that what made you cross?' she asked, shaking with laughter. 'What I said was that you were whining like an ancient woman OR an urchin.'

'Ha ha ha!' laughed Dad. 'What a joke! Like an urchin, Pratap, not her chin! An urchin is a boy on the streets.'



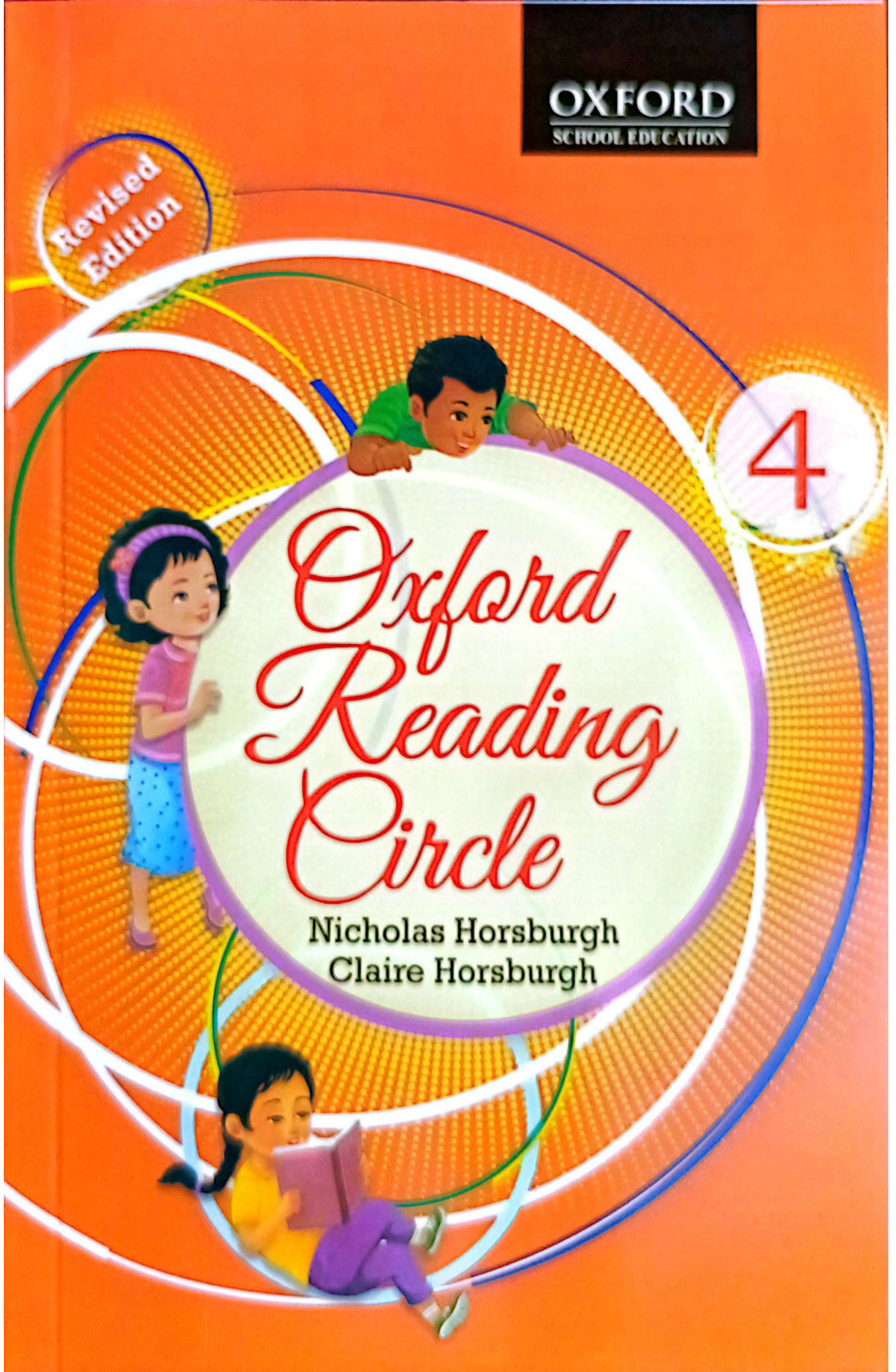
OXFORD
SCHOOL EDUCATION

Revised
Edition

4

Oxford Reading Circle

Nicholas Horsburgh
Claire Horsburgh





soft grass that looked like-a comfortable place to rest. When the glazier discovered the mound in his way, he smiled and, feeling well pleased, he put down the glass and sat himself down. 'Ah! That's better', he said. But his joy was not to last. After just a few minutes, the mound vanished from under him so rapidly that the poor glazier fell to the ground with his glass. The fall smashed the glazier's glass into a thousand pieces.

10

The poor fellow arose from the ground and looked around him, but the mound of earth had disappeared. The glazier began to wail and

groan bitterly, 'Oh no! Oh no! My family will go hungry.' He sighed, with heartfelt sorrow over his bad luck and looked in dismay at the glass shards scattered around him. How was he going to earn any money?

After a while the glazier started once more on his journey. He walked slowly with his head down and a frown on his face. At this point Rubezahl, the mischievous mountain sprite, quickly disguised himself as a traveller. He walked up a side path and greeted the glazier, 'Hello my good man!' The glazier tried to smile but his worry and disappointment was plain to see on his face. Rubezahl spoke to him: 'Why do you look so sad on this sunny day? What has given you such great sorrow?'

The glazier told him the whole affair, how that, being weary, he had seated himself upon a mound by the wayside, how it had suddenly disappeared from under him and broken to pieces his whole stock of glass, which was well worth at least eight dollars. 'I don't know how I am going to recover this loss!' he wailed.

sprite

an elf or fairy-like small, magical person

OXFORD
SCHOOL EDUCATION

Revised
Edition

5

Oxford Reading Circle

Nicholas Horsburgh
Claire Horsburgh



C. Words and meaning

1. Match the following to make sensible expressions.

harvest	spend
hunt	part
regain	win

animals	glory
corn	curtains
time	strength

2. Sort the words into four groups of four words each. Check the meanings in a dictionary.

wigwam	tribe	oats	barley
tepee	pray	cla	rye
revere	breed	race	corn
worship	adore	igloo	kraal



D. Discuss and write

1. Find out about the following and report to the class what you have discovered.
 - a. Myths
 - b. American Indian tribes; their customs and way of life
2. In the story we learn about the Chippewa myth about how corn was discovered. Make up your own story about how fire was discovered.



32

4

The Toad's Warts

A long time ago, a man named Chemchongaipa was standing on the bank of the great Irrawaddy river, minding his own business, and sharpening his weapons. A prawn, irritated by his stomping around, bit him in the leg.

Chemchongaipa yelled and leaped up in the air. He could not see the prawn, and in his pain, he staggered towards a tree and swung his knife around. The sharp weapon struck the trunk of a tree and cut it.

The tree was startled and annoyed. PLOP! It immediately dropped a fruit on



annoyed made to feel impatient and angry; irritated

33