

SPEAKER: Christian, I have this book that I want to read to you.

CHRISTIAN: OK.

SPEAKER: It's called Oonga Boonga by Frieda Wishinsky. And it's illustrated by Carol--

CHRISTIAN: There's a spider.

SPEAKER: Yes, there's a spider.

CHRISTIAN: There's water.

SPEAKER: You see spiders?

CHRISTIAN: Water.

SPEAKER: Oh, water? Yeah, you know what? You'll see water in here, too. You'll see lots of water. Let's see, who do you see on the cover?

CHRISTIAN: A baby and a daddy?

SPEAKER: A baby and maybe a brother?

CHRISTIAN: A daddy.

SPEAKER: A daddy? Let's see. Oonga Boonga.

CHRISTIAN: That's the baby.

SPEAKER: This is the baby. Nobody could make--

CHRISTIAN: He cry.

SPEAKER: You're right, nobody can make him stop crying. What do you see here?

CHRISTIAN: Wet.

SPEAKER: Wet water, right? And they're coming from her face. They're tears. Does she look happy or sad?

CHRISTIAN: Sad.

SPEAKER: Sad. She's crying.

CHRISTIAN: Yeah.

SPEAKER: Her mother tried. She held her close and sang a little lullaby. But that didn't help. Louise kept on crying until her tears ran like rivers to the sea. See all this water?

CHRISTIAN: Yeah.

SPEAKER: You saw the water.

CHRISTIAN: Yeah.

SPEAKER: What do you see?

CHRISTIAN: The baby's crying through the water.

SPEAKER: She's crying so much she made a river. And mother tried to help. But did it help?

CHRISTIAN: No.

SPEAKER: No. Let's see if anyone else could help. Her father tried. He rocked her gently in his arms.

CHRISTIAN: He's the daddy.

SPEAKER: Yes, this is baby Louise's dad. And he whispered softly in her ear. But that didn't help. Louise kept on crying until her wails shook the pictures off the walls. Oh no, what's happening to the pictures?

CHRISTIAN: Falling.

SPEAKER: Yes, they're falling.

CHRISTIAN: Why?

SPEAKER: Maybe-- why do you think?

CHRISTIAN: Maybe their whole house fall down.

SPEAKER: Yes, pictures are falling maybe because baby Louise is crying so hard. She's really sad.

Grandma tried. She gave her a nice warm bottle. A bottle of milk and said eat, eat. But did that help?

CHRISTIAN: No.

SPEAKER: No. Louise kept on crying until her sobs woke all the dogs and cats on the block. Do you see all the animals here?

CHRISTIAN: Yeah.

SPEAKER: Do you see cats and dogs?

CHRISTIAN: Yeah.

SPEAKER: Do you have any cats or dogs?

CHRISTIAN: I just have a dog.

SPEAKER: Oh, you just have a dog. What's his name?

CHRISTIAN: Supabean.

SPEAKER: Supabean? Wow, that's a fun name. Let's see what happens.

Grandpa tried. He played a happy tune on his harmonica. And did a little jig. He did a dance. But did that help? No, Louise kept on crying til the birds flew out of the trees and the squirrel's scampered away. Do you remember what grandpa's playing in his mouth?

CHRISTIAN: I don't know.

SPEAKER: A harmonica. What else is he holding?

CHRISTIAN: A baby bunny rabbit.

SPEAKER: Yes, a baby rabbit. Do you remember who it belongs to?

CHRISTIAN: I don't know.

SPEAKER: Maybe the baby? Baby Louise?

CHRISTIAN: Yes.

SPEAKER: The neighbors came and offered advice. Turn her on her stomach. Turn her on her side. Play Mozart. Play rock and roll.

But nothing helped. Louise kept on crying. What do you see here? Who do you see?

CHRISTIAN: The neighbors.

SPEAKER: The neighbors. Yes, they came over. But did they help baby Louise stop crying?

CHRISTIAN: No.

SPEAKER: No.

CHRISTIAN: Why? Why?

SPEAKER: Why? I don't know, we'll see.

CHRISTIAN: Maybe the neighbors were mad at the baby.

SPEAKER: Oh, why do you think they'd be mad?

CHRISTIAN: At the baby. Baby cry so loud.

SPEAKER: Oh yeah, that's a good reason. Maybe they're going to try to help the baby be more quiet. Then her brother, Daniel, came home from school.

Oonga Boonga he said to Louise. Louise looked up, tears streaming down her face. Oonga Boonga, he repeated. Louise stopped sobbing and looked him straight in the eye. Oonga Boonga said Daniel again.

CHRISTIAN: Why?

SPEAKER: And Louise broke into a smile. Is Louise still crying?

CHRISTIAN: No.

SPEAKER: What happened?

CHRISTIAN: She's happy.

SPEAKER: She's happy. How do you know she's happy?

CHRISTIAN: The baby and the boy say Oonga Boonga. Then she happy.

SPEAKER: Yes, you're right. The brother said Oonga Boonga and then the baby stopped crying. Let's see what happens.

How did you do that asked his mother? It's easy, you just say Oonga Boonga said Daniel. Oonga Boonga said his mother. Oonga Boonga said his father. Oonga Boonga said grandma and grandpa.

See, said Daniel? She likes it. And sure enough, she did.

Louise was smiling from ear-to-ear. Oonga Boonga said every one in unison. They said it together. And then what happened?

CHRISTIAN: They're happy now.

SPEAKER: Yes, they all look happy. Let's see what happens. I'm going out to play said Daniel. Be back at six for dinner said his mother.

But as soon as he left, Louise's smile faded. Slowly a tear rolled down her cheek, followed by another, and another. And soon she was crying as loudly as before.

Why do you think she's crying again?

CHRISTIAN: Because her brother left.

SPEAKER: Yes, brother left. Do you think if he came back baby Louise would stop crying?

CHRISTIAN: Yes, maybe if he says Oonga Boonga.

SPEAKER: Oh, maybe if he says Oonga Boonga again?

CHRISTIAN: Yes.

SPEAKER: Maybe Oonga Boonga-- if someone said it, maybe it'll help. Oonga Boonga said her mother. Oonga Boonga said her father. Oonga Boonga said grandma and grandpa. But nothing helped. Louise kept on crying.

CHRISTIAN: She miss her brother?

SPEAKER: It was a bottle?

CHRISTIAN: Her brother.

SPEAKER: Oh, her brother. It was her brother. What about her brother?

CHRISTIAN: He say Oonga Boonga.

SPEAKER: Oh, you mean baby Louise only stops crying when brother says it?

CHRISTIAN: Yes.

SPEAKER: Yeah? Well, let's see. Maybe he'll come back? Do you think he'll come back?

CHRISTIAN: Yes.

SPEAKER: Let's see. So he's coming back. What's wrong, said Daniel? Oonga Boonga doesn't work anymore, they said. And what's happening here?

CHRISTIAN: She still crying.

SPEAKER: She's still crying. And she's rolling to her side and she looks even more sad. Because what doesn't work anymore?

CHRISTIAN: Oonga Boonga.

SPEAKER: Oonga Boonga. Oh no, do you think baby Louise will stop crying if they tried something else?

CHRISTIAN: Yeah.

SPEAKER: Yeah? What do you think they should try?

CHRISTIAN: I don't know.

SPEAKER: Let's see if they have any ideas. Daniel leaned over Louise and whispered in her ear, Bonka Wonka, Louise. So Daniel didn't say Oonga Boonga anymore. He said?

CHRISTIAN: What?

SPEAKER: Bonka Wonka. And what happened? What does Louise--

CHRISTIAN: She's happy.

SPEAKER: She's happy. How do you know she's happy?

CHRISTIAN: I just know.

SPEAKER: Oh, you just know. Maybe because there's no more tears?

CHRISTIAN: Yeah.

SPEAKER: And what do you see here?

CHRISTIAN: I don't know.

SPEAKER: A big smile on her face.

CHRISTIAN: No. What are those red things?

SPEAKER: What do you see? Red things?

CHRISTIAN: Yes, red things on her.

SPEAKER: Those are her cheeks. And they're really red. That's why her cheeks became red.

CHRISTIAN: Why?

SPEAKER: Why? Because she is so happy. She's so happy her cheeks turned red. And see, Louise stopped crying.

CHRISTIAN: Yes, her cheeks are not red anymore. And she's turning red.

SPEAKER: You're right. Baby Louise is turning red after she stopped crying. So maybe when she's happy, she turns red.

CHRISTIAN: But my cheeks are red.

SPEAKER: Oh, your cheeks are red. Does that mean you're happy?

CHRISTIAN: No.

SPEAKER: No?

CHRISTIAN: Yeah.

SPEAKER: Are my cheeks red?

CHRISTIAN: But my cheeks are not red either.

SPEAKER: My cheeks aren't red?

CHRISTIAN: Mine not, too.

SPEAKER: Oh. So Louise stopped crying.

CHRISTIAN: But my mommy has red cheeks?

SPEAKER: Your mommy has red cheeks? Well, she must be very happy then. The end. Did

you like that book?

CHRISTIAN: Yeah, I didn't.

SPEAKER: You didn't? Was there a favorite part that you liked? The water?

CHRISTIAN: Yes, I like--

SPEAKER: The water?