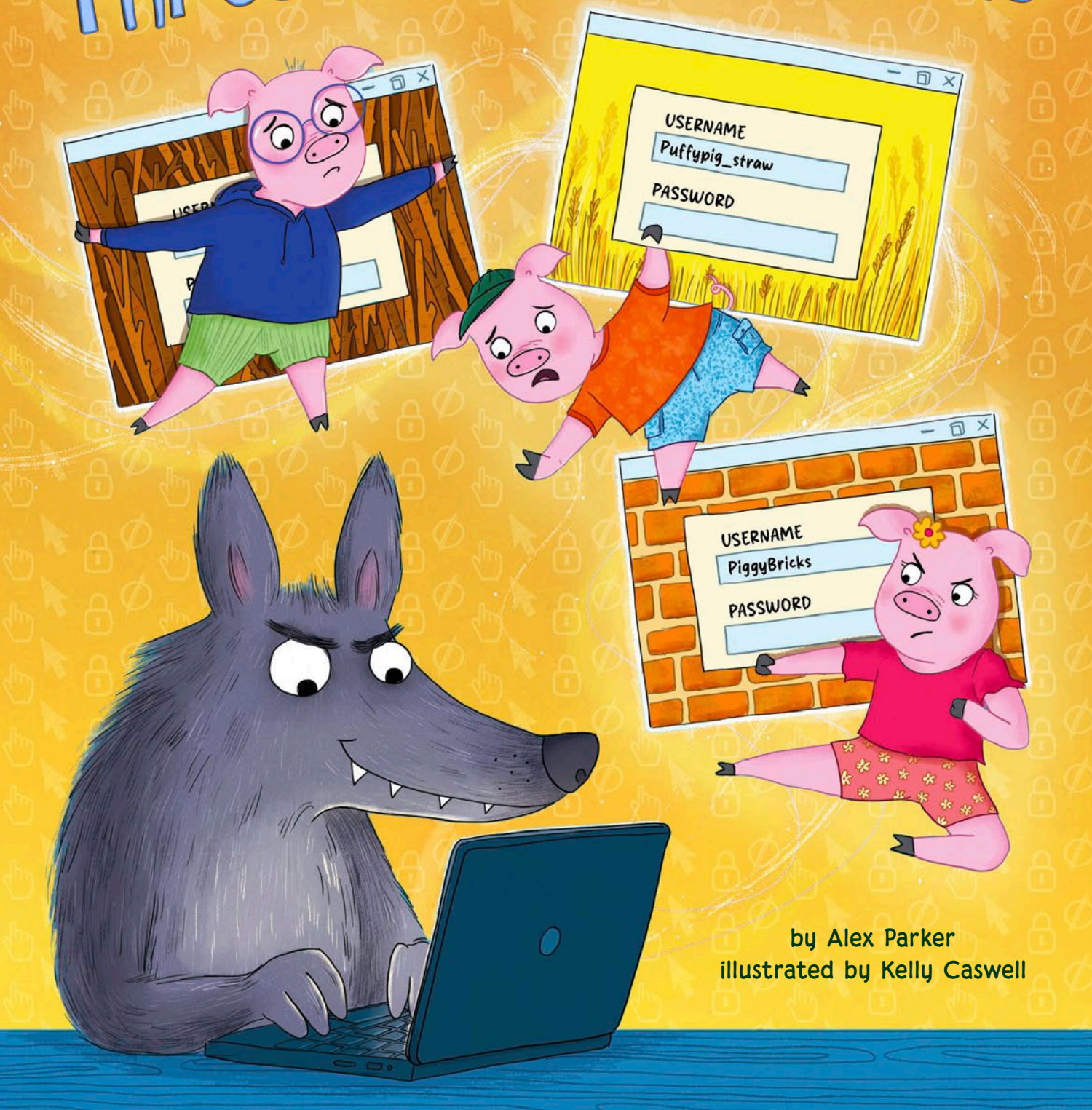
THE Three Little Pigs AND THE Three Little Passwords



by Alex Parker
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Words to Know

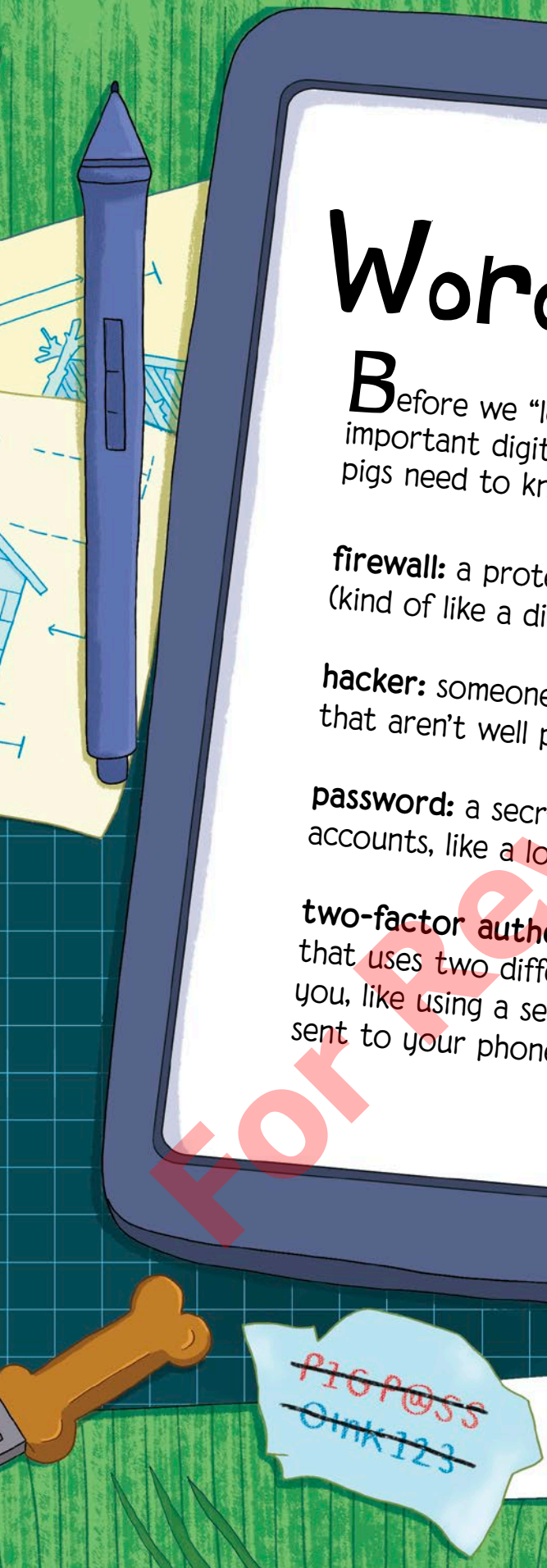
Before we "log in" to our story, let's learn a few important digital words. Even the cleverest little pigs need to know how to stay safe online.

firewall: a protective wall that keeps out hackers (kind of like a digital brick wall around your stuff)

hacker: someone who tries to sneak into accounts that aren't well protected

password: a secret code that protects your accounts, like a lock on a door

two-factor authentication (2FA): a double-check that uses two different ways to make sure it's really you, like using a secret password and a special code sent to your phone or email



Now, let's begin our tale . . .

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Once upon a time, there were three little pigs. They each had their own online accounts that they used to play games . . .



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send messages . . .



and store their online treasure.



There was one serious problem, though.

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THE BIG BAD WOLF WAS A HACKER!

He used to huff and puff to blow down houses. Now, he hacks and clicks to break down passwords.



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The first little pig was in a hurry to start gaming, so he chose the easiest password he could.



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"Straw," he said, typing it in. "Easy to remember!"

But along came the Big Bad Wolf. He cracked his knuckles and logged into the same game. He opened a chat window and started typing.



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The Three Little Pigs' Password Tips

- Always use a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols—just like the third little pig.
- Don't use easy-to-guess words or personal information. "Straw" and "St1cks" were way too simple!
- Use a phrase you'll remember, like a favorite saying or song lyric. Then turn it into initials and add numbers and symbols.

Talk About It

1. Why are passwords important?
2. Why was the Big Bad Wolf trying to get into the three pigs' accounts?
3. Each pig made a different kind of password. What did their choices tell you about how they think?
4. What did the third pig do when her phone asked, "Is this you?" Why was that important?
5. How would you make a password that's strong but still easy to remember?

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