

Sweet Pea, the Black Sheep



by Stacey Sparks
illustrated by Lisa Zolnowski

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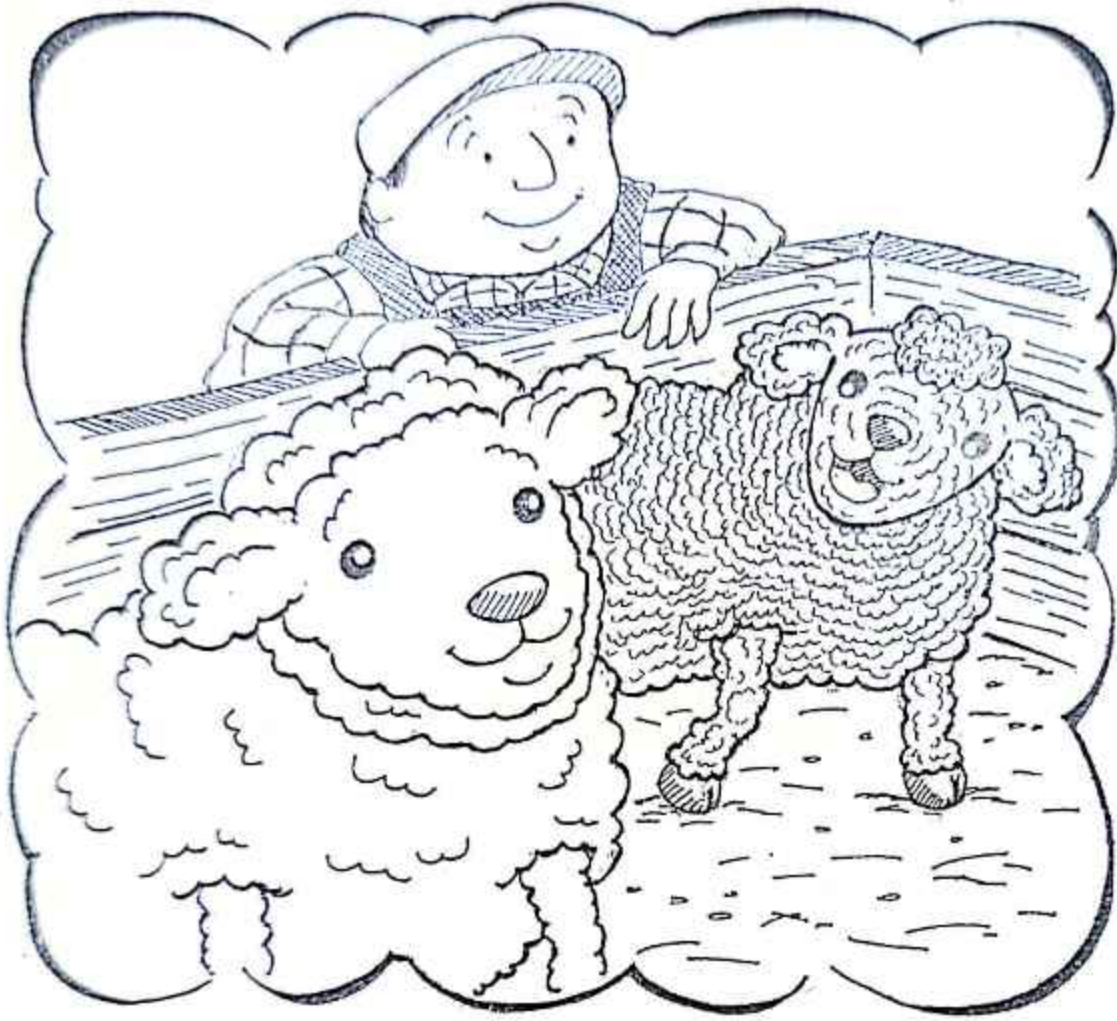
Scott Foresman

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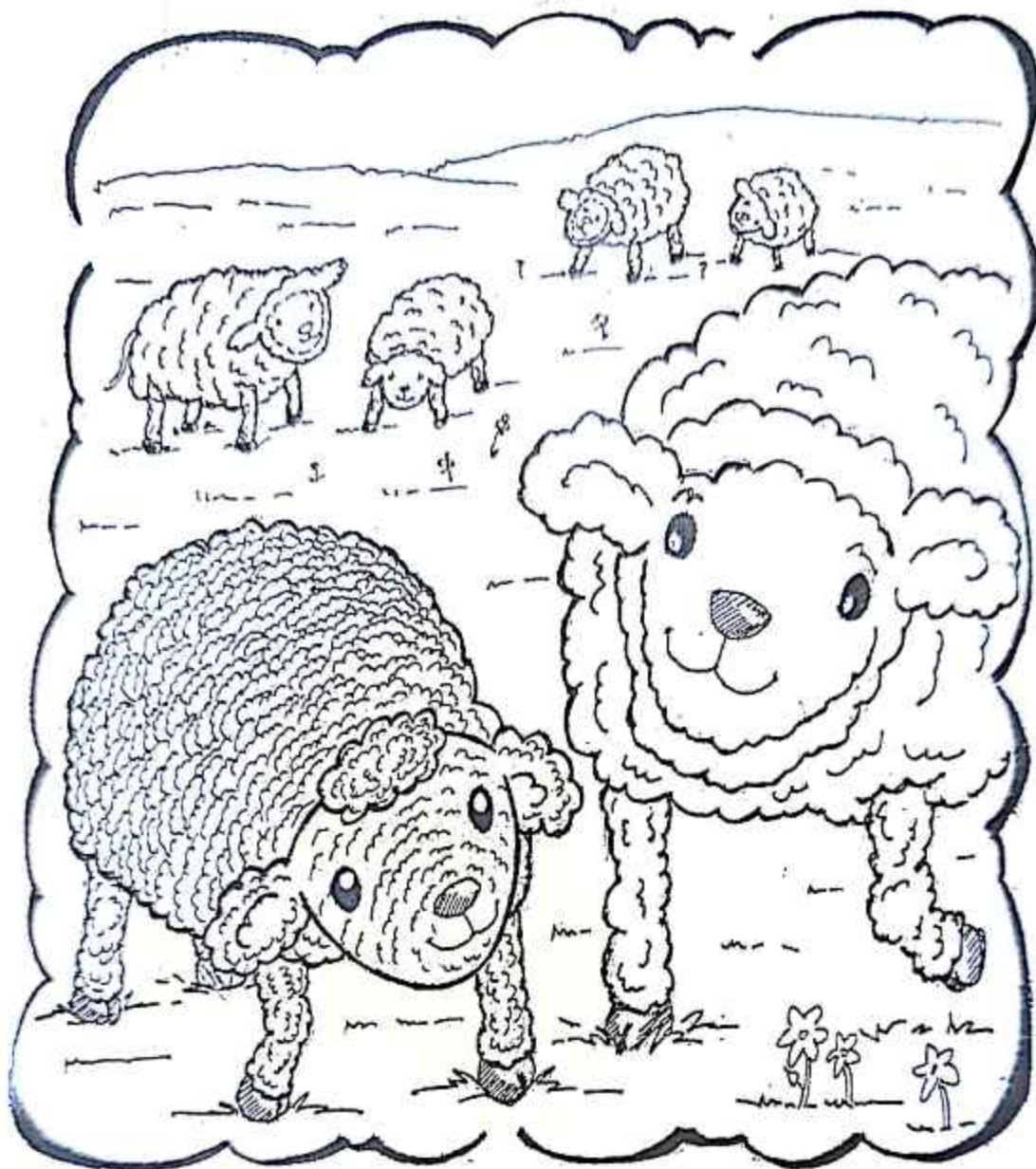
It is spring on the farm. This lamb was just born.

At first the lamb is very weak. The mother sheep stays with her lamb. Soon the lamb will get up.

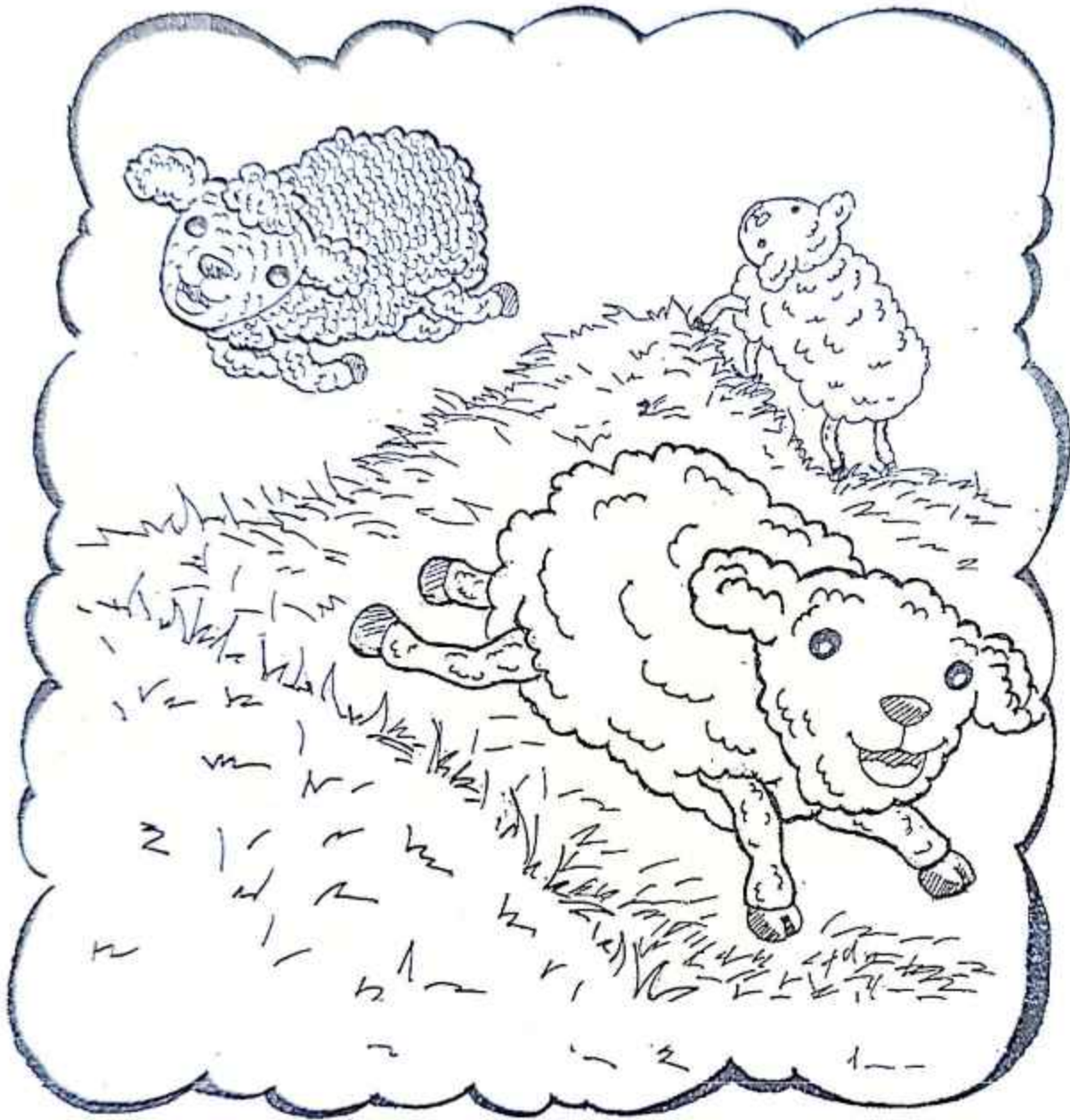


The lamb says, "Baaa." The mother bleats back. Now they know each other. If the lamb gets lost, it will bleat. The bleat will lead the mother to the lamb.

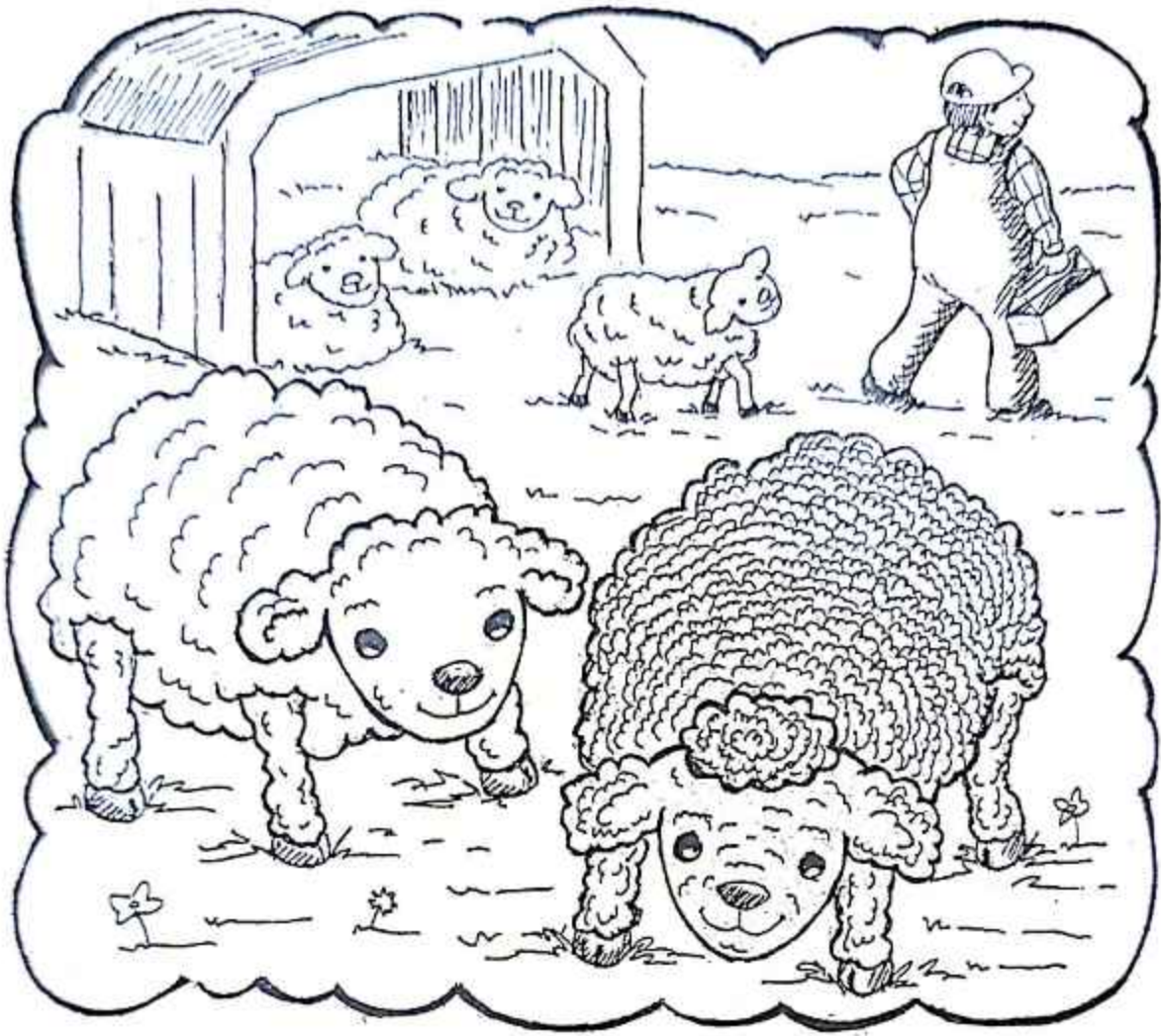
The farmer names this new lamb Sweet Pea.



Now Sweet Pea is three days old. She can leave the pen. She goes out with the rest of the flock. The mother stays close to watch. She will keep Sweet Pea safe.



Sweet Pea is getting big. She plays with other lambs. They run through the field. They run up a pile of hay. Then they fall in a heap!



It is summer. The sheep are eating grass and weeds. Sheep are easy to feed. Weeds and grass are cheap!

The farmer has made a shed. Sweet Pea can go to the shed to get out of the heat.



The farmer will teach Sweet Pea a trick. He calls her name. Then he holds out a treat. The treat is a peanut. Sweet Pea comes. Then she gets the snack. Soon Sweet Pea should come when she is called.



Sweet Pea sticks out her neck.
What does this mean? Do you
think she wants more peanuts?

No. This means, "Would you
scratch my chin?"



It is fall. Sweet Pea's wool is getting thick and long. The farmer gives Sweet Pea a bath. She is going to the fair!



The farmer is smiling. Sweet Pea
is a good sheep. She is strong. She
is clean. She is pretty.



She should be the very best
sheep at the fair!



Winter is here. Before they go to sleep, the kids wish for snow. They get their wish. They rush out to play.

But the farmer does not seem happy. Why would the farmer be sad?



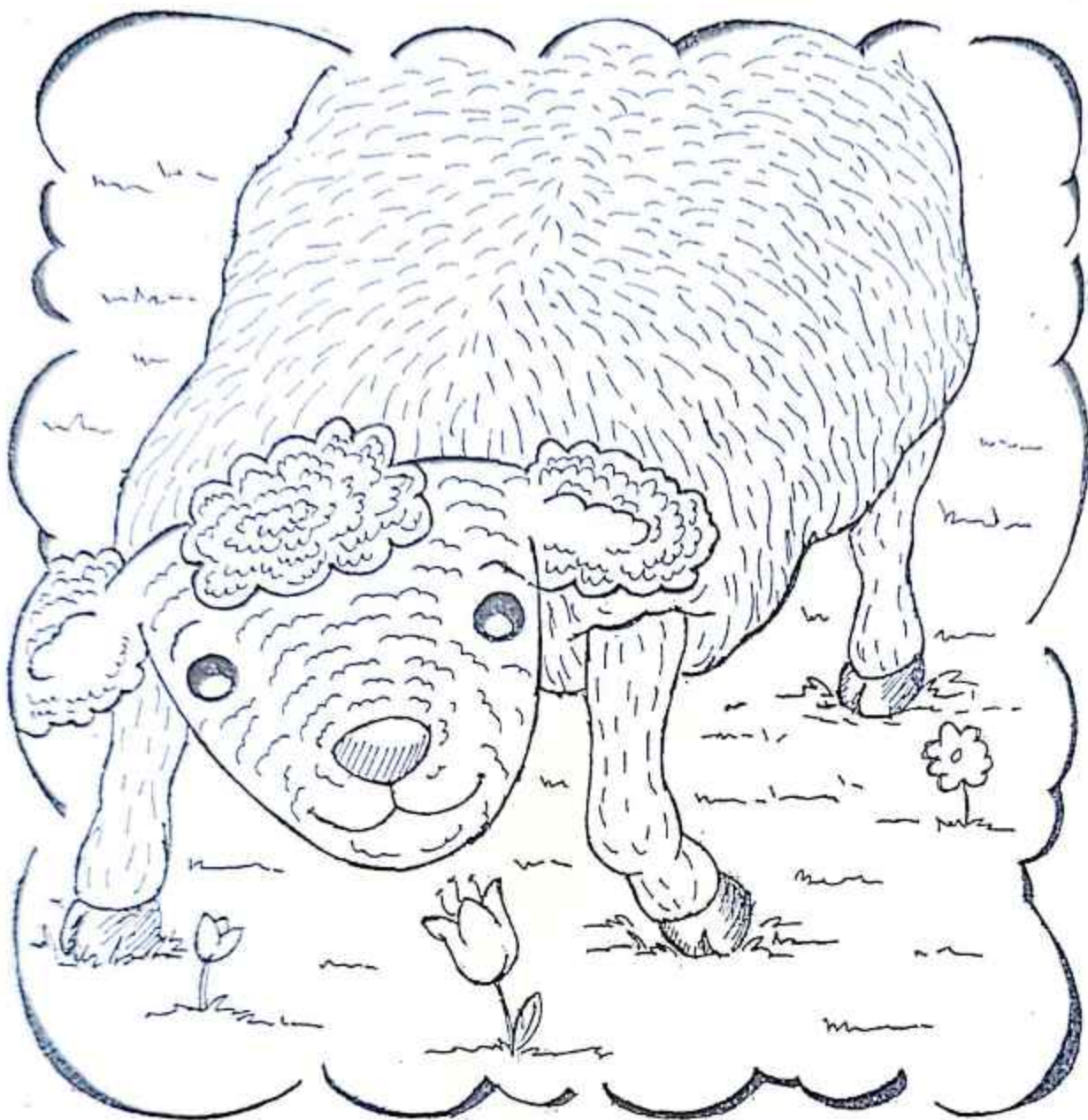
The snow is thick. The sheep cannot reach the grass through it. They need something to eat. The farmer must bring hay for their meal.



The farmer must check Sweet Pea's feet. They look fine. They are nice and long.



It is spring again. It is the time for more lambs. It is also time to cut Sweet Pea's fleece. The farmer gets a big batch to sell. It will be made into cloth. The farmer must keep the fleece clean. Clean wool is worth more.



Sweet Pea feels cool now. That is good. Soon it will be summer.

Then fall will come, followed by winter and spring. And another year will pass on the farm.

Phonics for Families: This book will give your child practice in reading words with the long *e* sound spelled *ee* and *ea*, words that end with the letters *ch*, *ng*, *nk*, *sh*, *tch*, and *th*, and the high-frequency words *should*, *would*, *their*, *through*, and *very*. Read the book together with your child. Then see how many words with long *e* your child can find.

Phonics Skills: Long *e* spelled *ea*, *ee*; Final consonant digraphs

High-Frequency Words: *should*, *would*, *their*, *through*, *very*



Grade 2
Phonics Reader 4

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- Long e spelled ea, ee
- Final consonant digraphs



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