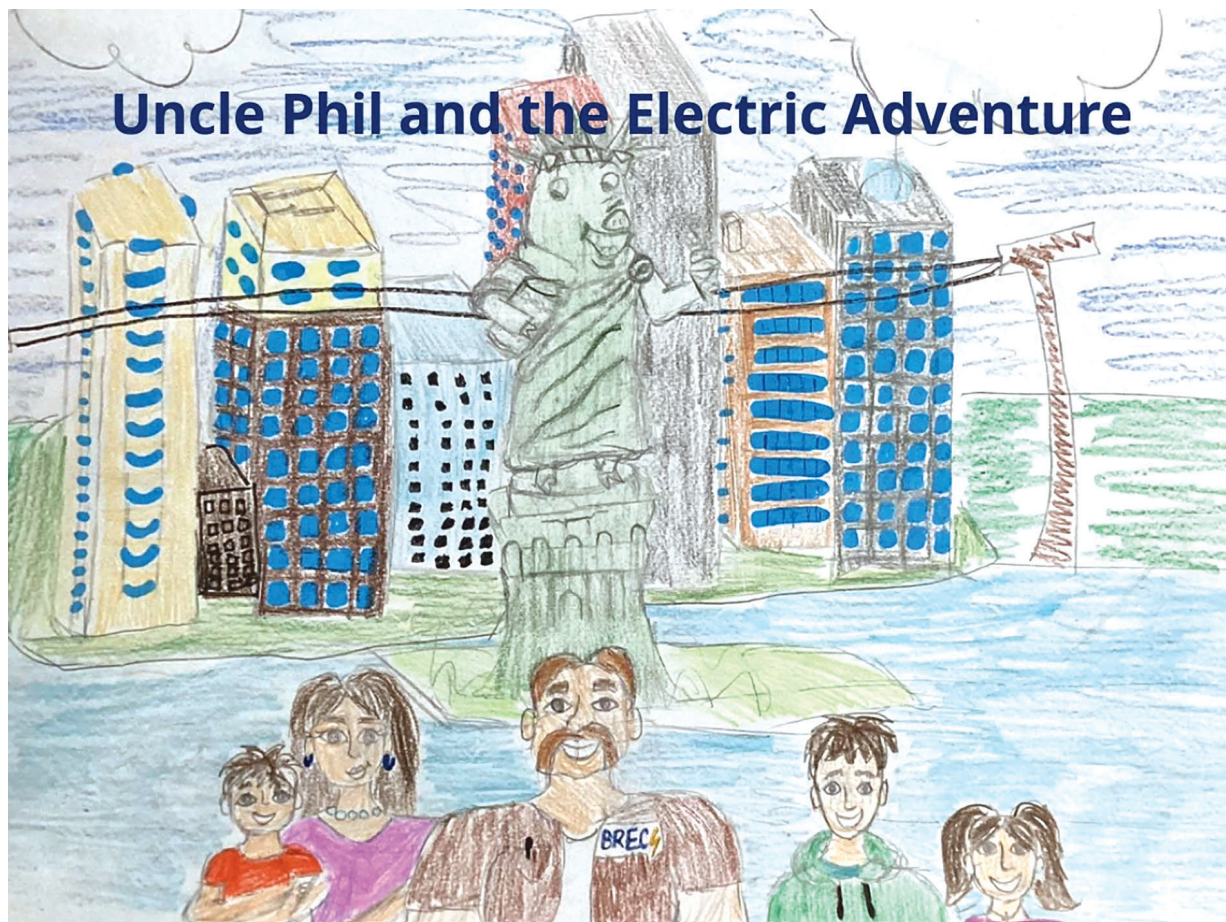


Uncle Phil and the Electric Adventure





To Mrs. Rebekka, our librarian.

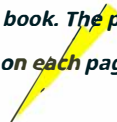
To Mrs. Gamble, our Lower School Principal.

To Black River Electric Co-op, for taking the time to teach us about electricity.

Finally, to our parents for letting us do this.

A special thanks to J. Johnson and Kyleigh Turbeville for helping with coloring and editing.

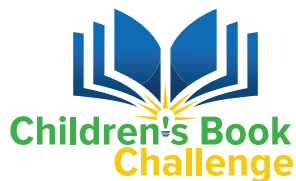
(Look for the lightning bolts hidden in the book. The page number is the number of lightning bolts that are hidden on each page.)



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Uncle Phil and the Electric Adventure by Sadie Gamble, Ellafair DuRant, Railyn Joyner, and Kayden Crisanti was selected as one of two winners of the 2025 Children's Book Challenge—an educational initiative of The Electric

Cooperatives of South Carolina. The competition challenges fourth- and fifth-grade students to write and illustrate stories that focus on electricity. This year's theme was "Staying safe around electricity."

South Carolina's electric cooperatives have been committed to powering rural communities since 1938. Since their founding, co-ops across the state have been guided by the Seven Cooperative Principles, which includes a commitment to education and concern for their communities.



By inspiring students to learn about the history of electricity in our state, S.C.'s electric co-ops hope to spark a passion for critical thinking in the minds of tomorrow's energy leaders.

To learn more about the Children's Book Challenge, visit **scbookchallenge.com**.

"Kids, make sure you are packed," Mom called. "We are going to New York to see Uncle Phil!"

"Ugh! Fine!," TJ said rolling his eyes.

On the other hand, Liv was happy as ever. "Woohoo!" she said.

While she was hooping and hollering, Fisher, their little brother, was playing with his favorite toy dump truck.

"Come here Fisher," said Liv, grabbing Fisher's camo suitcase. "We need to pack your bag."

"Do we have to?" asked Fisher, getting mad.

"Fine, we can wait a few more minutes," Liv said.

"Yay!" cheered Fisher.



“Why do we have to go?” TJ whined to his mom. “We don’t even know anything about New Pork or Uncle Phil. I see no point in going. Can we just stay home and watch TV?”

“No,” Mom said. “You are going to New Pork to see Uncle Phil.”

“Uh! Mom! Give it back!” TJ yelled, trying to reach his phone.

“No, you can have it back once you get packed!” Mom yelled.

Just then, Liv said, “I already packed and I also helped Fisher pack!”

“Thank you Liv,” Mom said.



“All right, what do you want to take to wear?” Liv asked Fisher. “Anything,” Fisher replied.

“Yeah, alright,” Liv said.

“Hey, is mom in here?” TJ whispered, as he snuck into Fisher’s room.

“No, why? What did you do this time?” Liv stopped packing and asked.

“This,” TJ said, shutting the door and pulling out his phone.

“No way...MOM!!!” Liv called.

“No sto... wait, Liv! Get Fisher away from there!” TJ yelled, pointing at Fisher, who was about to stick his fingers into an outlet on the wall.



“Rise and shine sleepy heads!” Mom called. “It’s time to go to the airport and we’re late! So hurry...”

Mom got cut off by Liv saying, “I’m already up and dressed!”

“Well that’s great but I’m trying to get ready,” Mom said so go downstairs and wait.

After a few minutes went by, Mom finally got all the kids out the house.

“Yay!” shouted Liv, filled with joy. “We finally made it to the car!”

“Ugh! Can you stop cheering, it’s so annoying?” TJ moaned.

“Stop.” said Mom. “She is excited. Now get in the car.”



Liv rode in the back seat with Fisher.

“Okay, kids,” Mom said. “I’m going to call your Father, so stay quiet.”

“I don’t know why Dad couldn’t come with us,” Liv said, sounding sad.

“He couldn’t because he had a work trip,” Mom said. “And you know that he wished he could come.”

Liv watched the power lines out the window. She wondered how the birds stood on them.

She heard her Dad’s voice on the phone say, “Well, that’s not good.”

To which Mom replied, “I’m glad I put those child-guard locks on the outlets all around the house.”



"Oh wow! Is that?..." said Liv. "I think it's..."

"Yes!" said Mom. "That's your Uncle Phil,"

"Hey kids! I haven't seen you since you were small enough to fit in my hard hat," said Uncle Phil. "Hey, Little One, here is a lollipop."

"Oh my!" Mom said while Uncle Phil hugged her. "TJ, your eyes! They're so red!" Uncle Phil said, "If you're on those screens and using all kinds of electricity, your eyes will become red."

"Wow! How did you know that?" Liv asked.



"I'm an electrician," Uncle Phil, said grabbing Liv and hugging her.

"What is an elec... however you say that word?" Liv asked.

"An electrician works with all kinds of electricity," Uncle Phil explained, while grabbing Fisher who was holding his lollipop and toy dump truck. "I'm actually a lineman."

"All right, let's get going," Mom said. "I can't wait for you guys to see our first stop."



As they rode down the highway, Liv thought about the birds on the power lines again.

"So how can birds stand on the power lines without getting electrocuted?" Liv asked.

"We can't, can we?"

Her uncle replied, laughing, "Well, we can't, but the birds can for two important reasons.

"First, electricity takes the easiest route it can, and birds don't conduct electricity as well as humans do.

"Second, because birds are perched on a single wire, the electricity is going to keep flowing through the wire and not through them.

"But if you were to even touch a power line, all of that electricity would flow into you and hurt you badly. That's one reason we put power lines high in the air or deep in the ground." Uncle Phil finished explaining.



When he was done explaining, Liv was amazed.

"That...is...absolutely...amazing!" Liv yelled. "You know all that from being a lineman?"

"Liv stop! You are so loud it's annoying," TJ groaned.

"TJ, be nice," Fisher said. Then he turned his head, closed his eyes, put his thumb in his mouth, and went to sleep.

"Yup! I do. Well, and school to be a lineman," Uncle Phil said happily.

"Whoa! Mom can I be a line...uhm...woman one day?" Liv asked.

"If you want to, yes," her mom replied.

"Yay!" Liv cheered.

"Look at that." Uncle Phil said.

They pulled onto an interstate and in the distance they saw a giant statue of a pig.



“What is that?” TJ asked, pointing at a statue.

Uncle Phil replied with a smile on his face, “That is our first stop. The Statue of Pigerty!”

Mom just laughed and said, “That name always cracks me up.”

She was laughing so hard the rest of the family joined in.

“It’s named that because this place used to be a pig farm back in the 1800’s and that’s also where they got the name New Pork,” Uncle Phil explained.



They parked on the curb in front of The Statue of Pigerty.

"Too bad you have to leave tonight," Uncle Phil said.

Just then, his phone made a 'ding.'

"Oh no...I have to go." Uncle Phil said sadly. "There was a wreck because a car ran into a power line. I hope I can see y'all before you leave."

"Aww ok," Mom and Liv said together. "Bye!" The whole family said, having a group hug.

On the way back home, Liv kept thinking about her brave uncle who worked for the electric co-op and how he helped people when they were in danger.



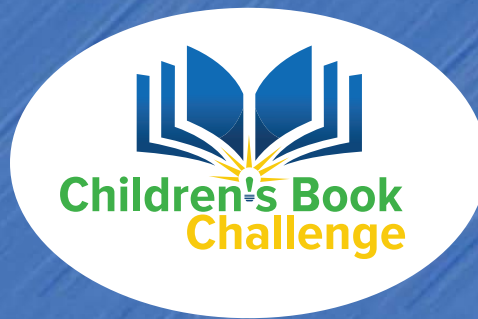


How many lightning bolts did you find?
Write down below.

This book was created by Sadie Gamble, Ellafair DuRant, Railyn Joyner, and Kayden Crisanti. They are 5th graders at Laurence Manning Academy in Clarendon County, SC. They learned about electricity from their new friends at Black River Electric Co-op.



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