Duck’s truck gets stuck. Then he steps in bubble gum! Yuck! Will Duck’s luck ever change?

**Phonics Tales!** are read-aloud stories designed to teach children phonics in a fun and focused way. Skills covered include long and short vowels, vowel pairs, bossy-r words, blends, digraphs, and more. Set learners on the road to reading success with every book in this kid-pleasing series!
Lucky Duck

by Teddy Slater
illustrated by Kellie Lewis
One sunny Sunday, Duck woke up in such a great mood. He had a hunch this would be his lucky day.
Duck rushed downstairs. He was hungry for plum pancakes with plenty of butter and syrup.
Duck opened the cupboard. Uh-oh! No plums.
So Duck jumped in his truck and headed to Gus’s Store to get some plums. But the truck hit a bump and would not budge.
When Duck got out of his truck—yuck!
He stepped in a big puddle of mud.
“I will just have to walk,” said Duck. But along the way, he got stuck in bubble gum. Ugh!
Still, Duck trudged on. That is, until he got stung on the thumb by a bumblebee. What an ugly lump!
By the time Duck got to Gus’s Store, his tummy was rumbling. He was very hungry, plus very grumpy.
Duck had never felt less lucky. Then, uh-oh! He dropped his plums.
But suddenly... Duck heard a drum roll. Then Gus said, “Congratulations! You are the one hundredth customer of the summer.”
Gus gave Duck a hug and a coupon for a free brunch at the Snug Diner on Huff Street.
Duck rushed off to the Snug Diner and placed his order: a stack of plum pancakes with plenty of butter and syrup.
Yum! It was just what he wanted. Oh, what a lucky duck!
Listen to the riddles. Then match each riddle with the right short-u word from the box.

**Word Box**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>yum</th>
<th>duck</th>
<th>snug</th>
<th>luck</th>
<th>up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>jump</td>
<td>plum</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>butter</td>
<td>summer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. This animal says, “Quack, quack.”
2. You put this on toast or popcorn.
3. This is the day after Saturday.
4. It is the opposite of down.
5. This word rhymes with rug.
6. A four-leaf clover brings this.
7. It means almost the same thing as leap.
8. This is the season after spring.
9. You say this when something is delicious.
10. This purple fruit is bigger than a grape.

Hooray for short u, the best sound around!

Let’s holler short-u words all over town!

There’s mug and sun and lunch and up.

There’s gum and fun and luck and cup.

There’s bug and hut and hum and rug.

There’s lump and run and chum and hug.

Short u, short u, give a great cheer,

For the luckiest sound you ever will hear!

Make a list of other short-u words. Then use them in your cheer.