

The Magic Lake



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Green Words and *Challenge Words:

*wise	illness	*decided	throw
fix	next	poor	jail
*magic			

1

*extra	expect	explained	_plucked
*finding			

2

exclaimed	hissed	*others	thankful
exit	*moment	*quietly	ax

3

Red Words to practice every day:

son	father	daughter	feathers
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A long time ago, the king of the Incas had a son. His son, the prince, became ill. So the king asked the wise men what to do.

They gave him a gold box. Then they explained, “Take this gold box. Go to the lake where sky and water meet. Fill the box with this magic water. Do not mix it with plain water. The magic lake water will fix the illness of the prince.”



But the king could not look for the lake. He had to stay with the prince. So he sent the wise men to the people.

They said, “The prince must be saved. Take this gold box. Bring back water from the magic lake. The one who brings back the water may keep this box.”



A poor llama farmer decided to find the magic lake. He liked the gold box! He could sell it and feed his family for a year.

So the farmer left his farm to find the magic lake. But he did not find it. He filled the gold box with plain water from a lake next to the palace.



The farmer gave this water to the king. It did not help the prince. The king took back his gold box. He said, “Throw this man in jail.”





The farmer's daughter, Sumax, was upset that her father was in jail. She ran to her mother and said, "If I find the lake, maybe the king will free Father! Please let me go."

Sumax's mother gave her an extra big hug and a bag filled with corn.

Her mother said, "I expect that finding the lake will be hard. But you are quick and bright. And we need to get your father back. I think you will find the lake. You may go."



Sumax got the gold box at the palace. Then she left to find the lake. She slept under a tree that night. When the sun rose, she woke up.

Six birds sat next to her. They looked at the bag of corn. Sumax shared it. The birds pecked until all the corn was gone.

Then the birds said, “We will help you find the lake.” Sumax did not expect to hear the birds speak!



The six birds plucked a bunch of feathers from their wings. They gave the feathers to Sumax. They told her to make a fan.

The six birds explained, “The fan is magic. It will grant your wishes. It will fix your problems.”

Sumax thanked them and made the fan.

She waved it and said, “Please help me, Magic Fan. Take me to the lake where sky and water meet.”





The magic fan lifted Sumax to a lake at the top of the mountains. A big, black crab sat in the water. His long claws reached for her.

The crab exclaimed, “Get away from my lake!”



Sumax held up the magic fan. The crab fell asleep!
Sumax was glad the crab was asleep! She filled the gold
box with water.



All of a sudden, a red flying snake flapped at Sumax.
“Exit this place,” hissed the snake.
Sumax was scared! But she held up the magic fan.
The snake fell to the sand, asleep.



It was time to leave this awful place! Sumax waved the magic fan.

She said, “Please take me to the sick prince.”

The next moment, she was in the prince’s room. The sad king sat quietly by his bed.

Sumax said, “This magic lake water will help the prince.”

The king did not expect it to help. Too many others had tried.



But this time, the water was from the right lake. The prince sat up in bed. He drank the magic water and was well!

The king exclaimed, “Thank you for saving the prince. Here is the gold box!”

But Sumax did not want the gold box. She said, “Please, King, free my father!”

The king was so thankful that he freed the poor farmer. Then he gave Sumax an ax made of gold, six bags of gold, and the gold box.

1. What happened to the farmer?

2. Circle the right answer.

The king wanted his son's illness to go away. Illness means:

A. house

B. sadness

C. sickness

1. How did the birds help Sumax?

2. Circle the right answer.

Six birds plucked feathers from their wings for Sumax. Plucked means:

A. cleaned

B. puffed up

C. pulled out

1. How did the king thank Sumax?

2. Circle the right answer.

The prince drank the magic water and was well. Well means:

A. not sick

B. still sick

C. rich

Reading Roots, Level 4

The Magic Lake

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Reading Roots Shared Stories were developed under the direction of Robert E. Slavin and Nancy A. Madden, codirectors of the Success for All Foundation Family of Programs.

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