A Trip to the Inca Kingdom

Story by Laura Burton Rice
Illustrations by Scott Mattern
Challenge Words are starred (*).
Explain how underlined words are used in the story.
Ramiro Alarco is from South America. He lives with his mom, his dad, and his sister in Lima, Peru. Lima is a big city on the coast. It is near the Andes Mountains.

Ramiro’s home is low, and it has one floor. Most homes in Lima are low because of the earthquakes and the volcanoes.

Where does Ramiro live?  [He lives in Lima, Peru.]
Why does Ramiro’s home have only one floor?  [His home has only one floor because there are many earthquakes and volcanoes.]
Sometimes, an earthquake can shake the mountains. Sometimes, a sleeping volcano is inside one of the mountains. When it wakes up, it spits out fire, stones, and melted rock called lava. Ramiro is glad his home is not near one of these volcanoes!

What does an earthquake do? [It can shake the mountains.]
What does a volcano do? [It spits out fire, stones, and melted rock called lava.]
Ramiro’s mom writes for the *Lima Gazette Newspaper*. Once, she wrote about the Inca Kingdom in the Andes.

Mrs. Alarco said to Ramiro, “Long ago, there was an Inca Kingdom in the Andes. The Incas made strong, stone homes. They made strong, stone roads. But they could not make wheels. They had no carts to carry big loads.”

Ramiro asked, “Then how did they carry their loads?”

When was the Inca Kingdom in the Andes? [The Inca Kingdom was long ago.]
What things did the Incas make? [The Incas made strong, stone homes and roads.]
Could they make wheels? [no] What does Ramiro ask? [“Then how did they carry their loads?”]
Mrs. Alarco asked, “Would you like to go on a trip with me to the Inca Kingdom?”

“You bet!” said Ramiro. Ramiro and his mom packed their bags and left for the Inca Kingdom.

Where are Ramiro and his mother going? [They are going to the Inca Kingdom.]

Make a Prediction: What will they see on their trip?
(T-P-S) Have the students support their predictions.
Mrs. Alarco took Ramiro to Cuzco, high in the Andes. Near Cuzco, they saw an Inca stone road. The road was as straight as an arrow. It was made from rows and rows of stone. Ramiro and his mom hiked up the road.

What was the road made of? [The road was made of stone.]
What did Ramiro and his mom do when they got to the road? [They hiked up the road.]
They “hiked” up the road means they “walked” up the road.
Along the road, they saw llamas. The llamas were carrying big loads.

Ramiro said, “Mom, did the Incas make llamas carry loads?”

Mrs. Alarco said, “You are right, Ramiro. Llamas still carry loads today. Llama wool makes warm coats and hats too.”

Did Ramiro find the answer to his question? [Yes, llamas carry big loads.]
What can be done with llama wool? [It can be made into warm coats and hats.]
Ramiro’s mom showed him steep steps in the road. She told him more about the Inca Kingdom. She said, “Long ago, the Incas did not write. Messengers ran from place to place to bring the news. They ran up all these steps. Llamas dragged loaded packs up the steep steps.”

How did the Incas bring each other news?  [Messengers ran from place to place to bring the news.]
Then Ramiro and his mom visited Lake Titicaca. The Incas have lived near this lake for a long time. Ramiro saw some Incas on boats in the lake! Ramiro was glad to meet the Incas. It was fun to visit the Inca Kingdom and make new friends.

What did Ramiro see at the lake? [Ramiro saw Incas in boats.]
Model: What does this sentence mean? “A sleeping volcano wakes up and spits out fire, stones, and melted rock.”
[Melted rock and fire come from volcanoes. It happens quickly.]

Model: Circle the right answer.
Lima is a big city on the coast of Peru. Here, coast means:
A. land near the sea  B. to slide  C. to drive with no gas

1. What are homes in Lima like?
[The homes in Lima are low and have one floor.]

2. Circle the right answer.
A volcano sometimes spits fire and liquid rock. A volcano is a:
A. dragon  B. mountain  C. lake

Model: What did the Incas make long ago?
[The Incas made strong, stone homes and roads.]

1. Tell one important thing the Incas could not make.
[The Incas could not make wheels. / They had no carts to carry big loads.]

2. Circle the right answer.
The Incas had no carts for big loads. A cart is:
A. like a box with wheels  B. like a train  C. like a car

Model: Are there Incas in Peru today? What tells you?
[Yes, Ramiro saw some Incas on boats in the lake.]

1. How did the Incas carry big loads?
[The Incas made llamas carry big loads.]

2. Circle the right answer.
Inca messengers ran from place to place. A messenger is:
A. someone who makes paths  B. someone who fixes things  C. someone who brings the news
Reading Roots, Level 4

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“oa” as in boat

“ow” as in blow