The Magic Lake

Story by Wendie Old and Laura Burton Rice
Illustrations by Scott Mattern
**Green Words and *Challenge Words:**

|   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *wise* (1) | *illness* (1) | *decided* (3) | *throw* (4) |
| *fix* (1) | *next* (3) | *poor* (3) | *jail* (4) |
| *magic* (1) |   |   |   |

|   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *extra* (5) | *expect* (5) | explained (7) | plucked (7) |
| *finding* (5) |   |   |   |

|   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| exclaimed (8) | hissed (10) | *others* (11) | thankful (12) |
| exit (10) | *moment* (11) | *quietly* (11) | ax (12) |

**Red Words to practice every day:**

|   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| son (1) | father (5) | daughter (5) | feathers (7) |

Challenge Words are starred (*).
Explain how *underlined* words are used in the story.
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.”

Why did the king go to the wise men? [His son, the prince, was sick. He didn’t know what to do.]

What did he have to do with the gold box? [He had to fill it with magic water from the lake.]

What will the magic water do? [It will make the prince well again.]
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.”

The king had to stay with the prince. What did the wise men do? [They told the people of the town about the magic lake.]

What will the person who brings the water get? [He will get to keep the 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.

What did the farmer do when he couldn’t find the magic lake? [He filled the 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.”

What happened when the king gave the water to the prince?  [It didn’t work.]
What did the king do?  [He took back his box and sent the farmer to 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.”

What will Sumax do? [She will go to look for the lake so the king will free her father.]
Why does Sumax’s mother think that she will find the lake? [Sumax is quick and bright.]
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!

Where did Sumax sleep? [Sumax slept under a tree.]
Who sat with her? [Six birds sat with her.]
What unexpected thing happened? [The birds spoke to Sumax.]
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.”

What did the birds give to Sumax?  [a bunch of feathers that they plucked from their wings]
What did Sumax do with the feathers?  [She made them into a fan.]
What was special about the fan?  [It was magic. It would grant her wishes.]

Make a Prediction: Will the magic fan take Sumax to the magic lake?
(T-P-S) Have the students support their predictions.
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!”

What did Sumax see when she got to the lake? [Sumax saw a big, black crab.]
What did the crab say? [“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.

How did Sumax get the crab to leave her alone? [She held up the fan, and the crab fell asleep.]
What did she do then? [She filled the 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.

What unexpected thing happened next? [A red flying snake appeared.]
What did the snake say? [“Exit this place.”] “Exit” means “leave.”
What did Sumax do to get the snake to leave her alone? [She held up the fan and the snake fell 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.
Model: Why didn’t the farmer’s water help the king’s son?
[The farmer filled the gold box with plain water, not water from the magic lake.]

Model: Circle the right answer.
The king asked the wise men what to do. Wise means:
A. smart  B. big  C. quick

1. What happened to the farmer?
[The king put the farmer in jail.]

2. Circle the right answer.
The king wanted his son’s illness to go away.
Illness means:
A. house  B. sadness  C. sickness

Model: Why does Sumax want to find the magic lake?
[Sumax wants to get her father back.]

1. How did the birds help Sumax?
[The birds plucked their feathers and gave them to Sumax to make a magic fan.]

2. Circle the right answer.
Six birds plucked feathers from their wings for Sumax.
Plucked means:
A. cleaned  B. puffed up  C. pulled out

Model: How did the magic fan help Sumax?
[The fan took her to the magic lake. / The fan made the big crab fall asleep. / The fan made the red flying snake fall asleep. / The fan took her to the sick prince.]

1. How did the king thank Sumax?
[The king let Sumax’s father out of jail. / The king gave Sumax a gold ax, six bags of gold, and the gold box.]

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

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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.

Success for All Foundation is a nonprofit education reform organization that develops and disseminates research-based reading and math programs for students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary and middle schools. These programs were originally developed at Johns Hopkins University.

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