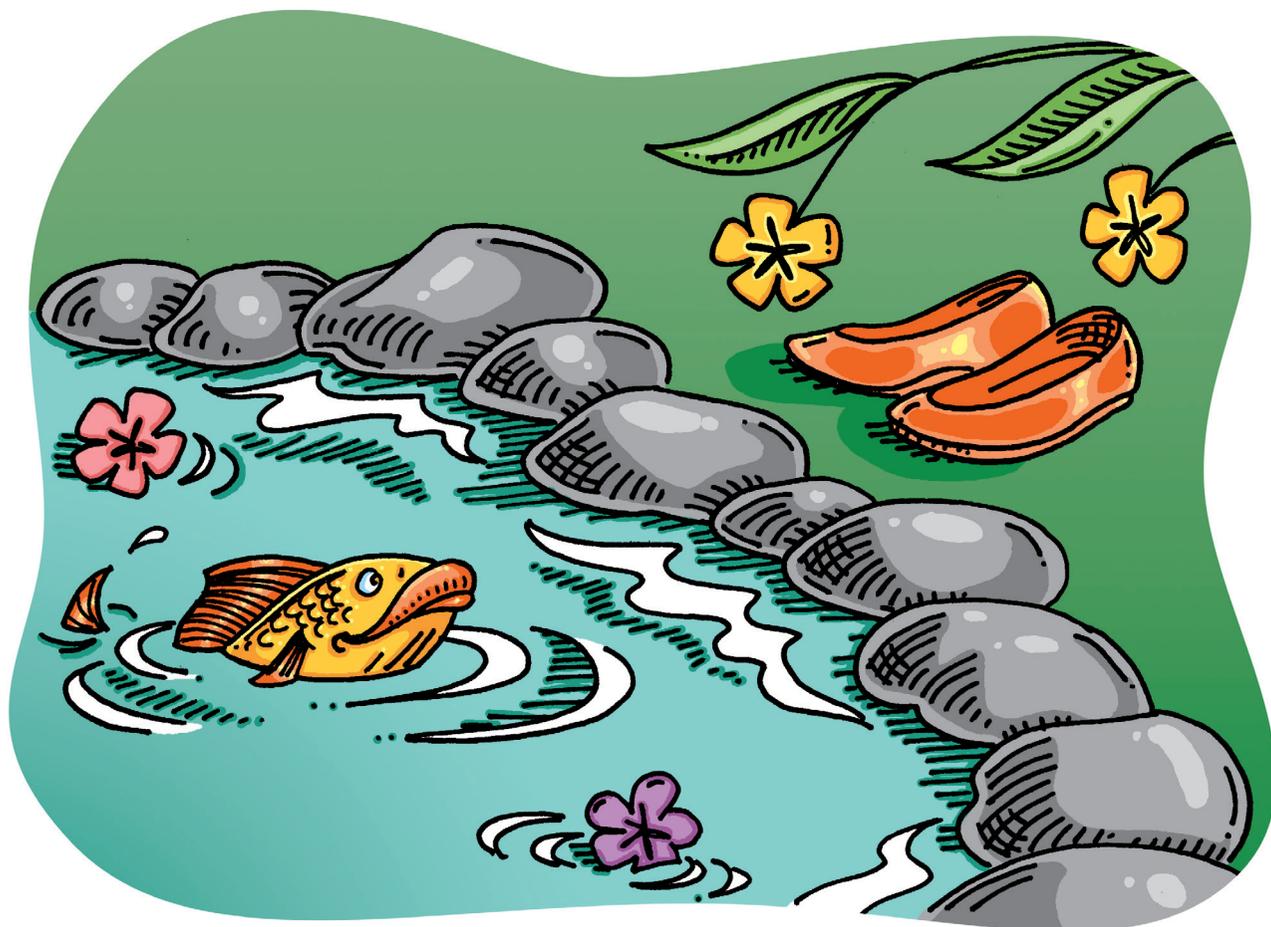


# Woo Zen, A Cinderella Story



Story adapted by Meg Livingston and Laura Burton Rice  
Illustrations by Scott Mattern

Green Words and \*Challenge Words:

<b>1</b>			
wives (1)	ugly (2)	<u>froze</u> (3)	*always (4)
* <u>lovely</u> (2)	*lazy (2)	Zig-Zag (4)	<u>grateful</u> (4)
fuzz (2)			
<b>2</b>			
* <u>amazed</u> (6)	scales (7)	*danced (8)	*hold (8)
haze (7)			
<b>3</b>			
unzipped (9)	* <u>became</u> (9)	bride (10)	*magically (12)
*appeared (9)	size (10)	*told (12)	*fancy (12)

Red Words to practice every day:

<u>only</u> (4)	water (6)	any (10)	married (12)
friend (4)			

Challenge Words are starred (\*).

Explain how underlined words are used in the story.



Once upon a time, a rich man lived in the south of China. He had two wives. Each wife had a little girl. Their names were Woo Zen and Woo Ling. One day, the rich man died. Woo Zen's mom was so sad, she soon died, too. So Woo Ling's mom raised the little girls.

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**Tell about the rich man's family.** [*He had two wives and two daughters.*]

**What happened when the rich man died?** [*Woo Zen's mom died because she was so sad.*]

**Why did Woo Ling's mom raise the two girls?** [*Woo Zen didn't have a mother or a father anymore.*]

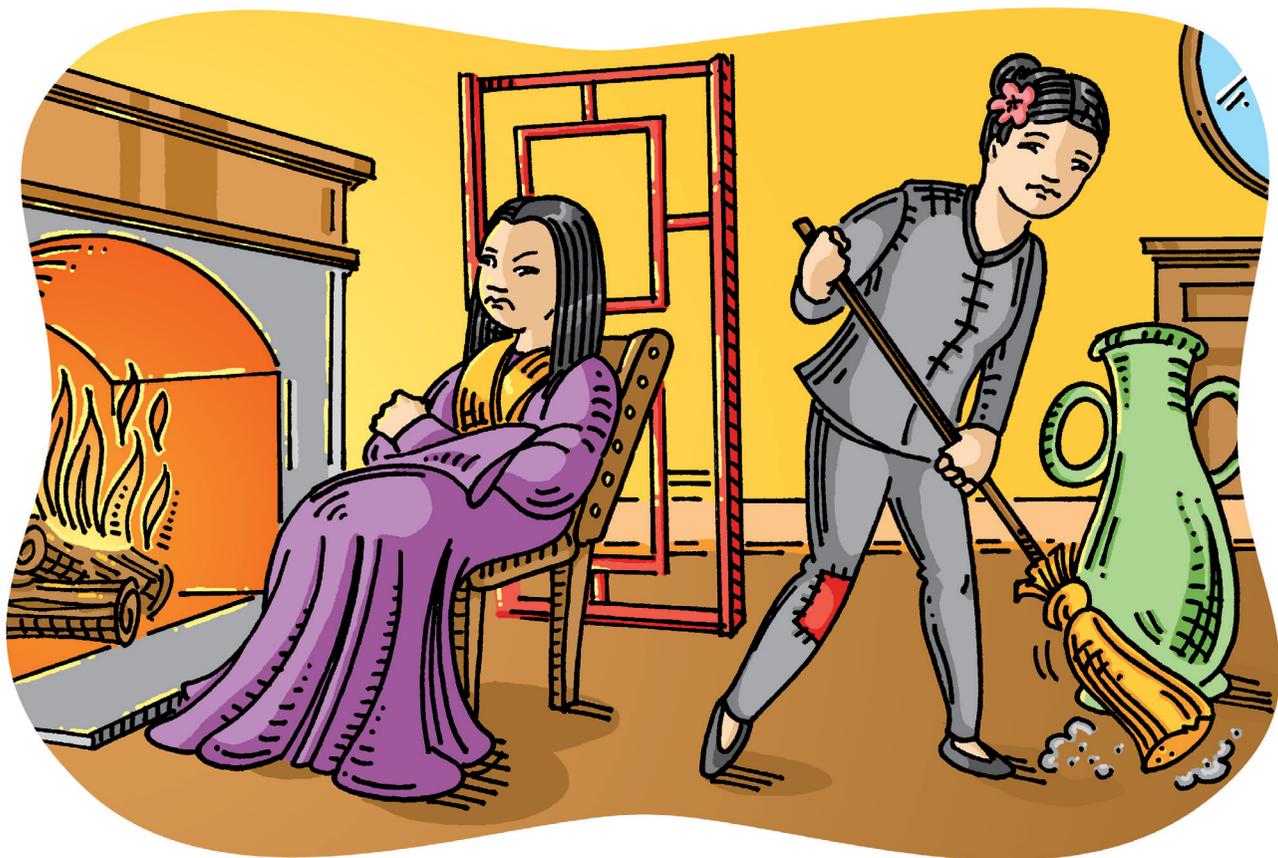


Woo Zen was lovely, sweet, and bright. She had a face like the moon and soft skin like the fuzz on a peach. And she had very tiny feet.

But her stepmother hated her. She was mad that Woo Ling was not like Woo Zen. Woo Ling was ugly, mean, and lazy.

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**How are Woo Ling and Woo Zen different?** [*Woo Zen was lovely, sweet, and bright. Woo Ling was ugly, mean, and lazy.*]



The stepmother made Woo Zen clean all day. She let Woo Ling spend lazy days in the shade of a tree.

Woo Zen had rags for clothes. In the winter, she froze. Woo Ling sat by the fire in her fine, thick robes.

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**Why was life hard for Woo Zen?** *[She had to clean all day. She had rags for clothes. She was cold in the winter.]*



Woo Zen's only friend was her pet fish, Zig-Zag. Zig-Zag swam quickly in his fish pond, this way and that way. But he always stopped to listen to Woo Zen's problems. Woo Zen shared her meals with the fish. She kept his pond clean. Zig-Zag was grateful for Woo Zen's care.



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How did Zig-Zag help Woo Zen? *[He listened to her problems.]*

How did Woo Zen help Zig-Zag? *[She shared her meals with him. She kept his pond clean.]*



The time came for the king's big New Year feast at the palace. Woo Zen wanted to go. But her mean stepmother made her stay home. Woo Ling and her mother dressed in their best silk robes. Then they went to the New Year feast.

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**Why did Woo Ling and her mother dress up?** *[They were going to the big New Year feast at the palace.]*

**Did Woo Zen's stepmother let her go to the New Year feast?** (WGR) *[no]*



Woo Zen sat by the pond and cried.  
She said, “I wish I could go to the New Year feast too!”  
As her tears fell into the water, Zig-Zag spoke. Woo  
Zen was amazed!

Zig-Zag said, “You may go to the king’s New Year  
feast. I will be your robe, slippers, and fan. You can hide  
your face with the fan.”

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**How did Zig-Zag surprise Woo Zen?** *[He spoke. He told her that he could be her robe, slippers, and fan.]*

**Why did he tell her to hide her face with the fan?** *[He told her to hide her face so her mean stepmother wouldn’t see her.]*



Suddenly, in a haze of white fog, Zig-Zag disappeared. In his place were a lovely silk robe, a fan, and tiny slippers. They were bright and shining. They looked like the scales of a fish. Woo Zen was so happy! She dressed and went to the New Year feast.

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**What happened to Zig-Zag?** *[He disappeared and changed into a robe, a fan, and slippers.]*  
**What did Woo Zen do next?** *[She dressed and went to the New Year feast.]*



At the New Year feast, everyone looked at Woo Zen. “Who is that lovely girl?” they all asked. “Why does she hide her face?”

The king saw Woo Zen and asked her to dance. As they danced, Woo Zen forgot to hold up her fan.

Woo Ling saw her and yelled, “That is Woo Zen!”

Woo Zen was so scared that she ran back home.



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**What happened when Woo Zen danced with the king?** *[She forgot to hold up her fan, and Woo Ling saw her.]*

**What did Woo Zen do then?** *[She got scared and ran away.]*

➔ **Make a Prediction: What will happen to Woo Zen?**  
(T-P-S) Have the students support their predictions.



Woo Zen sadly unzipped the robe and dropped it into the pond.

It became Zig-Zag's body again. Then she dropped in the fan and he waved his tail. When she put in one slipper, a fin appeared.

But the other slipper was missing! Woo Zen had dropped it running home. She felt very bad that Zig-Zag had only one fin. So did Zig-Zag!

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What happened when Woo Zen dropped the robe? *[It became Zig-Zag's body again.]*

What happened when Woo Zen dropped the fan into the pond? *[It became Zig-Zag's tail.]*

What happened when she put in a slipper? *[It became Zig-Zag's fin.]*

Why does Zig-Zag only have one fin? *[Woo Zen lost the other slipper as she was running.]*



Meanwhile, the king had picked up the lost slipper. He wished to find the lovely girl whose foot fit the slipper.

“I will make her my bride,” he said. He sent his men to find her. All the girls in the city tried the tiny slipper. It was not the right size for any of them.

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**Why was the king looking for the girl whose foot fit the slipper?** *[He wanted to marry her.]*

**Who tried on the slipper?** *[All the girls in the city tried on the slipper.]*



One day, the king's men came to Woo Zen's house. The stepmother made Woo Zen hide. She wanted Woo Ling to be the king's bride. But her big, fat foot would not fit the tiny slipper.

The men started to leave. Suddenly, Zig-Zag leaped out of his pond. He flopped to the place where Woo Zen was hidden. Everyone stared at the fish. They were amazed!

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**Why didn't the stepmother let Woo Zen try on the slipper?** [*She wanted Woo Ling to be the king's bride.*]

**Where was Woo Zen?** [*She was hiding behind a tree.*]

**How did everyone find Woo Zen?** [*Zig-Zag leaped out of his pond and flopped over to where she was standing.*]



Woo Zen tried on the slipper. It was just the right size!  
At last, Zig-Zag's other fin magically appeared.

The king's men took Woo Zen and Zig-Zag to the palace. They told the king how Zig-Zag had helped them find Woo Zen.

Woo Zen married the king. Now she lived at the king's palace. Zig-Zag had a big fancy pond. They were very, very happy.

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**What two things happened when Woo Zen tried on the slipper?** [*It fit; Zig-Zag's fin appeared.*]

**How did Woo Zen's life change?** [*She married the king and lived at the king's palace. Zig-Zag lived at the palace too.*]

Model: **How did Woo Zen's stepmother make Woo Zen sad?**

*[Woo Zen had to clean all day. / Woo Zen had rags for clothes. / Woo Zen froze in winter. / Woo Ling could be lazy and wear fine, thick robes.]*

Model: Write the answer on the blank line.

**I thanked my dad for the bike. I was [grateful].**

**A. great                      B. upset                      C. grateful**

**1. Who was Woo Zen's only friend?**

*[Zig-Zag, Woo Zen's pet fish, was her only friend.]*

**2. Write the answer on the blank line.**

**I was too cold without a coat. I [froze].**

**A. burned                      B. froze                      C. melted**

Model: **How did Zig-Zag help Woo Zen go to the feast?**

*[Zig-Zag turned into a silk robe, bright and shining slippers, and a fan.]*

**1. Why did Woo Zen run back home?**

*[Woo Zen was scared because Woo Ling saw her.]*

**2. Write the answer on the blank line.**

**Woo Zen was [amazed] when Zig-Zag spoke.**

**A. amazed                      B. agreed                      C. about**

Model: **Why did the stepmother hide Woo Zen?**

*[The stepmother wanted Woo Ling to try on the slipper and marry the king.]*

**1. What did Zig-Zag do when the king's men came?**

*[Zig-Zag flopped to the place where Woo Zen was hidden.]*

**2. Write the answer on the blank line.**

**The robe [became] Zig-Zag's body again.**

**A. between                      B. begin                      C. became**

Reading Roots, Level 4

## Woo Zen, a Cinderella Story

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READING PROGRAM

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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