



Level 1

# Lownu Mends the Sky



OXFORD



# Lownu Mends the Sky

*Retold by Sue Arengo*  
*Illustrated by Kirsten Richards*



## Contents

<i>Lownu Mends the Sky</i>	2
<i>Exercises</i>	20
<i>Picture Dictionary</i>	22
<i>About Classic Tales</i>	24



This is China, in the old days. Every day the sky is blue. Blue, blue, blue.



And every night the sky is black.  
Black, black, black.





One day a piece of blue falls. It falls out of the sky.

‘Look!’ says the big girl. ‘What is it?’

‘It’s a piece of the sky!’ says the big boy. ‘Look! Another one!’

'Look!' says the little boy.  
'There's a hole! No! Two  
holes! Two holes in the sky!'



Another piece falls. Another piece  
of blue. And another one.



‘Look! I can see the night sky,’ says the little girl.  
‘But it’s day!’

An illustration of four children in a grassy field. On the left, a boy in a red traditional Chinese robe holds a pink kite with a yin-yang design. Next to him, a girl in a blue traditional Chinese dress holds a baby. In the center, a boy in a pink traditional Chinese jacket and blue shorts holds the hand of a girl on the right. The girl on the right is wearing a green traditional Chinese jacket with white trim and blue pants, and she is running. In the background, there is a large pink flowering tree, rolling green hills, and blue mountains under a light blue sky. A speech bubble from the girl in the green jacket says "Let's tell Lownu."

Let's tell Lownu.

‘Let's tell Lownu.’  
‘Yes! Yes! Quick!  
Let's tell Lownu!’



Go and find the pieces.

‘Mmm,’ says Lownu. ‘Go and find the pieces. All the pieces of blue.’

‘Find all the pieces,’ says Lownu. ‘And bring them here!’





'Here's a piece!' says the little boy.

'Here's another!' says the little girl.

'Here's one!' says the big boy.

'Here's another!' says the big girl.

And the baby says: 'Blue!'

The children find  
ten pieces.

'One, two, three,  
four, five,' say  
the children.

'Six, seven, eight,  
nine, ten.'





Here are the pieces!

‘Here are the pieces!’ say the children. ‘The pieces of blue sky!’

‘How many holes are there?’ asks Lownu.

They count: ‘One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty. Oh no! TWENTY!’



How many holes are there?



‘But we only have ten pieces,’ say the children. ‘One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten!’

We can have these leaves.



‘We can have these leaves,’ says Lownu. ‘Look! Here are ten!’

‘No!’ says the little boy.

‘They’re green. The sky is blue!’



The little boy cries.

‘I want the day sky to be blue! Blue.  
All blue again!’

‘Don’t cry!’ says Lownu. ‘Give me  
the pieces of blue. Go and play!  
I want to think.’



Night comes.  
Lownu puts her  
blue dress on  
the table. And  
her silver apron.

She cuts pieces.  
Pieces from  
the blue dress.  
Pieces from the  
silver apron.



She puts them  
together.



‘Good!’ says Lownu. ‘Now I have twenty pieces! Twenty pieces to mend the sky.’



Lownu counts the holes: ‘One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty.’

Lownu has all the pieces.  
And she has a spoon.

Now she goes up the tree.  
The tall, tall tree. Up, she  
goes. Up, up, up.

‘I’m up in the sky!’ she says. ‘It’s  
time to mend the sky!’



It's time to mend the sky!



Lownu puts a piece on the spoon.  
Then, 'Flip!' The piece flies.  
It flies across the sky.  
And, 'Flap!' It goes in  
a hole.  
'Yes!' says Lownu.  
'Now another one!'  
'Flip! Flap!'

Yes! Now another one!





*Flap!*

She does it again.

‘Flip!’ A piece of blue flies.  
It flies across the sky.

Then, ‘Flap!’ It goes in  
a hole!

‘Yes!’ says Lownu. ‘It’s in!  
Now it’s time for another one!’



All night Lownu mends  
the sky.

'Flip! Flap!'

'Flip! Flap!'

'Flip! Flap!'

Day comes. The sky  
is blue again. Blue,  
blue, blue.

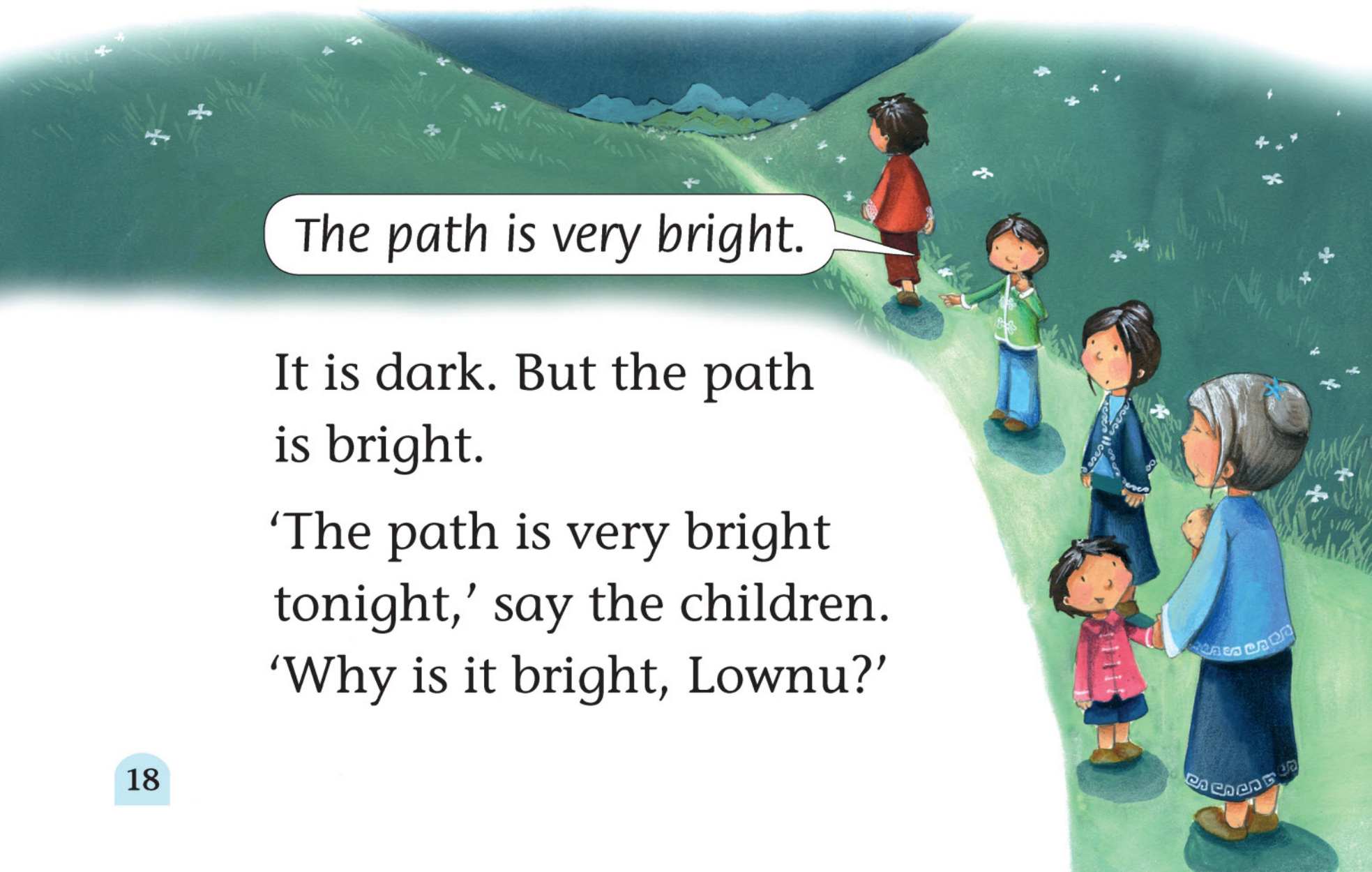




'The sky is blue!' say the children.  
'All blue again! Thank you, Lownu!'  
Lownu smiles.  
'Go and play,' she says. 'Come back  
later. Have supper with me.'



That night the children come.  
They have supper with Lownu.  
'And now,' she says, 'It's time for  
you to go home.'



The path is very bright.

It is dark. But the path  
is bright.  
'The path is very bright  
tonight,' say the children.  
'Why is it bright, Lownu?'



‘Look up!’ says Lownu.

‘What are they, Lownu?’  
ask the children.

‘I call them stars!’ says Lownu.

‘And the big one is the moon!’

‘Stars!’ say the children. ‘The  
moon! Oh, Lownu! The night  
sky looks much better now!  
Because it’s more ... beautiful!’



# Exercises

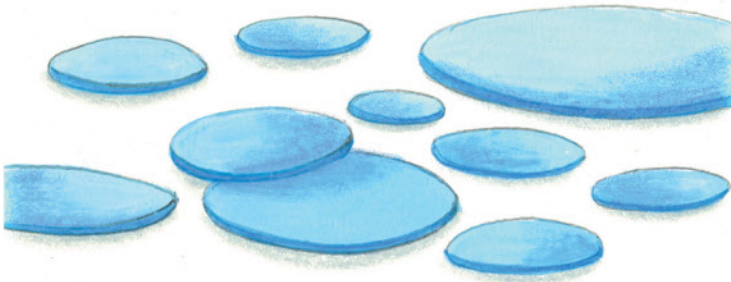
## 1 Write the number words.



1 four children



2 \_\_\_\_\_ holes



3 \_\_\_\_\_ pieces

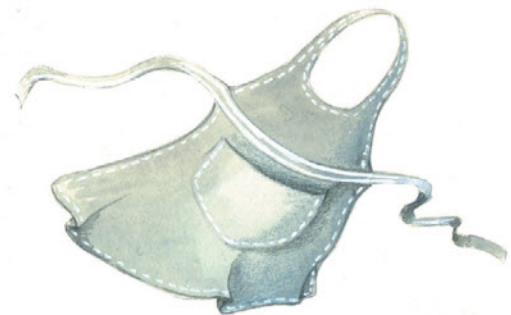


4 \_\_\_\_\_ moon

## 2 Write the words.



1 It's a leaf.



2 It's an .



3 \_\_\_\_\_



4 \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 Answer the questions. Write *Yes* or *No*.



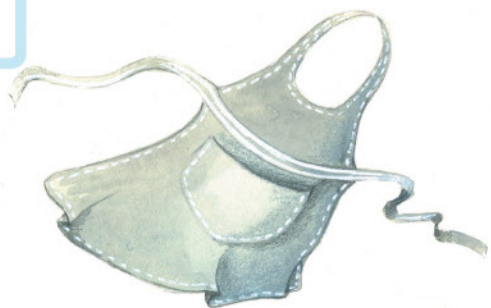
- 1 Is this the day sky? No
- 2 Is this the night sky? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Are there any leaves in the sky? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Are there any stars in the sky? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Is the path bright? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Is the sky beautiful? \_\_\_\_\_

### 4 Circle the correct words.

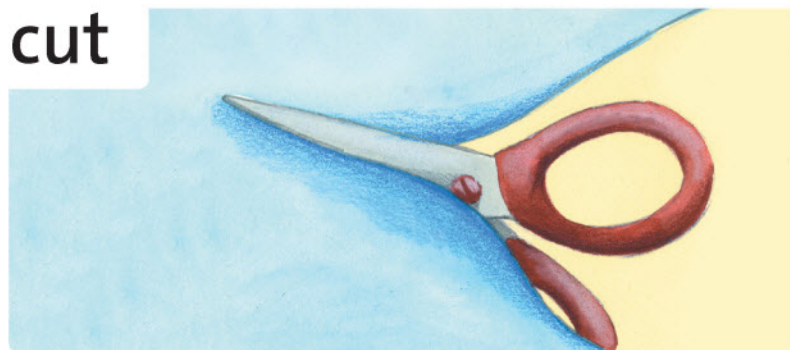
- 1 The children find ten / twenty pieces of blue sky.
- 2 There are twenty holes / leaves in the sky.
- 3 The little boy cries because he wants the day sky to be green / blue.
- 4 Lownu makes blue and green / silver pieces.
- 5 The path is bright because there are stars / holes in the sky.

# Picture Dictionary

apron



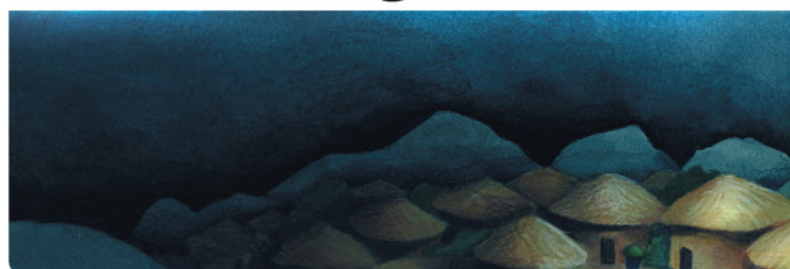
cut



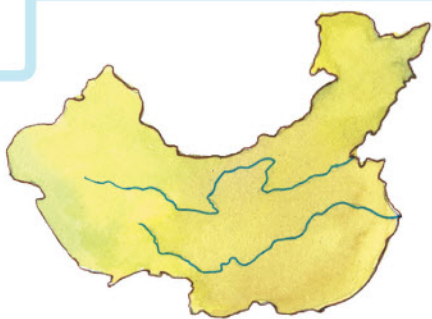
bright *The sun is bright.*



dark *The sky is dark.*



China



fall



count



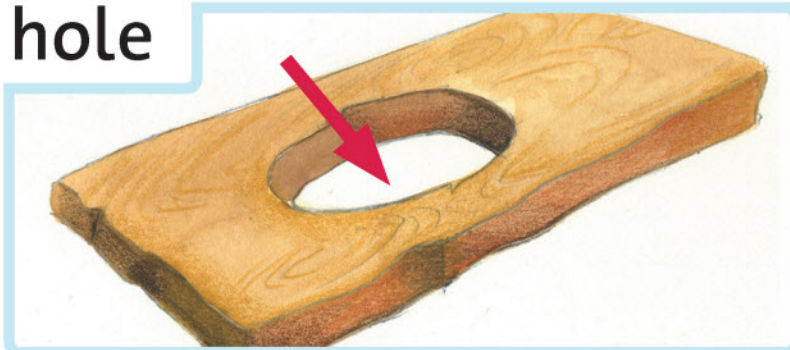
fly



cry



hole



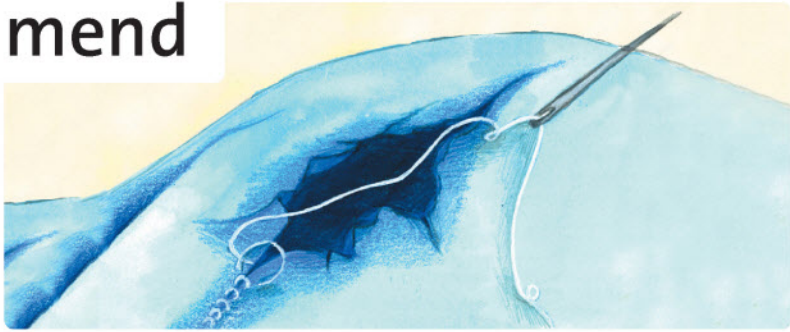
leaf



leaves



mend



moon



path



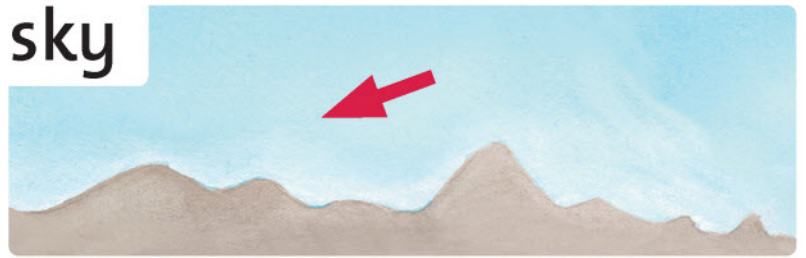
piece *a piece of cake*



silver *silver coins*



sky



spoon



star



supper



tall *She is tall.*



tree



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- The Little Red Hen
- Lownu Mends the Sky
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- Mansour and the Donkey
- Peach Boy
- The Princess and the Pea
- Rumpelstiltskin
- The Shoemaker and the Elves
- Three Billy-Goats

## Level 2: 150 headwords

- Amrita and the Trees
- Big Baby Finn
- The Fisherman and his Wife
- The Gingerbread Man
- Jack and the Beanstalk
- Thumbelina
- The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse
- The Ugly Duckling

## Level 3: 200 headwords

- Aladdin
- Goldilocks and the Three Bears
- The Little Mermaid
- Little Red Riding Hood

## Level 4: 300 headwords

- Cinderella
- The Goose Girl
- Sleeping Beauty
- The Twelve Dancing Princesses

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- Pinocchio
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Level 1

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Find out how Lownu mends all the holes  
in the day sky and in the night sky ...

A retelling of the classic story for learners of English

Retold by Sue Arengo

Illustrated by Kirsten Richards


**Classic Tales – bringing the magic of traditional  
storytelling to language learning**

The stories are carefully graded at Levels 1–5 to provide easy and enjoyable reading. Beautiful illustrations on every page work closely with the text to help understanding. Each *Classic Tale* also includes activities related to the story, and a picture dictionary or glossary.

 **Level 1: 100 headwords**

 **Level 2: 150 headwords**

 **Level 3: 200 headwords**

 **Level 4: 300 headwords**

 **Level 5: 400 headwords**

**Word count for this story: 611**

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