

Classic Tales



Level 2

The Fisherman and his Wife



OXFORD



The Fisherman and his Wife

Retold by Sue Arengo
Illustrated by Laure Fournier



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A poor fisherman lives in this hut. He lives here with his wife. Every day he goes to the sea.



One day he sees a strange fish. It is strange and beautiful.



‘Oh, fisherman! Put me back in the sea!’ says the fish. ‘I’m not a fish. I’m a magic prince.’



‘Oh! ... A magic prince!’ says the fisherman. ‘We can’t eat you.’

He puts the fish back in the sea and he goes home.



‘What? No fish!’ says his wife. ‘Are there no fish in the sea?’

‘There’s a magic fish,’ says the fisherman. ‘We can’t eat a magic fish ... so it’s back in the sea.’

‘What?’ says his wife. ‘You silly man! A magic fish can help us. I want something. I want a nice little cottage. Go and ask the fish!’



The fisherman goes back to the sea.

Now the water is green.

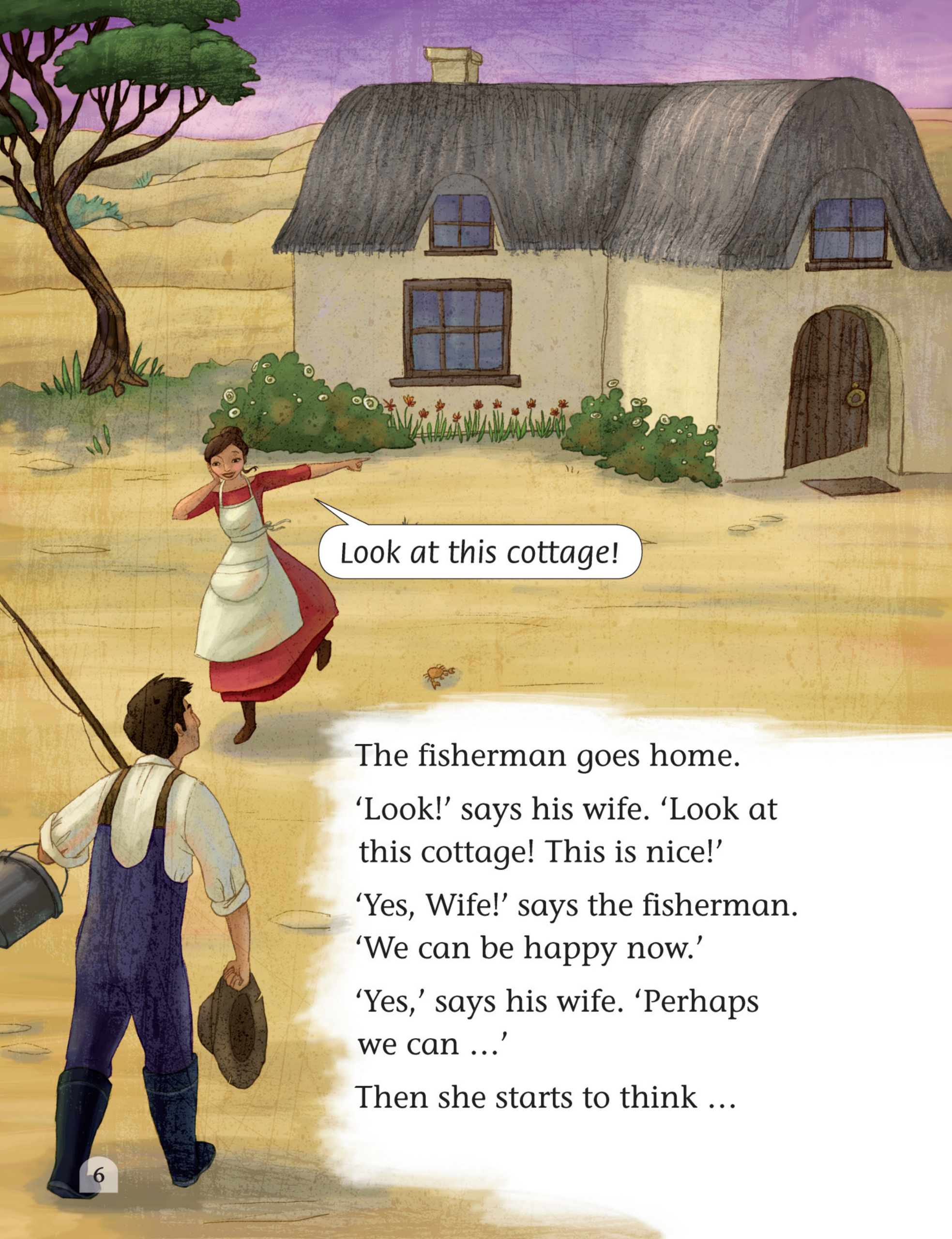
The fisherman shouts,
'Oh, magic fish in the sea!
Please come up and speak to me.'



'What do you want?' says the fish.

'My wife wants something,' says the fisherman. 'She wants a cottage.'

'Go home!' says the fish. 'She has it.'



Look at this cottage!

The fisherman goes home.

‘Look!’ says his wife. ‘Look at this cottage! This is nice!’

‘Yes, Wife!’ says the fisherman.

‘We can be happy now.’

‘Yes,’ says his wife. ‘Perhaps we can ...’

Then she starts to think ...

A week later the fisherman's wife says,
'Husband, this cottage is very small.
I want something. I want a nice big
house.'

'No, Wife, please!' says the fisherman.
'We don't want a big house.'

'Yes, we do,' says his wife. 'Go and ask
the fish!'



The fisherman goes back to the sea.

Now the water is purple.

The fisherman shouts, 'Oh, magic fish in the sea! Please come up and speak to me.'



'What do you want?' says the fish.

'My wife wants something,' says the fisherman. 'She wants a big house.'

'Go home!' says the fish. 'She has it.'



The fisherman goes home.

‘Look!’ says his wife. ‘Look at this house!
This is nice!’

‘Yes, Wife,’ says the fisherman. ‘It’s very
nice. We can be happy now.’

‘Yes,’ says his wife. ‘Perhaps we can ...’

Then she starts to think ...



A week later the fisherman's wife says,
'Husband, this house is very small.
I want something. I want a nice big
castle.'

'No, Wife, please!' says the fisherman.
'We don't want a castle.'

'Yes, we do,' says his wife. 'Go and
ask the fish!'

The fisherman goes back to the sea.

Now the water is grey.

The fisherman shouts, 'Oh, magic fish in the sea! Please come up and speak to me.'

'What do you want?' says the fish.

'My wife wants something,' says the fisherman. 'She wants a castle.'

'Go home!' says the fish. 'She has it.'





This is nice!

The fisherman goes home.

‘Look!’ says his wife. ‘Look at this castle! This is nice!’

‘Yes, Wife,’ says the fisherman. ‘It’s very nice. We can be happy now.’

‘Yes,’ says his wife. ‘Perhaps we can ...’

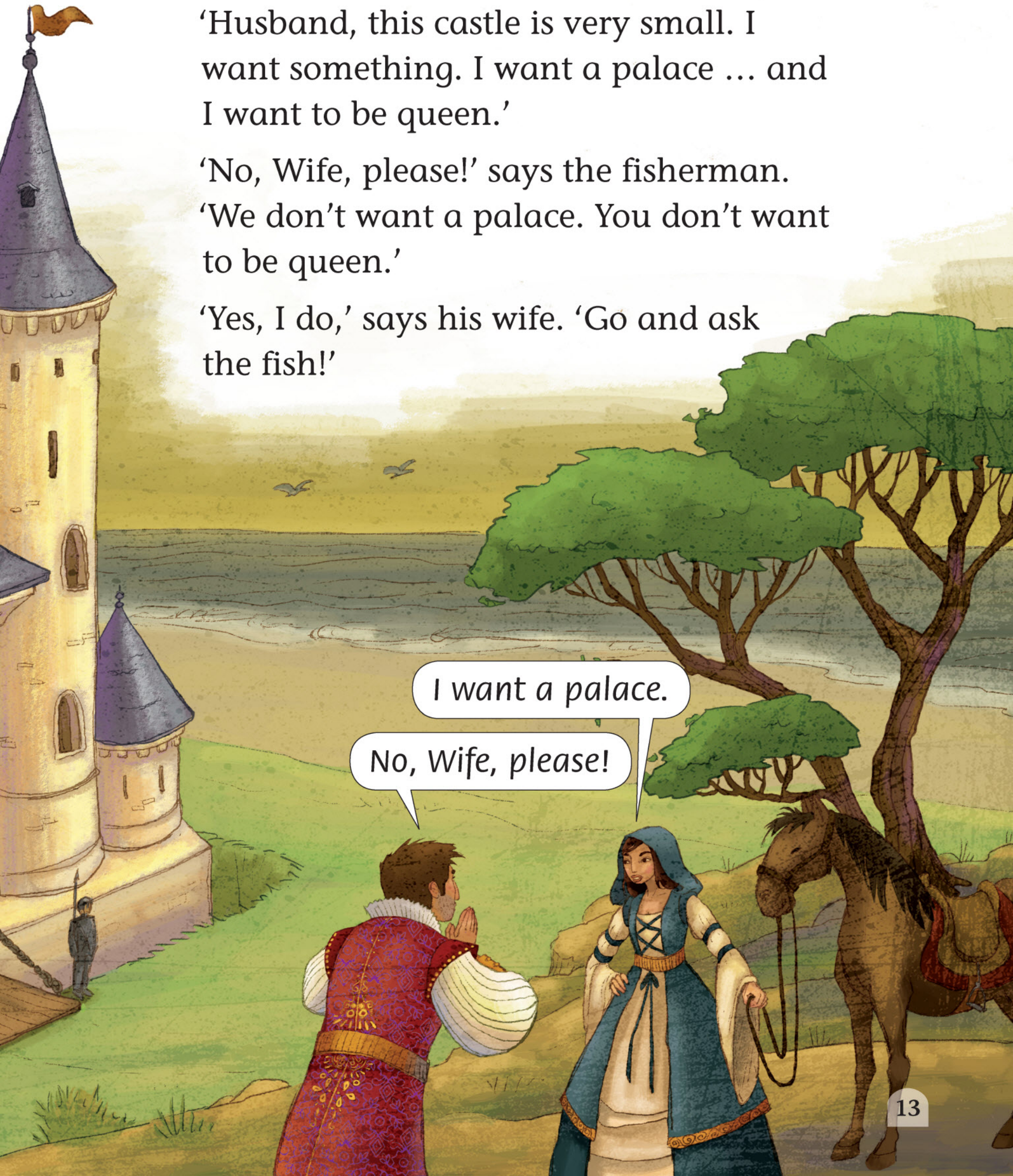
Then she starts to think ...



A week later the fisherman's wife says,
'Husband, this castle is very small. I
want something. I want a palace ... and
I want to be queen.'

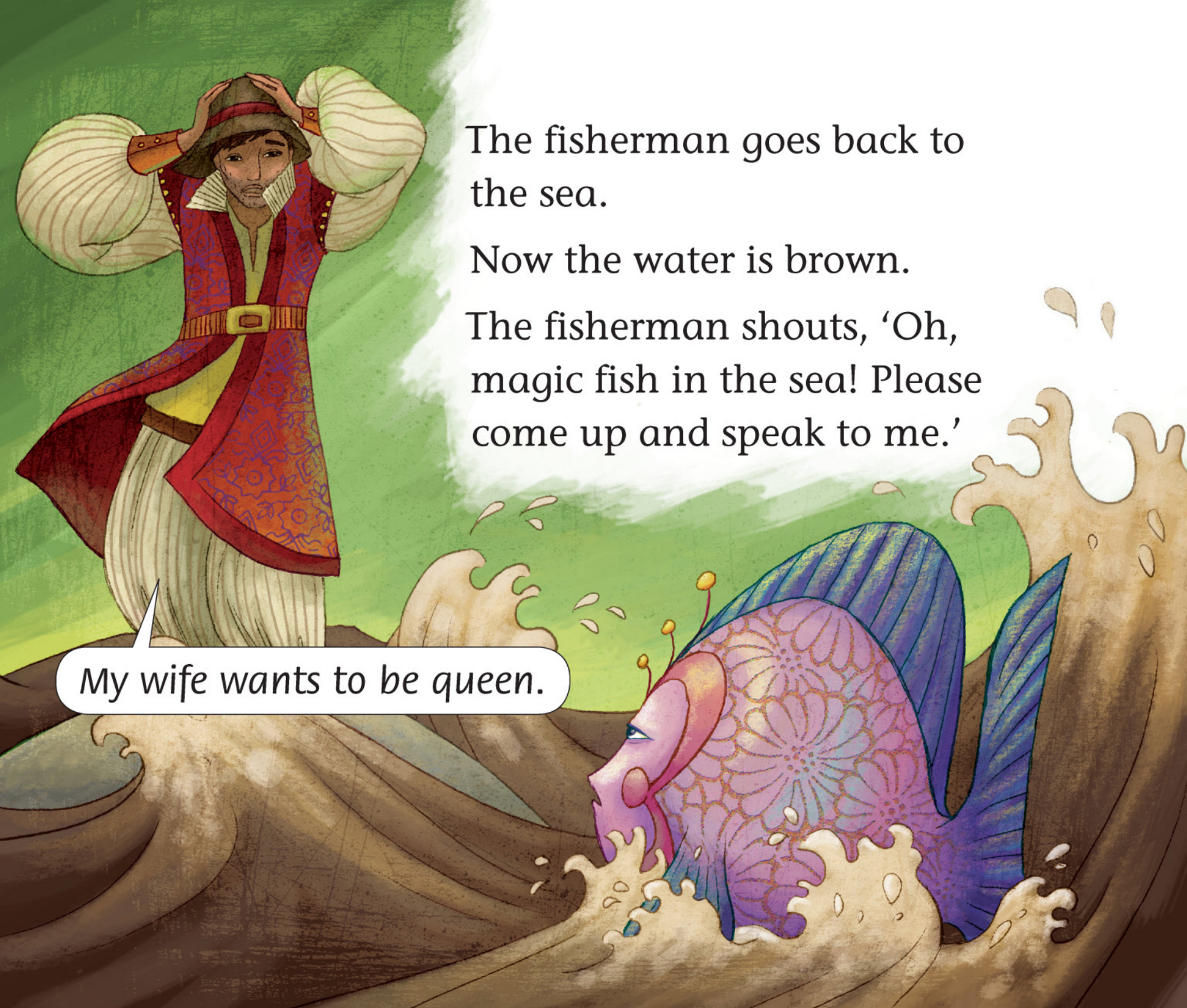
'No, Wife, please!' says the fisherman.
'We don't want a palace. You don't want
to be queen.'

'Yes, I do,' says his wife. 'Go and ask
the fish!'



I want a palace.

No, Wife, please!



The fisherman goes back to the sea.

Now the water is brown.

The fisherman shouts, 'Oh, magic fish in the sea! Please come up and speak to me.'

My wife wants to be queen.

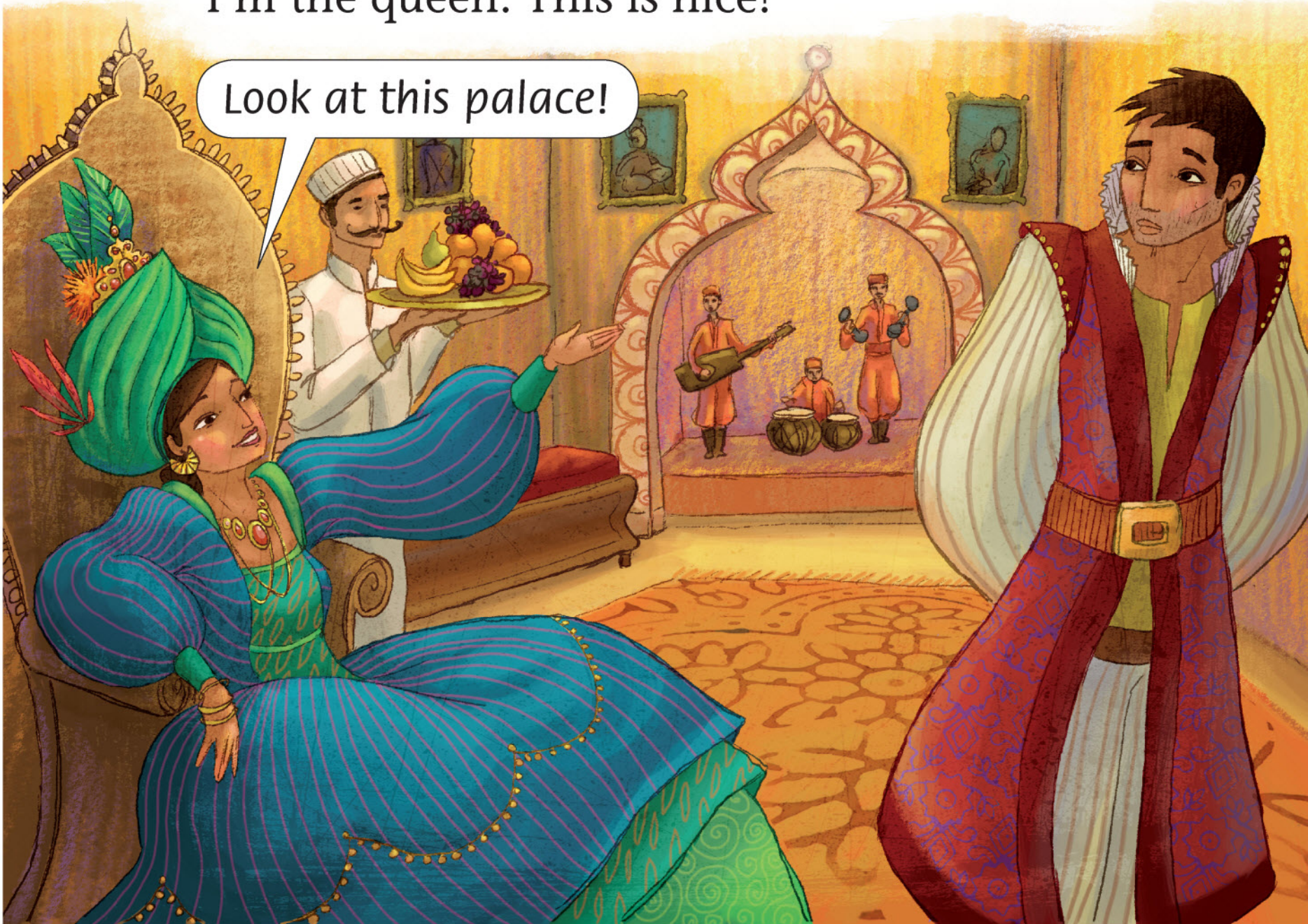
'What do you want?' says the fish.

'My wife wants something,' says the fisherman. 'She wants a palace ... and she wants to be queen.'

'Go home!' says the fish. 'She has a palace and she is queen.'

The fisherman goes home.

‘Look!’ says his wife. ‘Look at this palace!
I’m the queen. This is nice!’



‘Yes, Wife,’ says the fisherman. ‘It’s
very nice. So now ... now, Wife, can we
be happy?’

‘Yes,’ says his wife. ‘Perhaps we can ...’
Then she starts to think ...

The fisherman is tired.

That night he sleeps well ... but his wife
can't sleep.

'I want ... I want ... something,' she says.



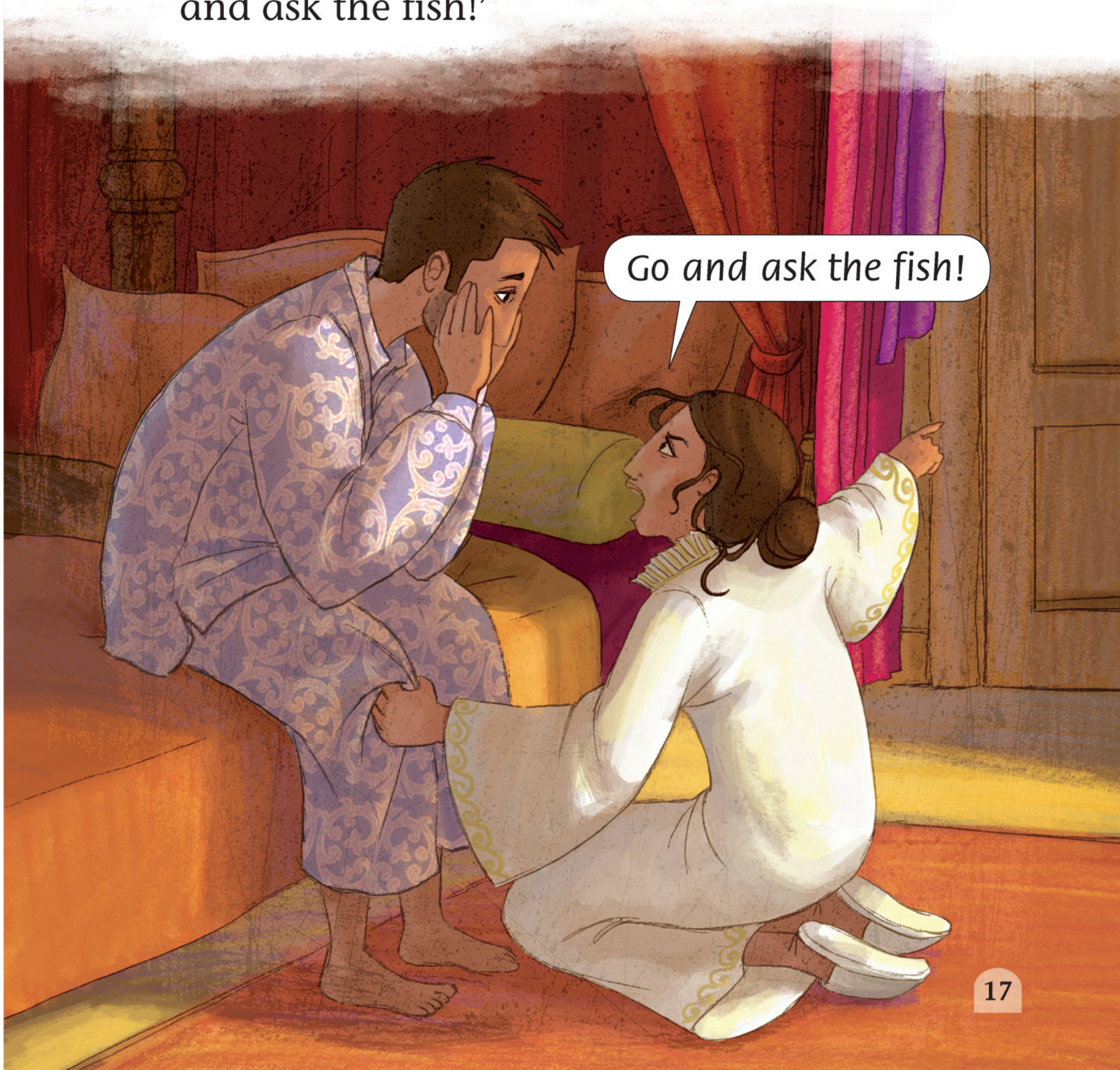
It is morning.

'Wake up, Husband!' she says.

'I know what I want. I want ... the world!
I want to be emperor of all the world.'

‘Oh, Wife,’ says the fisherman. ‘No! You can’t have all the world. No one can have all the world. Listen! You are queen. Now be happy!’

‘I can’t be happy,’ cries his wife. ‘I can’t. I must have all the world. Now go! Go and ask the fish!’



The fisherman goes back to the sea.

Now the water is black.

The fisherman shouts, 'Oh, magic fish in the sea! Please come up and speak to me.'

'What do you want?' says the fish.

'My wife ... wants ... something,' says the fisherman. 'She wants the world. She wants ... to be emperor ... of all the world.'

'Go home,' says the fish. 'And don't come back!'



The fisherman goes home.

‘Look!’ says his wife. ‘Look at this hut!
It isn’t very nice ... but it’s our home.’



‘Yes, Wife,’ says the fisherman. ‘Can we
be happy now?’

The fisherman’s wife starts to think ...

‘Yes,’ she says. ‘I think we can.’



Exercises

1 Write the words.



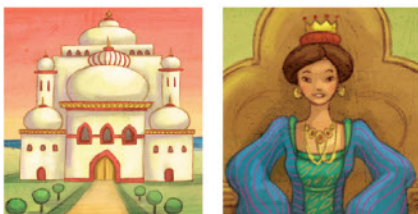
1 The fisherman's wife wants a cottage.



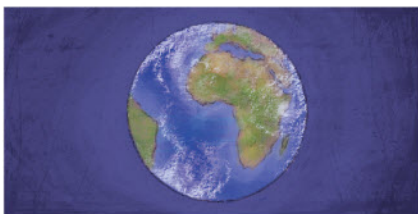
2 A week later she wants a _____.



3 A week later she wants a _____.



4 A week later she wants a _____
and she wants to be _____.

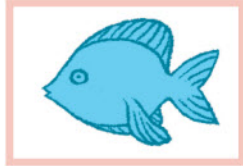
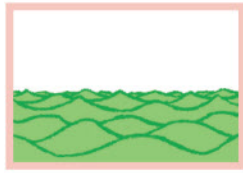


5 The next morning she wants to be emperor
of all the _____.

2 Write the words.

- 1 (page 3) The fish says it is a magic prince.
- 2 (page 7) The fisherman's wife wants a house because
the cottage is very _____.
- 3 (page 8) The sea is _____.
- 4 (page 16) The fisherman sleeps well because he
is _____.
- 5 (page 18) The sea is _____.

3 Match and write the words.



- 1 a blue fish
 2 a _____ castle
 3 a _____ sea
 4 a _____ fisherman
 5 a _____ queen
 6 a _____ house



4 Write the numbers and write the words.

fish hut cottage ~~sea~~ castle home



- ☐ I want a nice big _____.
- ☒ 1 Oh, magic fish in the sea !
- ☐ Go _____ and don't come back!
- ☐ Go and ask the _____ !
- ☐ Look at this _____. It isn't very nice, but it's our home.
- ☐ Look at this _____ !

Picture Dictionary

castle



grey



cottage



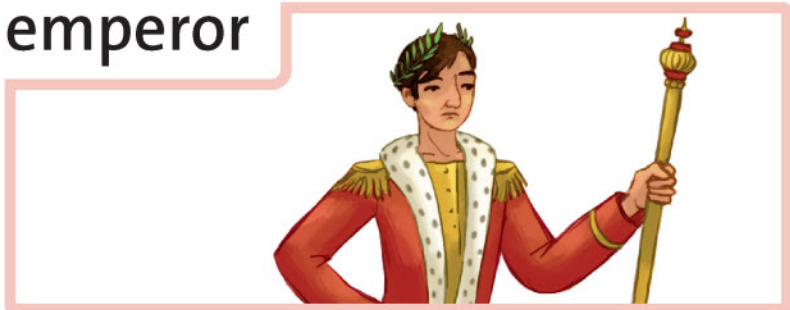
house



husband



emperor



hut



fish



fisherman



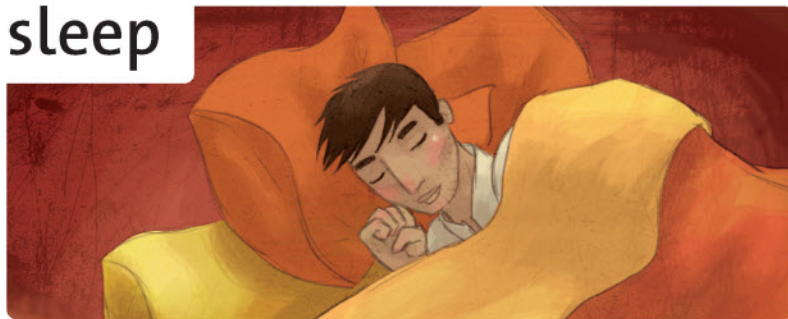
palace



poor *He is poor.*



sleep



prince



think



purple



tired *He is tired.*



queen



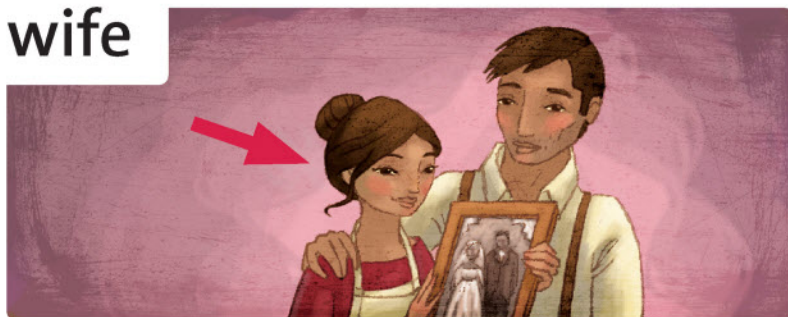
wake up



sea



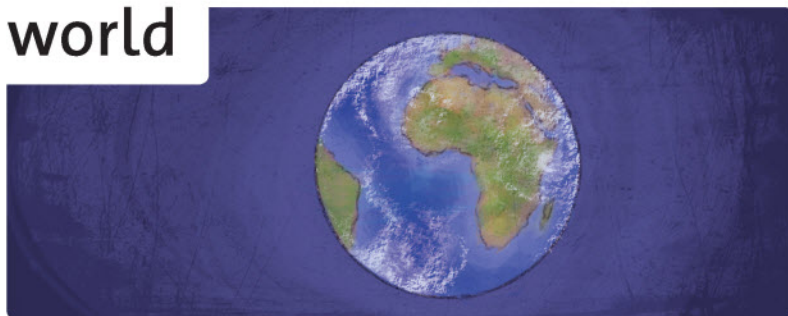
wife



shout



world



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- Lownu Mends the Sky
- The Magic Cooking Pot
- 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

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

Level 4: 300 headwords

- Cinderella
- The Goose Girl
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Level 2

The Fisherman and his Wife

Read the tale of the fisherman's wife
who always wants more ...


A retelling of the classic story for learners of English

Retold by Sue Arengo

Illustrated by Laure Fournier


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 **Level 2: 150 headwords**

 Level 3: 200 headwords

 Level 4: 300 headwords

 Level 5: 400 headwords

Word count for this story: 878

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