



Story 1

Mouse and the Magic Bottle

Pages 1-51



Story 2

Maisie and Crow to the Rescue

Pages 53-109

How This Book Works

This fun, easy-to-use picture book is made up of two stories. Students tell each story by analyzing the pictures and responding to the guided questions. While the child talks about the story and the pictures, his/her vocabulary, comprehension, and oral language skills expand. Children name objects, describe actions, make predictions, and infer strategies, intentions, and motives. Each story develops these important critical and creative thinking skills listed below.

- Observing
- Identifying and evaluating evidence
- Comparing and contrasting shapes and objects
- Inferring (evidence-based prediction)
- Cause and effect
- Identifying and describing a sequence of events

These stories are designed to develop pre-reading skills. Pre-readers progress from “listening” to a story to “telling” a story, becoming more engaged in the reading process as they identify and shape the storyline. Reading involves more than just decoding written text. A large part of reading is gaining meaning from symbols—both letters and pictures. The stories and related questions in this book develop reading skills such as reading from left to right, front to back, and top to bottom.

How to Use Guided Questions

On each page opposite the scene is a list of questions specifically related to elements within that scene. The questions engage and produce a deeper analysis of the scene and the storyline by encouraging students to provide details, describe events, explain motives, make evidence-based predictions, and use cause and effect leading up to the scene.

Sit to the right of the child so he/she will have the scene on the left page directly in front of him/her, and you will be able to easily see the guided questions on the right page as well as the scene. Some questions/terms with an asterisk include details below that can help you explain new vocabulary and concepts to the student.

Have fun! Most children want to retell the stories again and again!



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What did Mouse do with the bottle?	pulled out the cork and dropped the bottle
What came out of the bottle?	Genie; a ghost; etc.
How do you know Mouse is surprised by what came out of the bottle?	by the look on his face; he jumps backward; drops sunglasses and bottle
Why did Crab jump up on Mouse's head?	it's scared; surprised
How do you know Seagull is scared?	its eyes are big; its feathers are coming off; it's sweating
Why is Sea Star spinning?	it's excited; scared
Do you think Genie is going to be friendly toward Mouse?	yes/no
What makes you think that?	yes: she is smiling no: open-ended
What do you think Genie will do now?	open-ended