

Level 4-1
The Fish and the Ring

Workbook

Teacher's Guide & Answer Key

Teacher's Guide

A. Summary

1. Book Summary

The Baron is a powerful man who has a magic book. In the book, he can see the future. When he sees in his magic book the poor baby girl his son will marry someday, he decides to kill her. He tricks the girl's father into giving him the girl and then throws her into a river. The girl survives, and the Baron tries again to have her killed by his brother. That effort fails, and the girl ends up marrying his son. He tries one more time to kill her, but the girl begs for her life. The Baron then throws his gold ring into the sea and tells the girl not to come back until she has found the ring. She goes away and finds a job as a cook in a castle. One day, the Baron and her husband show up at the castle, and the girl has to cook for them. She is surprised when she finds the Baron's ring in the mouth of the fish she is to cook. She meets the Baron, who is surprised and angry. However, when she shows him the ring, he decides that he cannot change the future. He finally accepts the girl as his daughter-in-law, and everyone lives happily ever after.

2. Chapter Summary

► Chapter 1

There once was a powerful Baron who had a magic book. With it, he could see the future. He was unhappy to see in his book a baby girl from a poor family who would be his son's wife. He went to the father of the girl and offered to help take care of the baby girl. The father gave the baby to him, and the Baron took her away on his horse.

► Chapter 2

On his way home, the Baron threw the baby girl into the river, but she didn't die. She floated down the river and was rescued by a fisherman. The fisherman took her home and raised her. One day, the Baron and some friends went to the fisherman's hut to have a drink. A young girl brought drinks to the men, and they talked about how beautiful she was. One of them asked the Baron to tell who she would marry. When the Baron asked where the girl had been born, she said she only knew that she was saved from the river fifteen years before. The Baron knew right away that it was the girl he had tried to kill.

► Chapter 3

The Baron later returned to the fisherman's hut and asked the girl to deliver a letter to his brother. He said he would pay her well. The girl did not know that the letter was an order to the Baron's brother to kill her. On the way to deliver the letter, she stayed in a country inn. Some robbers broke into the inn, but they found no money on the girl. She only had the letter. They felt sorry for her after they read the letter, and the head robber decided to help her. He rewrote the letter, telling the Baron's brother to have the Baron's son marry the girl. The son and the girl were married as soon as the brother saw the letter.

► Chapter 4

After the wedding, the Baron visited his brother. When he found out that his son had married the poor girl, he was shocked. He asked the girl to go for a walk with him on the cliffs. He tried to throw her into the sea, but she begged for her life. The Baron let her go, but before he did, he threw his gold ring into the sea and told the girl never to return without that ring.

► Chapter 5

The girl walked a long way before coming to a nobleman's castle. She begged for work and was made a cook. One day, she was surprised to see the Baron and her husband at the castle. She had to cook a meal for them. While preparing a fish, she saw a gold ring in the fish's mouth. It was the ring the Baron had thrown into the sea. The girl was excited. The meal was delicious, and the guests wanted to know who the cook was.

► Chapter 6

When the girl came out, the Baron was surprised and angry. He wanted to hit her, but she smiled and calmly showed him the ring on her finger. Then she took it off and put it on the table. At last, the Baron understood that he could not change the future. He then smiled and proudly introduced his daughter-in-law to the other guests. The Baron went home with his son and daughter-in-law, and everyone lived happily ever after.

B. Background and Themes

★ **Gender roles:** Though the girl was poor and weak, she was able to overcome the power of the rich, evil Baron.

★ **Destiny:** The girl proved, and the Baron came to realize, that destiny cannot be changed.

★ **Kindness:** The fisherman took the baby girl into his home and raised her as his own daughter.

★ **Poverty:** Life is very difficult for people who are poor, but the story shows that poverty does not necessarily have to be a chain that holds a person down.

Answer Key

Part A Story Focus

Before You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Introduction

1. It was a fairy tale.
2. It is from England.
3. Joseph Jacobs put it into a book.

► Characters

1. The Baron: evil, powerful, mean
2. The Baron's Son: handsome, young, rich
3. The Girl: lovely, scared, poor

While You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Chapter 1

A. Preview Questions

1. I think the man will do something evil to the young man and woman.
2. There are magic wands, rings, and necklaces.
3. I think he will put a magic spell on her.

B. Review Questions

1. He had magical powers.
2. His son was going to marry a poor girl.
3. He had always wanted a daughter.

► Chapter 2

A. Preview Questions

1. I think he is a fisherman.
2. I think he saved her from the water.
3. I think he will take her home and raise her.

B. Review Questions

1. She did not sink but floated down the river.
2. The Baron and his friends came to the hut.
3. He was surprised because she was the same girl he had dropped in the river.

► **Chapter 3**

A. Preview Questions

1. They want to steal her money.
2. They are going to send the letter to her father and ask him for money.
3. I think they are really bad men.

B. Review Questions

1. He wanted the girl to take a letter to his brother in Scarborough.
2. He wanted his brother to kill the girl.
3. They changed it because they felt sorry for the girl.

► **Chapter 4**

A. Preview Questions

1. She has just been married.
2. The Baron wants to push her off the cliffs.
3. She will fall into the water, but she won't die.

B. Review Questions

1. He was shocked because his son and the girl had married.
2. He took off his ring and threw it into the sea.
3. He told her not to return without the ring.

► **Chapter 5**

A. Preview Questions

1. I think she is going to cook the fish.
2. She will cook the fish and put the ring on her finger.
3. They will praise the girl for her cooking skills.

B. Review Questions

1. She begged for work.
2. She was shocked because the Baron came to the castle with her husband.
3. The Baron's ring was in the fish's mouth.

► Chapter 6

A. Preview Questions

1. I think everyone is happy.
2. I think he is welcoming them to his castle.
3. Yes, I think they will be happy.

B. Review Questions

1. He was both surprised and angry.
2. He was going to hit her.
3. He understood that he could not change the future.

Mini Quiz

a. A stitch in time saves nine.

→ If you see a small problem and fix it right away, then you won't have a bigger problem later.

b. You can't fight fate.

→ The future is like a person who does not want to be controlled by anyone.

c. There's no use crying over spilled milk.

→ We should try to forget our past mistakes and not worry about them.

After You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Pattern Practice

4. A: Bring me some soda.

B: No, I won't!

5. A: Lend me your phone.

B: Sure. No problem.

► Challenge

1. He sees his son's future wife.
2. He finds a baby girl floating in the water.
3. He tries to kill her by pushing her off the cliffs.
4. She finds the ring the Baron threw into the sea.

Part B Skill Focus

Vocabulary Preview

A.

1. d 2. a
3. j 4. f
5. e 6. g
7. i 8. c
9. b 10. h

B.

1. With a magic book
2. his son's future wife
3. ordered his brother
4. that very same day
5. her into the sea
6. was very excited
7. into the dining room

Reading Comprehension

► Beginning: Chapters 1–2

A.

1. F 2. F 3. T 4. F 5. T

B.

1. He is the Baron.
2. He has a magic book.
3. He is not kind.
4. He wants to kill the girl.

C.

1. b 2. a 3. d 4. c 5. a 6. d

► Middle: Chapters 3–4

A.

1. T 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. T

B.

1. The Baron's son
2. The Baron
3. The girl
4. The robber

C.

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. a 5. a 6. b

► End: Chapters 5–6

A.

1. F 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. F

B.

b → d → a → c

C.

1. b 2. c 3. b 4. c 5. b 6. d

Think and Write

The Baron	Both	The Girl
rich and powerful	walked on a cliff	poor
had magic power	loved the son	gentle and nice
tried to kill the girl	took off a gold ring	met the robbers
wrote a letter	went to Scarborough	surprised by a fish

Vocabulary Review

1. Baron
2. daughter-in-law
3. frightened
4. nobleman's
5. Finally
6. magical
7. powerful
8. shocked
9. promised
10. robbers

Summary

A.

c → a → d → b → f → e

B.

1. Some robbers help the girl.
2. The girl finds the gold ring in a fish.
3. Everyone lives happily ever after.

Book Report

1. magic
2. robbers
3. promise
4. preparing
5. future