

Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

Please, Mr Magic Fish! By Jessica Souhami (Otter-Barry Books)



1. Explore it

Read the spread below, taking time to look carefully at the illustration and the text:



Talk together about what is happening here. Who can you see? How can you describe them? What are they doing? Where do you think they are? Take some time to look carefully at the faces of the characters and the way they are moving their hands. How do you think they are feeling? What do you think makes them feel this way? What do you think they are thinking about?

Now read the text again and think about what is happening. Why have they wished for things like a small dry cottage, bread and cheese? Think about the word **wish**. What wish would you ask the Magic Fish to grant? What wish would you like to grant a special friend or family member?

2. Illustrate it

Think again about what Liz and Jack have asked Mr Magic Fish for and what they will see when they turn around. Can you illustrate this? What do you picture in your mind? How is the cottage or the teapot described? Where will they find the bread and cheese? Are there any words that you don't understand? Can you guess what they mean? Can you ask a grown up to help you? You might talk about how a cottage looks and what would be special about it. Think about including Jack and Liz in your picture. How would they be feeling? Can you look in a mirror and pretend to be Jack or Liz finding their wishes granted? Can you show this in your drawing of them, the way their faces look and how they hold their arms.

3. Talk about it

- Look carefully at Jack and Liz in the picture. What do you think you know about them and their life?
- Think about what Jack and Liz have asked for from Mr Magic Fish. What might this tell us about the kind of home they live in or the food that they have to eat at the moment?
- Look at Mr Magic Fish. Why do you think he is looking so pleased? Can you think of a time you did something nice for someone else? How did it make them feel? How did it make you feel? What made you feel this way?
- What kind of story is this? What makes you think that? Do you know any other stories like this? What are they called?

4. Imagine it

What do you think happened just before Jack and Liz hurried to the shore and called out to Mr Magic Fish? How do you think they might have known about the magic fish? Can you try telling the part of the story that leads up to this moment? You could use drawings and writing to help you tell your story beginning.

Think about how grateful Jack and Liz were to the fish. They called out thank you twice! Imagine how they felt being able to live in their new, dry home and eat bread and cheese with a lovely cup of tea. Help them to compose a note to the fish thanking him for his kindness and what it means to them. You could include a drawing of them enjoying their new life.

5. Create it

On special occasions, we might be given presents but we can also be given small gifts every day. Think really carefully about the kinds of things you are given every day that you can be thankful for. Think about your friends and family. Why do you like them? How are they kind to you? Maybe they make you laugh; join in with your games; give you cuddles; hold your hand to keep you safe; make your breakfast or read you stories? Maybe you could write a thank you note or draw a picture to give them showing how you feel when they are kind to you.

Next time you go outside, look really carefully at everything around you. Is there anything interesting or beautiful to see? Do the buildings have interesting brick patterns? What is special about the season? Is the sky a different colour than yesterday? Is there anything beautiful about the plants or trees today? Can you see any animals? Spend some time being still and watching them closely. You can talk about, draw or write about what you observe. Try to keep a daily record of a few things that happen that make you feel good or for which you are thankful. You could use this time to share any worries you have too. You can collect your thoughts on paper or voice record it on a device.

Now come back to the people who are kind to you. Make a list of the things they do for you or other people. What can you learn from this? What kind things can you do for other people? Think about the world around you and what you have seen. Can you do something kind for animals or plants? Maybe you could make a feeder or clear rubbish? Can you help make where you live better in some small way? Maybe you could help tidy up or create a picture to put on the fridge? Make a plan to do one kind thing every day that will make the world better for someone else. Think about how these acts of kindness make you feel, as well as others around you.