



# Magic Fish

*Freya Littledale , Winslow Pinney Pels (Illustrator)*

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A greedy fisherman's wife is granted every wish but can't find happiness.

## Magic Fish Details

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Author : Freya Littledale , Winslow Pinney Pels (Illustrator)

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# From Reader Review Magic Fish for online ebook

## Wetdryvac Wetdryvac says

A favorite tale.

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## Quirkyreader says

One of my childhood favourites.

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## Alyssa Ricard says

This book was full of magic and happiness. It also shows greed, the fisherman's wife constantly wants something and is never satisfied.

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## Gabriel Wallis says

I've always enjoyed *The Magic Fish*. It was a gift given to me on my 7th birthday, years and years ago. I've held onto it all this time, and have read it multiple times growing up. And still the story is just as good today as it was back when I first read it. *The Magic Fish* is a simple story, geared for the minds of children, but a complex story that can be pertinent for adults. It's a story about a fisherman who finds a magic fish at sea, and how the magic the fish provides becomes enticing to the fisherman's ungrateful wife, who wants more and more and more. The magic of the fish is an easy way out of hardship for the fisherman and his wife. But the demands of the ungrateful wife must come to an end. I recommend reading *The Magic Fish*.

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## Lobstergirl says

I'd completely forgotten about this book until I just saw it on someone's blog. The cover image immediately brought back memories. I hope the blogger doesn't mind me linking to Ed Arno's awesome illustrations:

It makes you weep to compare these to some of the utter shit appearing today.

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## Joe Ahern says

Very imaganative book. Good illustrations with meaning behind the story, where alot of books dont. A book

that relates to human greed and how this demise can and will hurt people in the end. The story is about a grumpy old fisherman and his even grumpier and greedy wife. long story short, the man catches a fish and releases it, after findindg out the fish is a prince and returning home with no fish, the mans wife demands numerous things from the fish the wife eventually asks for too much and the fish takes all what he has given her back. Meanwhile the fisherman who didnt ask for a thing is quite happy with the fish taking everything back. good moralistic story for children.

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## **Shea Lavalier says**

- Interest Level: Lower Grades
- Reading Level: 2.2
- Guided Reading Level: L
- Genre: Traditional literature
- Support for the genre: This story could be considered a fairy tale due to magic and that evil is punished. It is also similar to a fable because it is teaching a lesson of being greedy.
- Additional Genres: Picture Books

### Summary:

A man is out fishing and catches a magic prince fish. He let's the prince go because he tells him to. His wife keeps making him go back to the fish to wish for more and more, first a house then a castle. The man begrudgingly keeps going back to the fish, until the fish decides the man's wife is being too greedy and changes everything back the way it was.

### Mentor Writing Traits:

#### Ideas:

This story has a very clear character of the magic fish, presented in the title, to entice readers.

#### Voice:

The voice is very neutral.

#### Sentence Fluency:

The sentences flow easily and have a traditional structure.

#### Presentation:

Some of imagery spills over and interrupts the texts boxes in a playful way.

### Classroom Integration and other suggestions:

This book brings awareness to how bossy and greedy some people are. This book could be read when discussing assertiveness or other social emotional aspects with students. Students could create their own story about a time someone kept telling them what to do even though they knew better. Students could also choose a classic fable ending for the bossy character.

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## **Miss Kinders says**

A favorite retelling of this story

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### **Meghan Brigan says**

The Magic Fish is a traditional folk tale for children ages four to eight. It tells the story of a simple fisherman and his greedy wife. He catches a magic fish and his wife makes him demand more and more things from the fish. Eventually the fish takes back everything he has given her. I think this book is a good representation of the greed that dominates areas of our society. Children should be taught that what they have is all they need. I especially enjoyed the illustrations the color usage perfectly captured the mood.

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### **Holly Sandefer says**

The Magic Fish is a variation of The Fisherman and His Wife. The story is about a fisherman who catches a magic fish and can grant the fisherman wishes. The fisherman tell his wife about the fish and she makes a request for a bigger house, a castle, to be queen. Each time the fisherman comes home, the wife is unsatisfied and wants more and more until the fish denies her request and the wife is living in her old house with her old lifestyle.

I would use this book to discuss greed and making the best of your current situation. Always wanting more will never make one happy.

The story line and moral to this story is appropriate for any age. According to Scholastic book wizard the grade level equivalent is 2.9.

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### **Ronda Fox says**

This is a fun folk tale that I read to a second grade class as a read aloud. The repetitive nature of some of the dialogue helps the students make predictions about what will happen coming up. Also, the message is clear in the book (be grateful for what you have).

The Magic Fish is a story of a fisherman who caught a fish and put him back because the fish claimed to be a magic, prince fish. He was a kindhearted man. After hearing this, the fisherman's wife was mad and demanded that the fisherman return to the fish and ask a favor. The fish gave into the request as the fisherman returned home no a nice house rather than his little hut. The wife is only happy for a week.. She then requests a castle, which she is grateful for only two weeks. This continues until she demands to be not only the queen of her land, but the queen of the sun, moon, and stars. Being so ungrateful, the fish yelled, NO, when the fisherman made this final request and the wife lost everything else. Mind you that the fisherman was happy with whatever he had from the hut to the queen of the land in the castle.

In the images, the sea is stormier, as the fish become more upset with the requests. This enhances the lesson of the story and the emotions that the fish is holding back.

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## **Jen Wehage-Barrera says**

FOLKTALE #1 – “The Magic Fish by Freya Littledale

Motif: A fish grants wishes

This version a classic folktale “The Fisherman and his Wife” follows an old fisherman who lives in a hut with a demanding wife. He caught a huge gold fish but returned it to the sea when it proclaimed to actually be a magic fish, and more so a prince. The fisherman’s wife greedily demanded that her reluctant husband return to the magic fish so it can grant her wishes of a finer house, escalating in demand to a castle, and to be queen. Upon her last wish, the gold fish had had enough and takes it all away.

The plot is a good example of the consequences of increased greed. The text is repetitive in its phrasing and short in length, which is helpful to a young reader. The pictures are soft and detailed lending themselves to further discussions.

Target audience: Ages 5 - 8

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## **Dolly says**

Our youngest brought home the book The Fisherman and His Wife by Pauline Cartwright this year from her second-grade class. So when we saw this version of the classic story by Jacob Ludwig Karl Grimm and Wilhelm Karl Grimm, we thought it would be fun to compare the different books.

The narrative is short, perfect for beginning readers and the repetition helps to foster reading ability, comprehension, and confidence. The illustrations are colorful and complement the story nicely; we especially liked the details of the house and the woman's outfits as her wishes were granted. Both stories were entertaining, and I think we liked this retelling just a little more. We enjoyed reading this book together.

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## **Kirsten says**

My family and I used to listen to this book on audio cassette growing up. The voices used in that recording were amazing! And the tale is retold in our family time and time again. Perhaps this is why this story is endearing to me. Not to mention the moral lessons from a simple fisherman trying to please his greedy wife and both of them learning that the simple things are what bring us the most pleasure - not riches or fancy homes.

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## **Jc says**

Sometimes being greedy gets you more than you bargained for.

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