FOOL'S GOLD

STORY BY HEATHER HAMMONDS
ILLUSTRATIONS BY SARAH DAVIS



PM

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Fool's Gold

Level 27
Running Words 3940 **Text Type** Narrative (Imaginative)
Curriculum Areas Literacy; Personal and Social Capability

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the story in his or her own words.
Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 Why was Ally concerned when she saw the boys riding through the trees?
2 What is the difference between real gold and pyrite?
3 Who was 'Foolish Jed'?

Inferential

4 Why did Petra sigh when she saw Ally's grandparents' property?
5 When people came in search of gold 150 years ago, why was it called a 'gold rush'?
6 Why did Petra enjoy looking at the old black-and-white photographs?
7 When panning for gold, why do people swirl the water around in the pan?
8 Why are metal detectors used today to prospect for gold?
9 Why did Petra's mother want her to keep the gold nugget in a bank vault?

Applied Knowledge

10 How could photographs of important events today be stored safely?
11 How can forest environments be protected from damage by people?
12 Why weren't all mine shafts closed off properly when miners left the area?

Vocabulary

Replace the adverb 'nervously' in this sentence:
"What's that?" asked Petra, nervously.

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 28	Book	Narrative	*Wildfire*
Level 28	Book	Narrative	*Shipwrecked!*

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Chapter 1

SHERLOCK COTTAGE

"We're here!" shouted Ally, as her mum pulled into the driveway of Ally's grandparents' house.

It was the school holidays, and Ally and her best friend, Petra, had come to spend a few days in the country with Grandpa and Grandma Sherlock.

"Wow," sighed Petra, staring at the beautiful wooden cottage that sat in the middle of a huge garden. There was a vegetable patch on one side of the cottage, fruit trees on the other and some chickens in a small henhouse. She knew there was a little creek at the bottom of the garden, too, and a wild forest in the national park on the other side of the creek. Ally had told her all about the place.

Ally's grandma and grandpa hurried down the driveway and gave Ally and her mum a hug when they got out of the car.

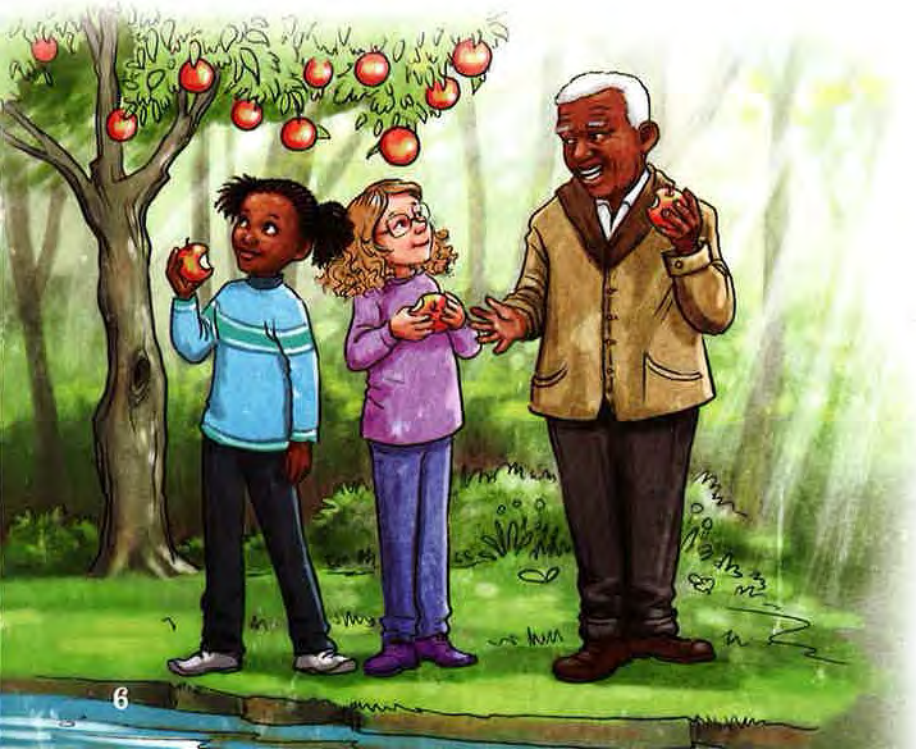
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"You must be Petra," said Grandma Sherlock. "We're so pleased to meet Ally's best friend."

"Thank you for having me to stay," Petra replied, shyly.

The girls carried their bags to the spare bedroom, while Ally's mum had coffee with Grandma and Grandpa. Then the girls wandered around outside, picking a ripe Red Delicious apple each from one of the trees.

"What a great place to live," said Petra, as they followed the path to the bottom of the garden, munching on their juicy apples.



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They stood at the edge of the little creek, listening to birds twittering in the forest on the other side of it.

"It's very peaceful here," said Ally.

"It wasn't always like this," said Grandpa, who had come to tell them that Ally's mum was leaving. "Many years ago there were lots of people here."

"What were they doing?" asked Petra.

"I think Grandpa's going to tell you about the gold rush," Ally grinned. "It's his favourite subject."

"Let's say goodbye to your mum and then we can show Petra my photo collection," said Grandpa.



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Chapter 2

GOLD RUSH

The girls waved goodbye to Ally's mum. Then they sat at the kitchen table and Grandma gave them each a glass of home-made lemonade.

Grandpa brought out a large photo album, which was full of copies of some very old black-and-white photographs.

"This is what the creek looked like 150 years ago," he said. "There was a gold rush here that lasted for ten years, until most of the gold ran out and the miners moved on to richer fields. People came from all over the world to search for the gold. Some of them became very wealthy."

Petra slowly turned the pages of the album. The photos showed people panning for gold in the creek or mining with picks and shovels in the forest. Tents were pitched under the trees and smoke rose from cooking fires.

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Petra loved looking at all the old photos. "It looks like very hard work," she said.

"It certainly was." Grandpa nodded. "The miners have gone now but their mines remain. We have to be careful we don't fall down some of their old mine shafts that are hidden out there in the forest. Ally knows the forest rules, and you need to know them, too. You must never wander around the forest without me or Grandma. I'll take you girls for a picnic there before you go home."

"Yippee!" exclaimed Ally.

Petra closed the photo album. "Do you think there's any gold left around here?" she asked, hopefully.

"There might be a small amount left in the creek," said Grandma. "Sometimes people enjoy prospecting for gold in the forest with metal detectors. It's just a pity Grandpa hasn't found any big nuggets when he goes prospecting. We would be rich by now!"

Everyone laughed, but Grandpa looked serious.

"A few years ago, a man really did find a huge nugget in the forest," he said. "The man kept the location a secret, but it proves there's still gold out there. One day I'll find something …"

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Ally and Petra are staying with Ally's grandparents in the country for a few days. They are very excited when Grandpa takes them out to search for gold. But disaster strikes when they discover an old mine shaft. Can the girls keep their dreams of finding gold alive?



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