

LEVEL

4

Beginner

Compass
Readers

The Firebird of Rio

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The Color of Fire

At the store, Victor Lopez was buying gold paint. He glared at Carlos Garcia. Carlos was buying red paint.



The Rio de Janeiro Carnival parade was in two weeks. Their neighborhood club decided to put a Phoenix on their **float**. Victor and Carlos were chosen to paint the Phoenix.





The Phoenix is a bird from **myth**. It lives for many centuries. The bird builds a nest, and then sets itself on fire! From the ashes of the fire rises a baby Phoenix, also called a Firebird.

Victor's grandmother told many stories about the Phoenix. She said the Firebird **represents** never-ending life. His grandmother said the Firebird is the color of gold.



The firebird should have been painted already, but the boys couldn't agree on the color. Victor and Carlos **argued** about what color to paint the Firebird. "Fire is red!" Carlos shouted.



“The Phoenix is gold!” Victor shouted.

Neither boy would **compromise**.

