The Magic Turtle



by Dina Anastasio • illustrated by Gilly May

Benchmark Education

Level H/14 Word Count: 297*

Summary

This story is about how the Magic Square game originated in China.

Skills at a Glance

Comprehension
- Draw conclusions
- Analyze story elements

Metacognitive Strategy
- Make, revise, and confirm predictions

Phonemic Awareness
- Manipulate initial sounds (shell)

Phonics
- Diphthong / ou / (counted, down, how, wow)

Concept Vocabulary
- Homographs

Grammar/Word Study
- Suffix -ly (closely, slowly)

Genre
- Fantasy

*Numerals are not included in the word count for this book.

Early Connections

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A long, long time ago, there was a king.
The king ruled China.

One day the king said, "What a fine day
it is! I will go for a walk by the river Lo."

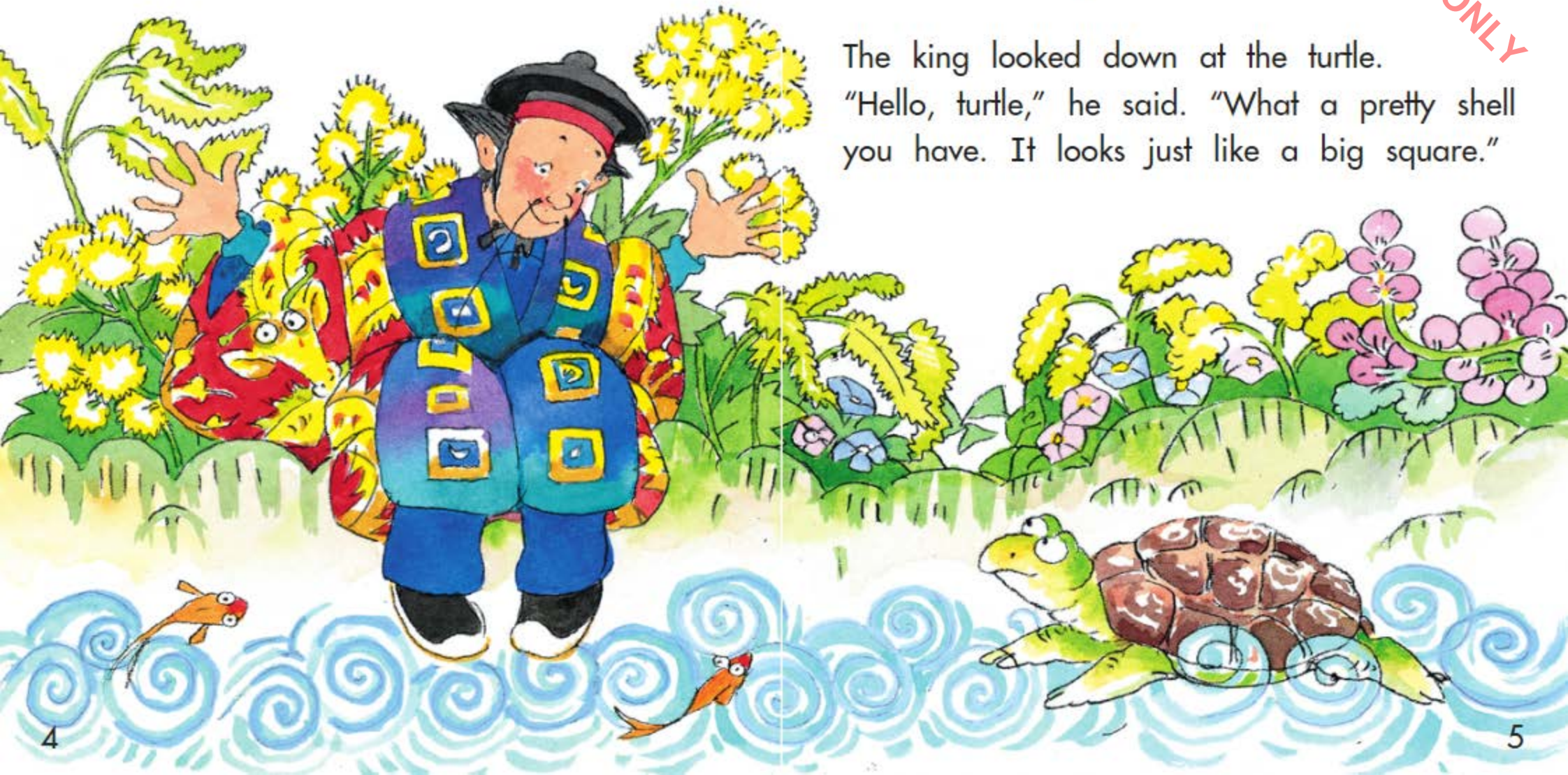


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The king walked along the river and then sat on the rocks to rest.

A big turtle swam near the rocks. It climbed slowly up onto the rocks and sat near the king.

The king looked down at the turtle. "Hello, turtle," he said. "What a pretty shell you have. It looks just like a big square."



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The king looked closely at the turtle's shell. "Hmmm," said the king. "The big square has nine little squares within it. What a very pretty turtle you are!"

The king then looked more closely at the nine little squares. "Wow!" said the king. "How splendid! There are pretty dots in each of the nine little squares!"

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