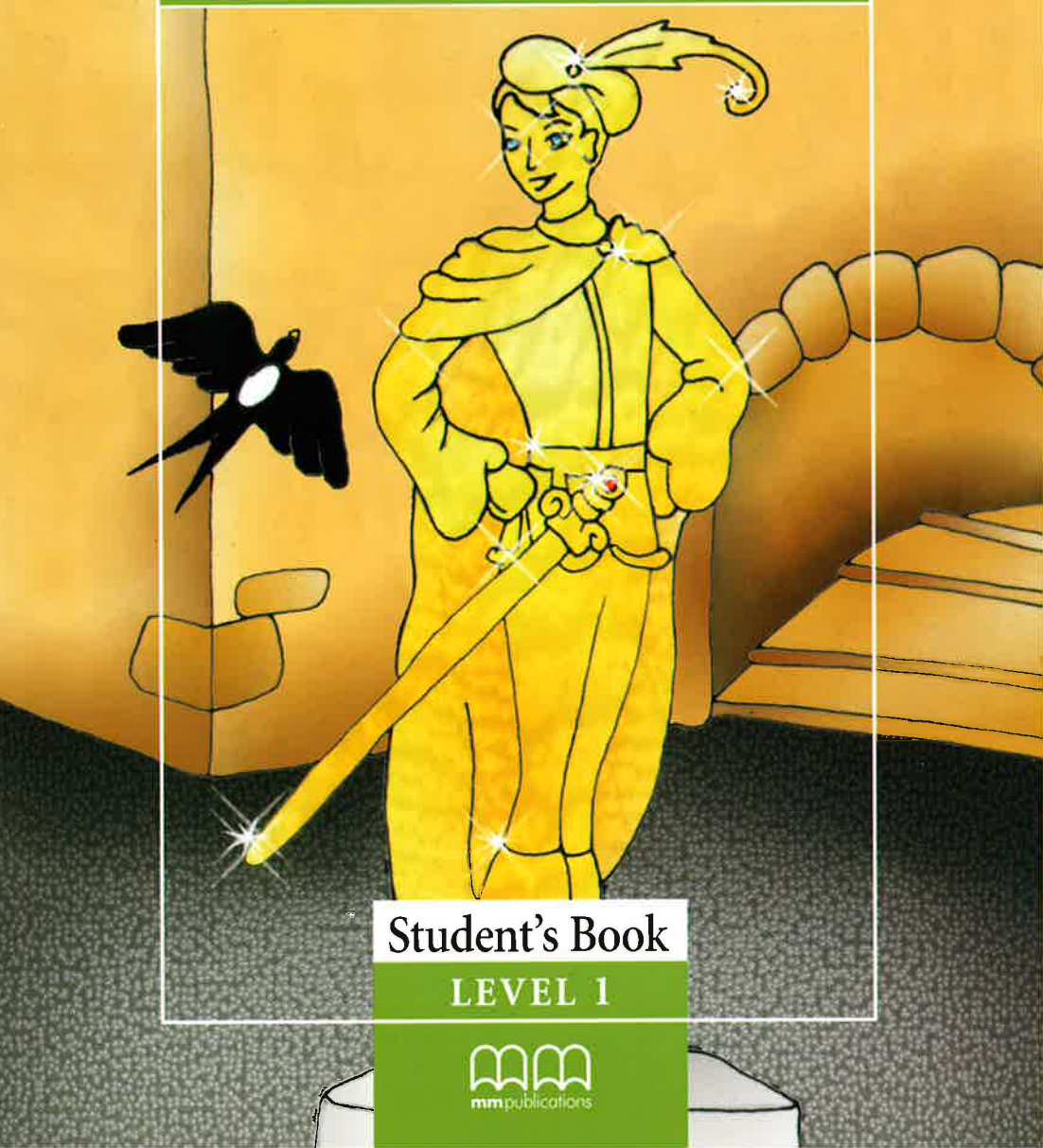
GRADED READERS

THE HAPPY PRINCE

OSCAR WILDE



Student's Book

LEVEL 1

mm publications

The Happy Prince
An Oscar Wilde short story adapted by H.Q. Mitchell.

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Chapter 1

There is a big city in the north of Europe. In this city, there is a big square. A column is in the middle of that square. A very beautiful statue stands on top of that big marble column.

The statue is the Happy Prince. He is a very beautiful prince. There are leaves of gold all over his body. He has got two bright sapphires instead of eyes. At the top of his sword is a large red ruby. He is a magnificent sight.

People walk in the square and look at the beautiful statue of the Happy Prince.

"Aren't we lucky?" they say. "We have a beautiful statue in our city."



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Chapter 2

There is a little Swallow by the river. He is in love with a beautiful Reed. The Reed lives by the river. She is very happy.

"Please, please come to Egypt with me," says the Swallow to the Reed.

The Reed just smiles. The wind blows and she dances a little.

"Winter is coming," says the Swallow. "It is very cold here in winter."

The Reed is still smiling but she does not move.

"You are not coming with me," says the Swallow sadly. "I must go now. It is getting cold," he says.

He is late. There are no other swallows left.

"Goodbye my beautiful Reed," he says. Then he leaves. He flies south. Egypt is in the south.



Chapter 3

The Swallow flies all day. He is tired and he wants to sleep. He flies over the square in the big city and he looks at the beautiful statue high above the city. He really likes that place.

"This is a good place," he thinks. "I can sleep here."

The little bird lands at the feet of the statue.

"You are very beautiful," he says to the statue. "Now I must sleep. I am very tired. Goodnight."

He puts his head under his wing and closes his eyes. He is about to fall asleep when a drop of water falls on him.

"What's that?" he asks, "Rain?"

Then he looks up. The Happy Prince is crying.

"Why are you crying?" he asks the beautiful statue of the Happy Prince.



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CHAPTER 4

The Happy Prince is crying. His eyes are full of tears. The tears are running down his golden cheeks. The little Swallow is amazed.

"Who are you?" he asks.

"I am the Happy Prince," answers the statue.

"Why are you crying then?" asks the Swallow. "I am all wet."

"I'm sorry," says the Prince, "but I am very sad."

"Are you always sad?" asks the little Swallow.

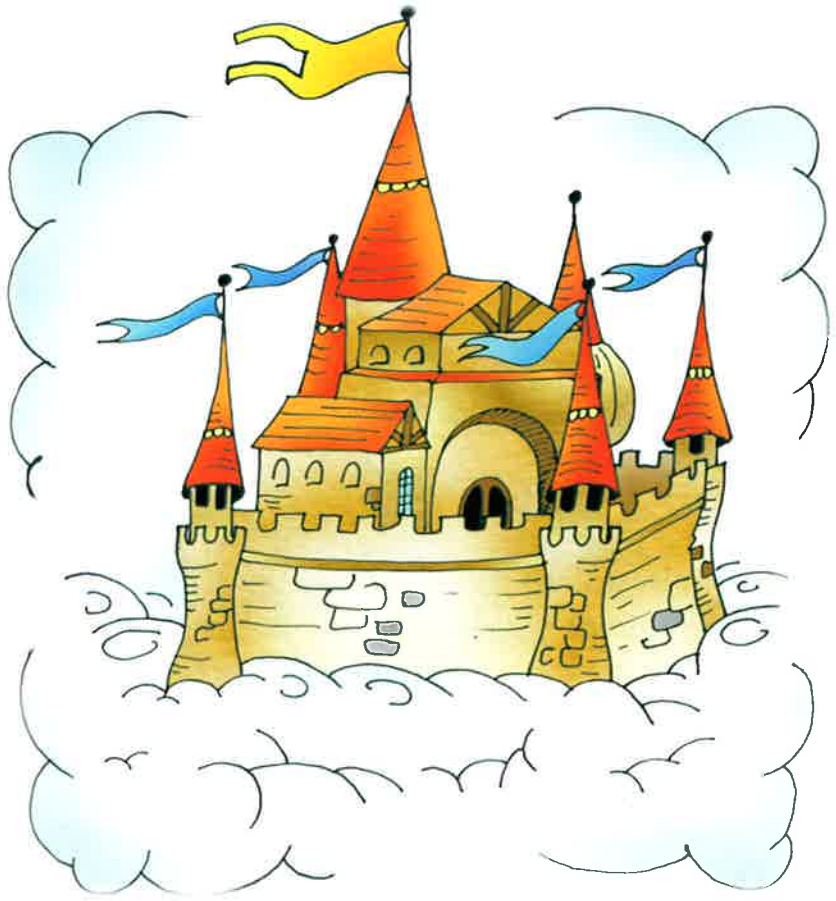
"When I was alive I was never sad," answers the statue. "I lived in a beautiful palace. No one was sad. Everyone was happy."

"What happened?" asks the Swallow.

"I grew old and died," answers the Prince.

"That is very sad," says the Swallow, "but now you are up here. You can look at your beautiful city down there."

"I know," says the Happy Prince and he begins crying again.



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