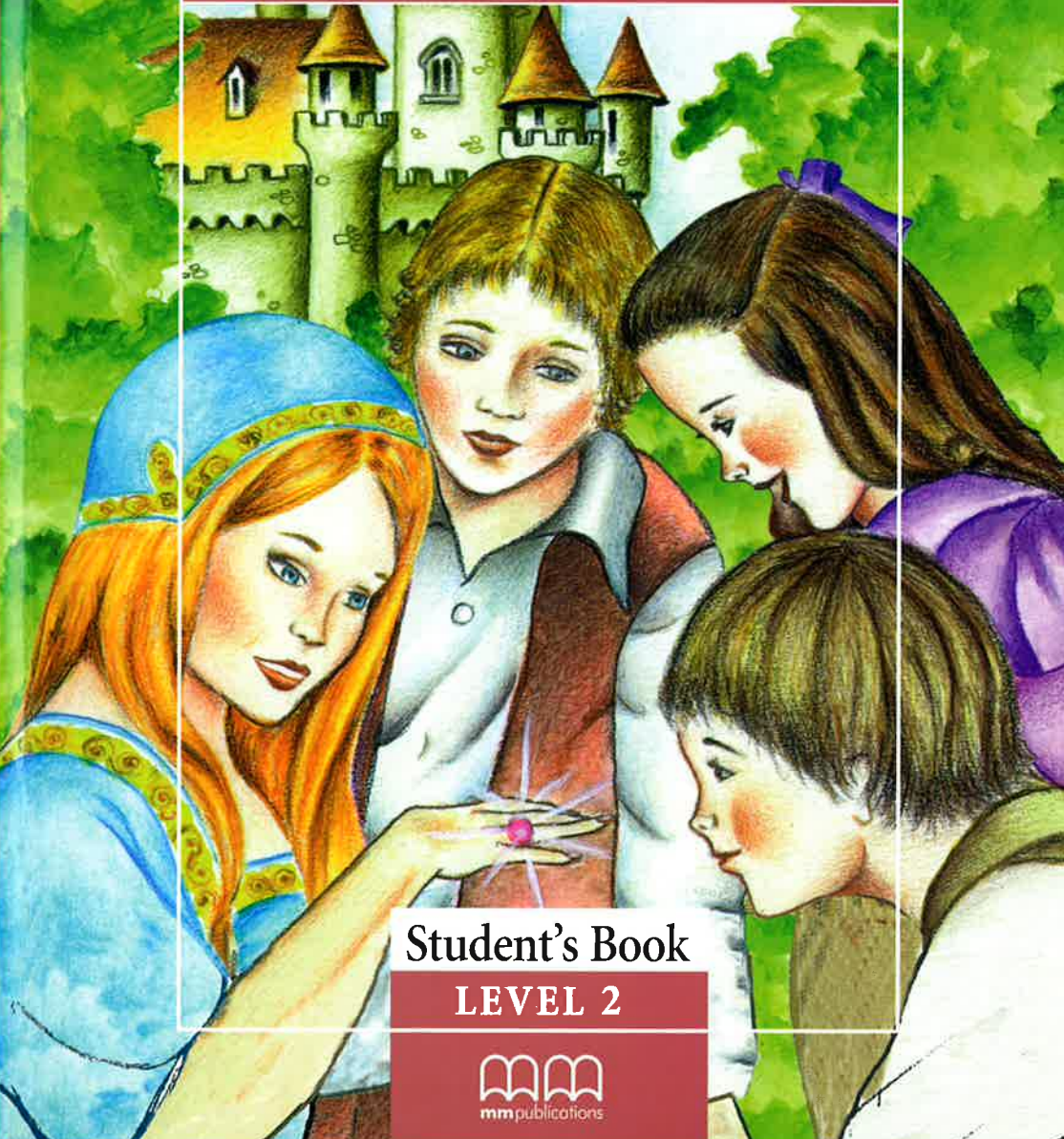


GRADED READERS

THE MAGIC RING



Student's Book
LEVEL 2



The Magic Ring

A story retold by E. Moutsou and S. Parker

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CHAPTER 1

Once upon a time there were three children, two brothers and a sister. The boys' names were Jerry and Jimmy, and the girl's name was Kathy. They went to boarding schools in a small town in the West of England. The boys went to one school and the girl went to another. You see, in those days people sent boys and girls to different schools.

It was the end of the school year and the children were getting ready to go home for the summer holidays. They were very excited. Their cousin, Betty, was also going to spend the holidays with them. She was waiting for them at their home.

On the last day of school, however, they heard the bad news. Betty was ill with measles. The children could not go home, because Betty was in quarantine there. So, their parents arranged something else. They sent the boys to spend the summer with Kathy at her school. There were no students at the school in the summer. There were no teachers there either, except the French teacher, Mademoiselle. She could look after the children.

The next morning the boys arrived at Kathy's school. She said to them, "I'm glad we're staying here and not at your school. But, what are we going to do to have fun? I can't think of anything."

"Well," said Jerry, "it will be nice to explore the forest. Perhaps we'll find a cave".

"There aren't any caves around here," said Jimmy. "And even if there is one, I'm sure Mademoiselle will not let us go there."

"Don't worry," answered Jerry. "I'll go and talk to her like an adult."

Kathy pointed at his untidy hair and clothes and said, "Like that?"

Jerry looked at himself in the mirror. "In five minutes you won't recognise me," he said. He went to the bathroom to wash his face and brush his hair.



CHAPTER 2

Mademoiselle was in her room when Jerry knocked on her door. She was thinking about France. She wanted to be there for the holidays, but she had to take care of the three children. When she heard the knock, she called out, "Come in."

Jerry opened the door, but what a different Jerry! He was very clean and tidy. He looked very handsome. "What can I do for you?" asked Mademoiselle.

Jerry said in a sweet voice, "I hope I am not disturbing you."

"No, no," she said. "What is the matter?"

"I just wanted to say how do you do," said Jerry. He held out his very clean hand and Mademoiselle took it.

"You are a very polite little boy," she said.

"Not at all," said Jerry even more politely. "I am so sorry for you. You have to look after us during your holidays. It must be terrible."

"But, not at all," said Mademoiselle, "I am sure you will be very good children."

"We will try to be good," said Jerry.

Mademoiselle smiled and said, "Is there anything I can do for you?"

"Oh no, thank you," answered Jerry. "In fact, we don't want to give you any trouble. Perhaps we can take some sandwiches with us tomorrow and spend the day in the woods."

"Ah ha," said Mademoiselle. "Now I understand. You want to be free to do anything you like. Well, I am not so sure. Do your parents allow you to spend the whole day in the woods?"

"Oh yes," answered Jerry honestly.

"Oh well," said Mademoiselle, "I will not be stricter than your parents. You can have a picnic in the woods tomorrow."

"Thank you, thank you so much," said Jerry. "I promise we will be very good children."

Jerry left Mademoiselle's room and ran to the garden to meet his brother and sister. He had a great big smile on his face. They understood that he had good news.

"That's it," he said. "We're going to explore a cave tomorrow."

"Hurrah! Hurrah!" shouted all three children together.



CHAPTER 3

The next morning the children woke up early. Jerry went to the garden before breakfast. He picked some pink roses and put them beside Mademoiselle's plate on the table. She smiled at the children and said, "I hope you will have a very nice day out."

Soon after breakfast, they were on their way to the forest. "Do you think we'll find a cave?" Kathy asked.

"I think so," said Jerry. "I've read that there are a lot of caves around here." As they walked along the road, the sun rose higher in the sky and the children began to feel hot and thirsty.

Jimmy suddenly said, "Let's drink some lemonade. It's easier to carry it in our stomach than in our bags."

Jerry and Kathy agreed. They sat down by the side of the road and drank their lemonade. As they drank, Jerry leaned back against a hedge. Suddenly, he started falling backwards, but he managed to pull himself back.

He turned around and said, "Look! Here is a hole! I'm going in!"

"Oh don't!" said Kathy. "There may be snakes in there."

"I hope not," said Jimmy.

Jerry disappeared through the hole. "It is a cave," he shouted. "Come on, I'll help you to get in."

Kathy went first, and Jimmy followed her. When they were inside, they couldn't see anything at first, because it was very

dark. But after a while, their eyes got used to the dark. They were in a large cave. At the other side of the cave daylight was coming through a hole. They walked carefully across the cave towards the light. When they came out of the cave, they found a path. They walked along the path until they came to a huge archway.

"It looks like a railway tunnel," said Jimmy. "Let's go through it."

"Are you sure?" asked Kathy. "It may be dangerous."

"Oh, come on, don't be scared," said Jerry as he went into the tunnel. "It's just a tunnel going under the road."

Kathy followed her brothers into the tunnel.

