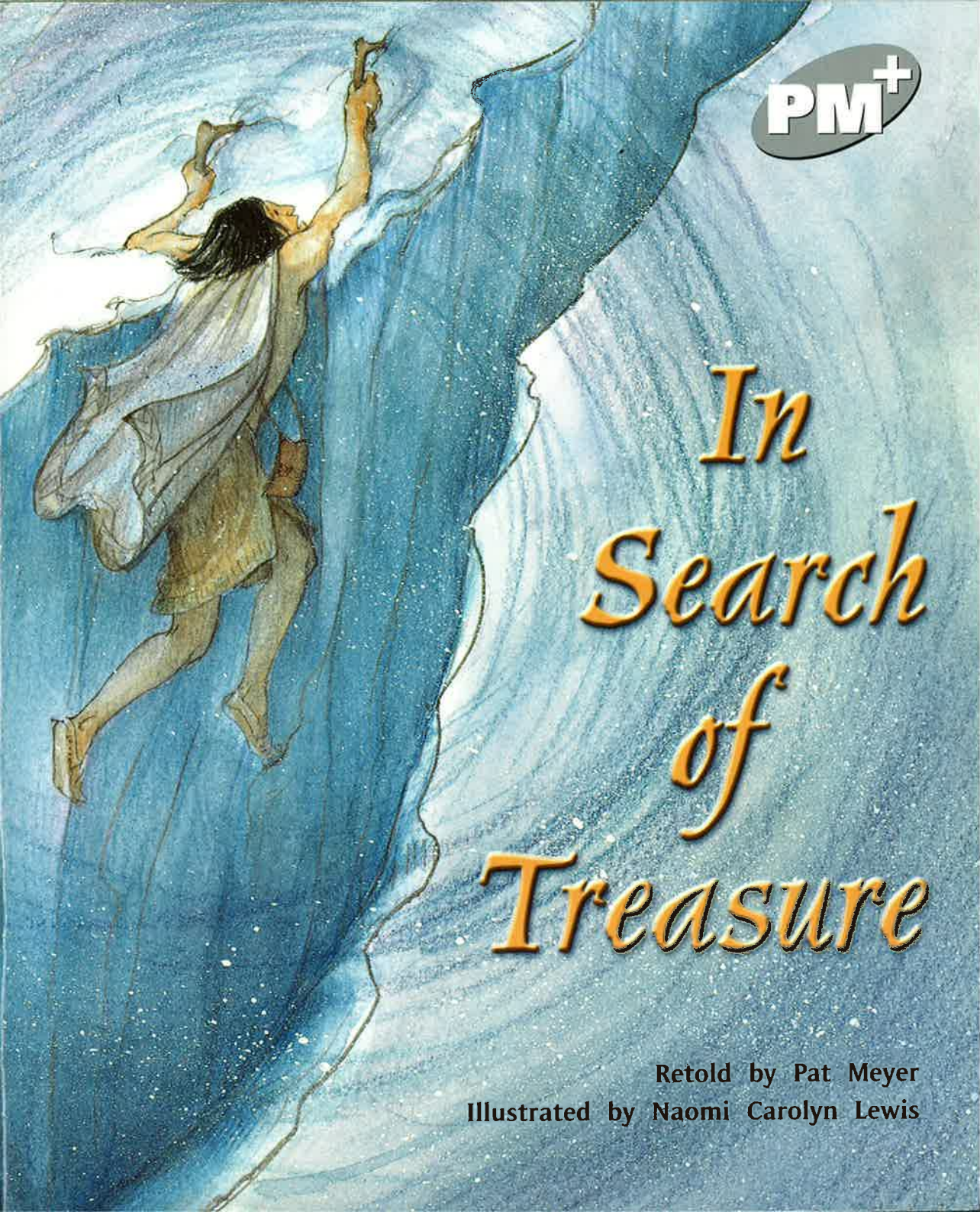

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In Search of Treasure
Retold by Pat Meyer
Illustrated by Naomi Carolyn Lewis

For teachers' inspection ONLY

In Search of Treasure



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Chapter One

Hiten and the Shell Money

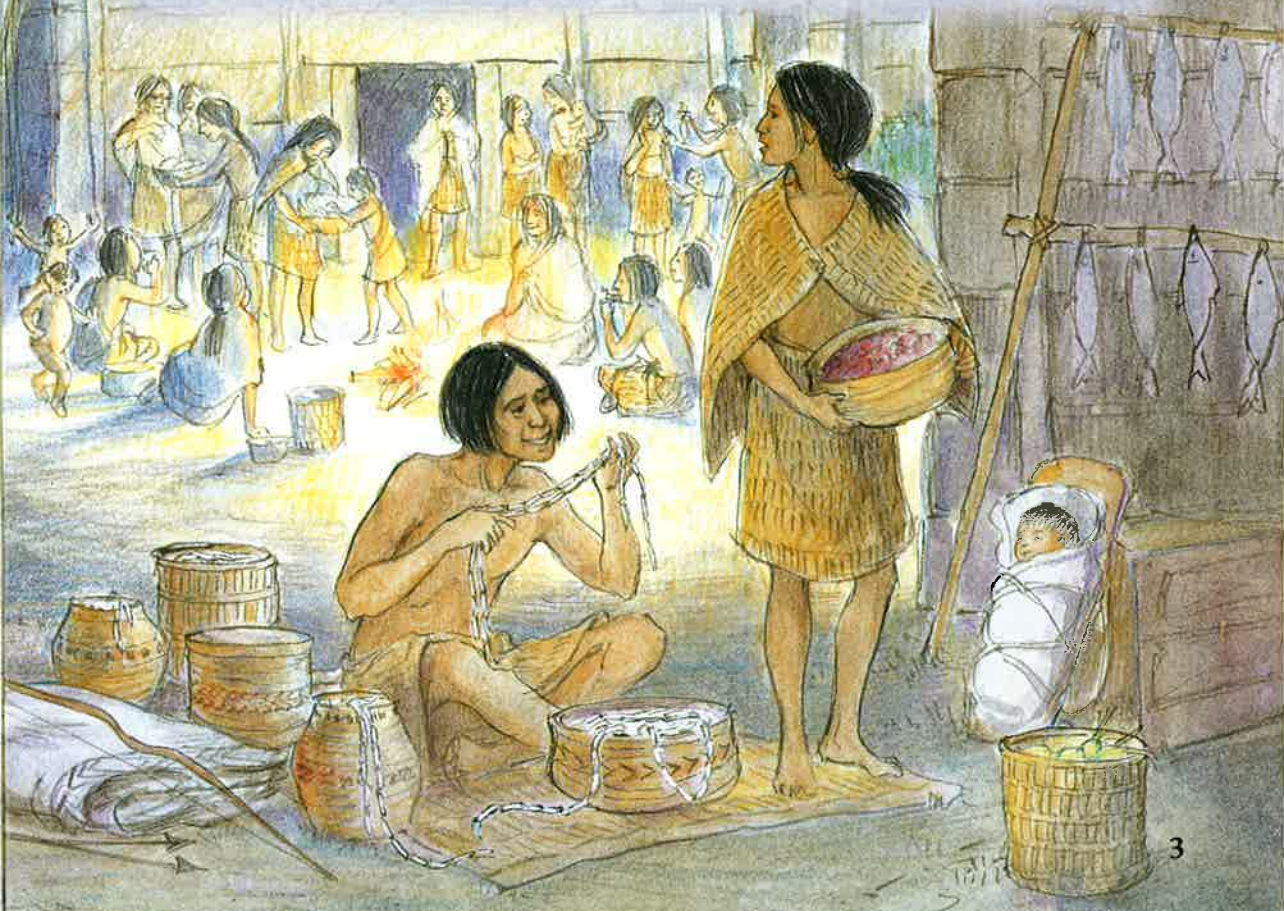
Once upon a time, a tribe of people lived beside a great mountain that was covered with snow. The men hunted deer in the forests, and caught fish in the rivers. The women gathered wild onions and berries from the mountain slopes. When their food baskets were full, the tribe enjoyed feasting together.

But one skilled hunter, called Hiten, would never come to the feasts with his wife and baby son. "It is foolish to be so wasteful," he told the people in his tribe. "What will you do when you are hungry, and find that your baskets are empty?"



When hungry people asked him for food, Hiten would never **give** them dried fish or deer meat. He made sure that they paid him with shell money first.

Hiten had many baskets filled with strings of precious shells, but he always wanted more. He grew to care about shell money, and little else.



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One day, when Hiten was hunting in the forest, he was startled to see a huge deer standing alone on a rock. Golden sunlight shone all around the great animal, and made it look magical. Hiten gasped, and dropped his bow and arrows.

As Hiten watched, a ringing voice seemed to come from the Great Deer.

"You wish for treasure above all other things, Hiten," said the voice. "Climb up to the crater lake, which lies hidden at the top of the mountain. Dig beside it, in front of a great rock. The journey to the crater is long and dangerous but, if you dare to risk your life, you may find treasure that is worth having."

Then the Great Deer vanished, leaving Hiten full of wonder.

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Chapter Two

Hiten Climbs the Mountain

The next day, Hiten found two strong deer antlers. He made them into sharp picks to dig with, and he put some dried fish in his pouch. Then he set off on his search for treasure.

At first, he followed the forest trails at the foot of the mountain, but as he climbed higher there were fewer and fewer trees. Up here, there was no shelter from the cold wind. By evening, Hiten had reached the fields of snow and ice, where the wind was even stronger.

He knew that he should turn back, because it would be dangerous to climb in the dark. But he had come so far that he did not want to give up.