



Level 1

The Magpie and the Milk



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The Magpie and the Milk

Retold by Rachel Bladon
Illustrated by Alida Massari



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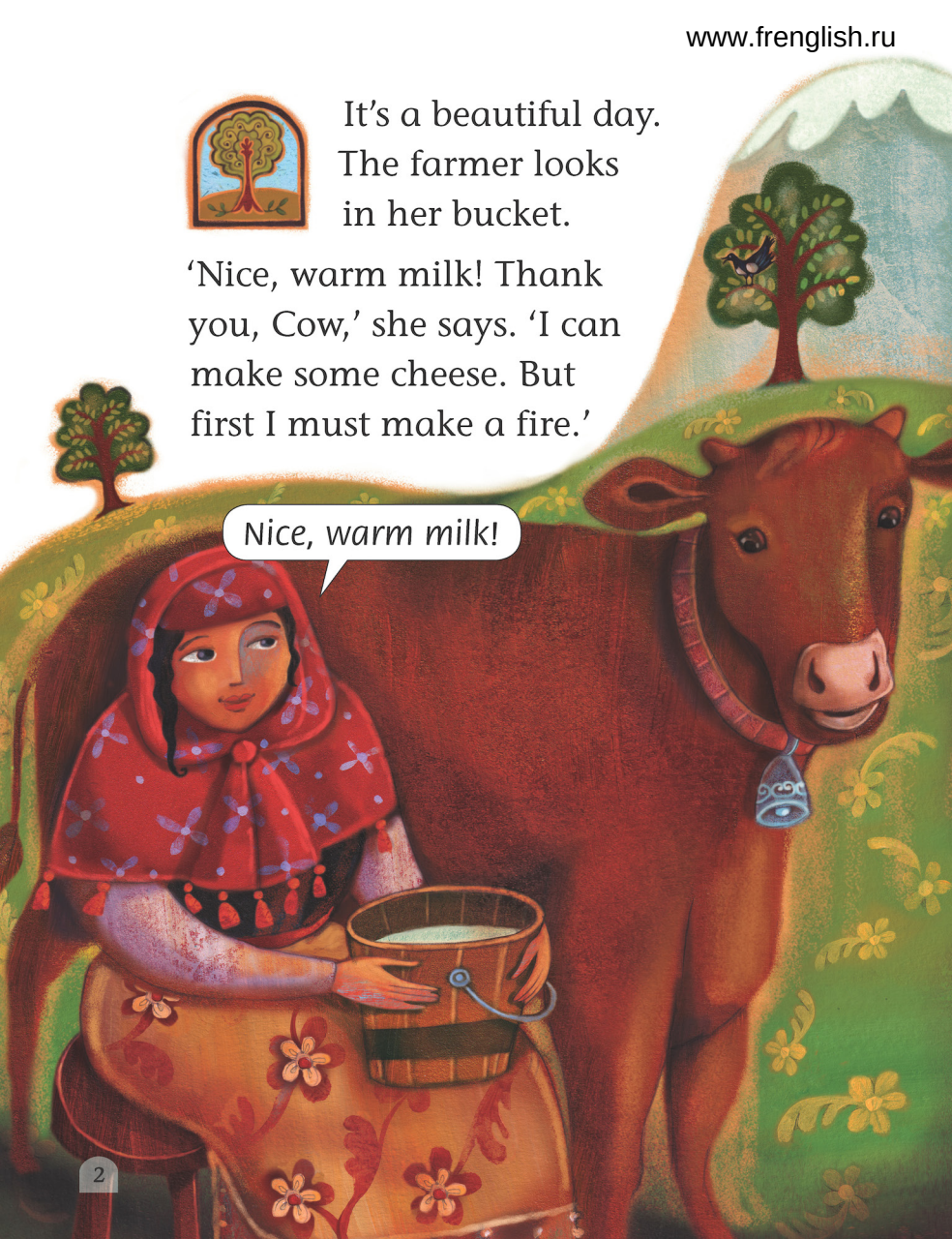
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It's a beautiful day.
The farmer looks
in her bucket.

'Nice, warm milk! Thank
you, Cow,' she says. 'I can
make some cheese. But
first I must make a fire.'

Nice, warm milk!



A magpie sees the milk.

‘Warm milk!’ he says. ‘Mmm.’

He flies down and sits on the bucket. But the bucket falls over.

‘Oh no!’ says the magpie.





Bad magpie!

‘Bad magpie!’ the farmer says,
and she catches his tail.

The magpie pulls and pulls.
Oh! His tail comes off!

‘Farmer, Farmer!’ says the magpie.

‘Please give me my tail.’

‘Bring me some nice, warm milk,’
says the farmer. ‘Then you can
have your tail.’

An illustration of a magpie with black and white feathers and a long tail, standing on a green field with yellow flowers. It is facing a woman who is wearing a red shawl with purple floral patterns and red tassels. The woman has a surprised expression. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with more yellow flowers.

Please give me my tail.

Bring me some
nice, warm milk.

The magpie talks to the cow.

‘Cow, Cow,’ the magpie says.

‘Please give me some nice, warm milk for the farmer. Then I can have my tail.’

‘Bring me some long, green grass,’ says the cow. ‘Then you can have some milk.’



Bring me some long, green grass.



The magpie talks to the field.

‘Field, Field,’ the magpie says.

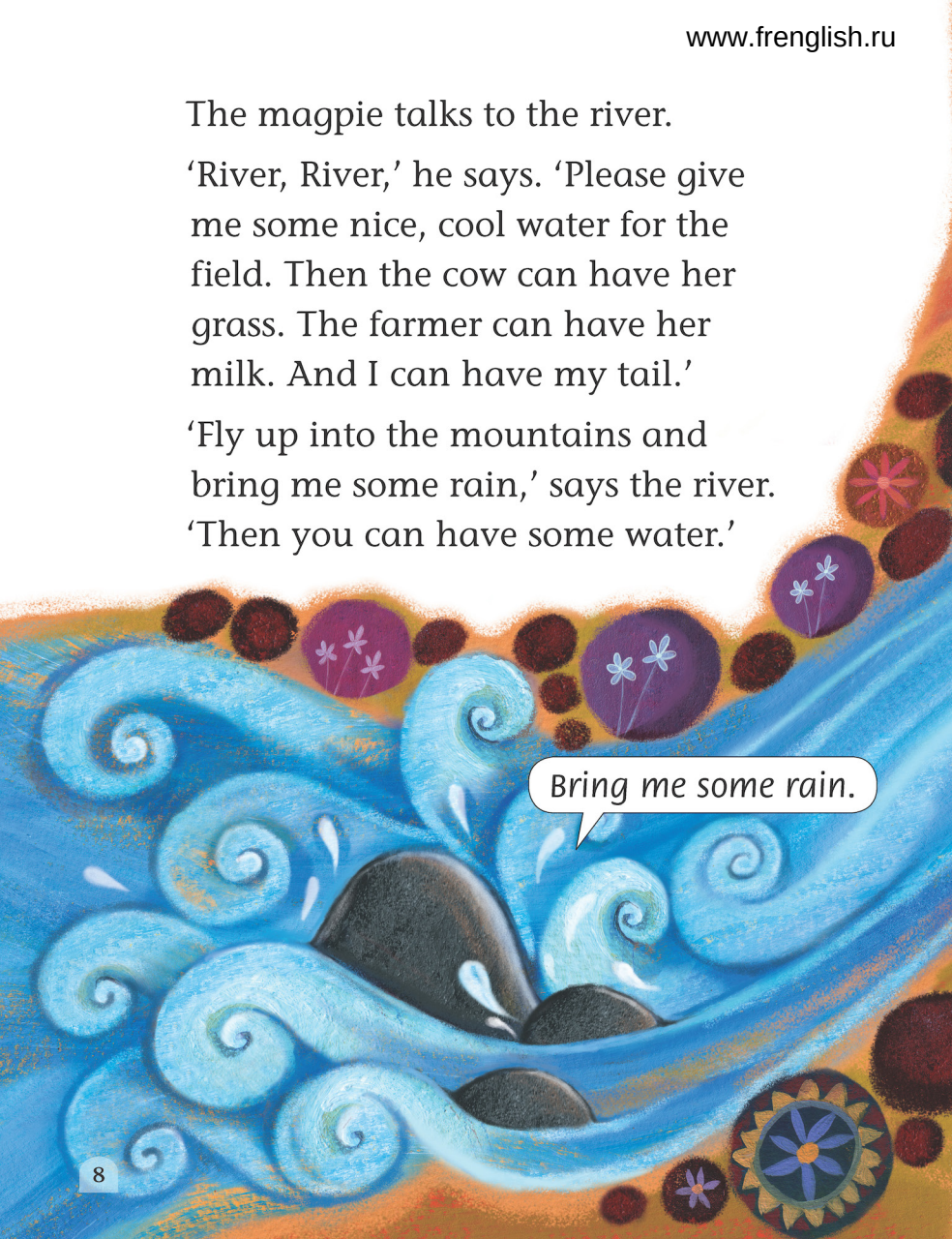
‘Please give me some long, green grass for the cow. Then the farmer can have her milk. And I can have my tail.’

‘Bring me some nice, cool water,’ says the field. ‘Then you can have some grass.’

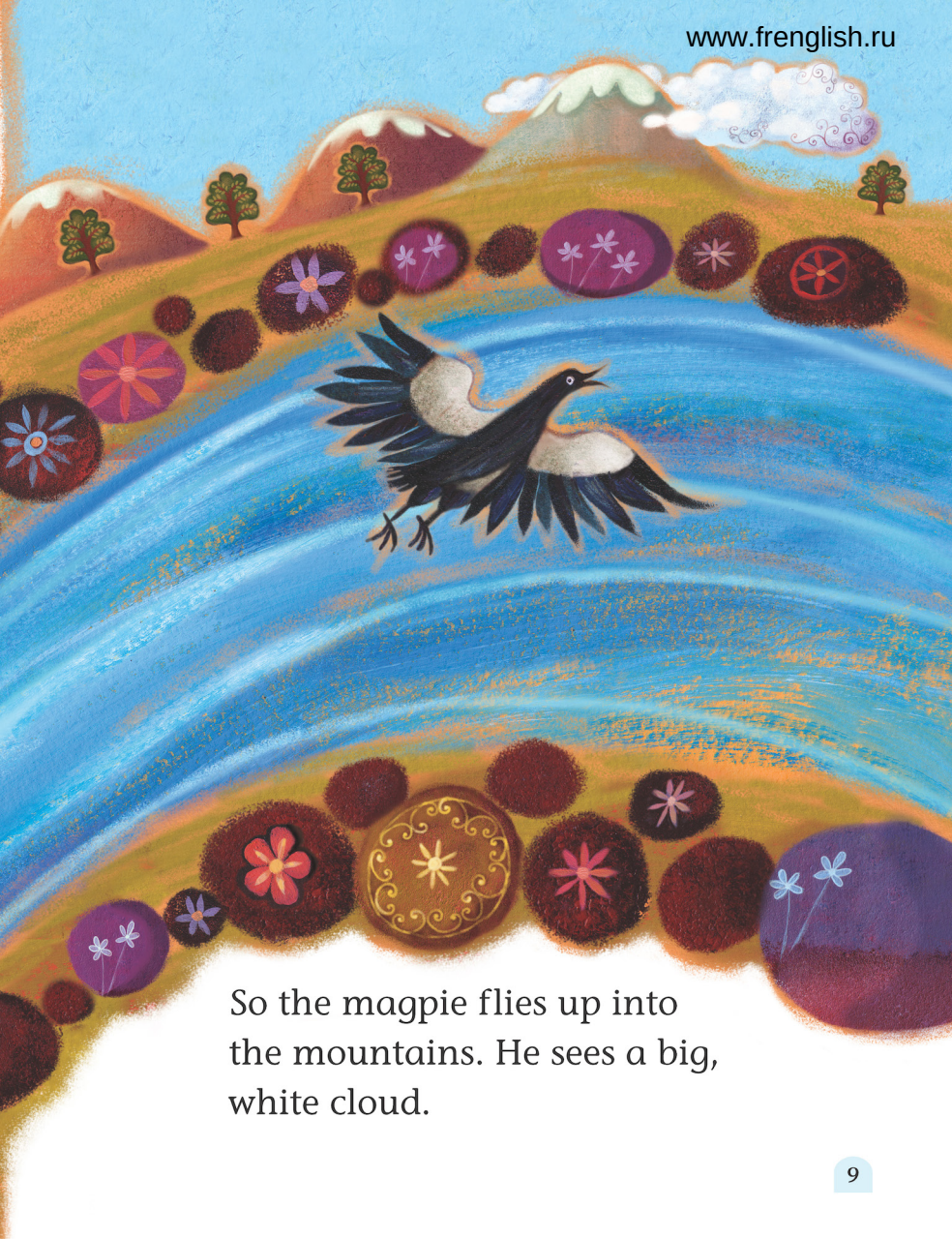
The magpie talks to the river.

‘River, River,’ he says. ‘Please give me some nice, cool water for the field. Then the cow can have her grass. The farmer can have her milk. And I can have my tail.’

‘Fly up into the mountains and bring me some rain,’ says the river.
‘Then you can have some water.’



Bring me some rain.



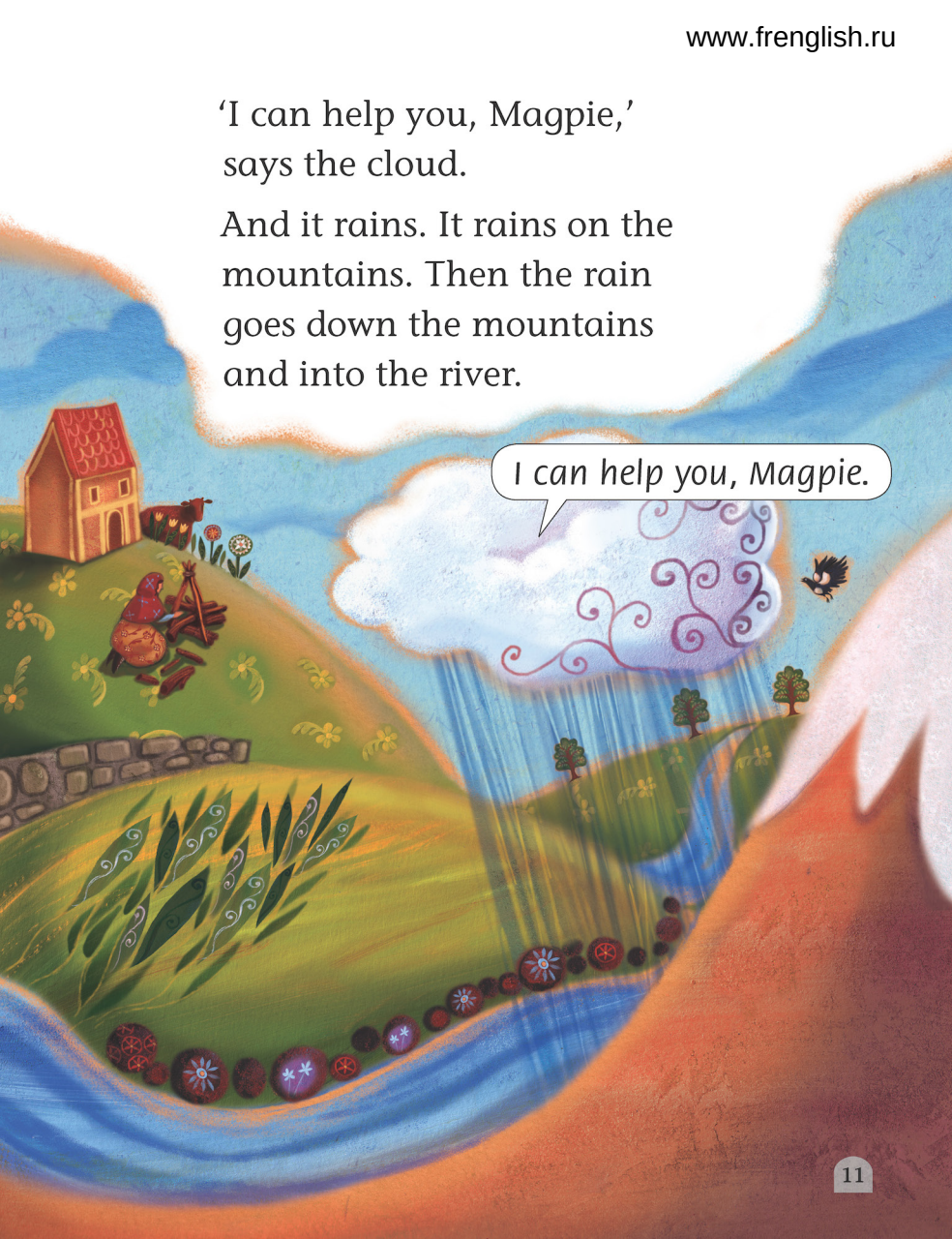
So the magpie flies up into
the mountains. He sees a big,
white cloud.



‘Cloud, Cloud,’ he says. ‘Please give me some rain for the river. Then the field can have its water. The cow can have her grass. The farmer can have her milk. And I can have my tail.’

‘I can help you, Magpie,’
says the cloud.

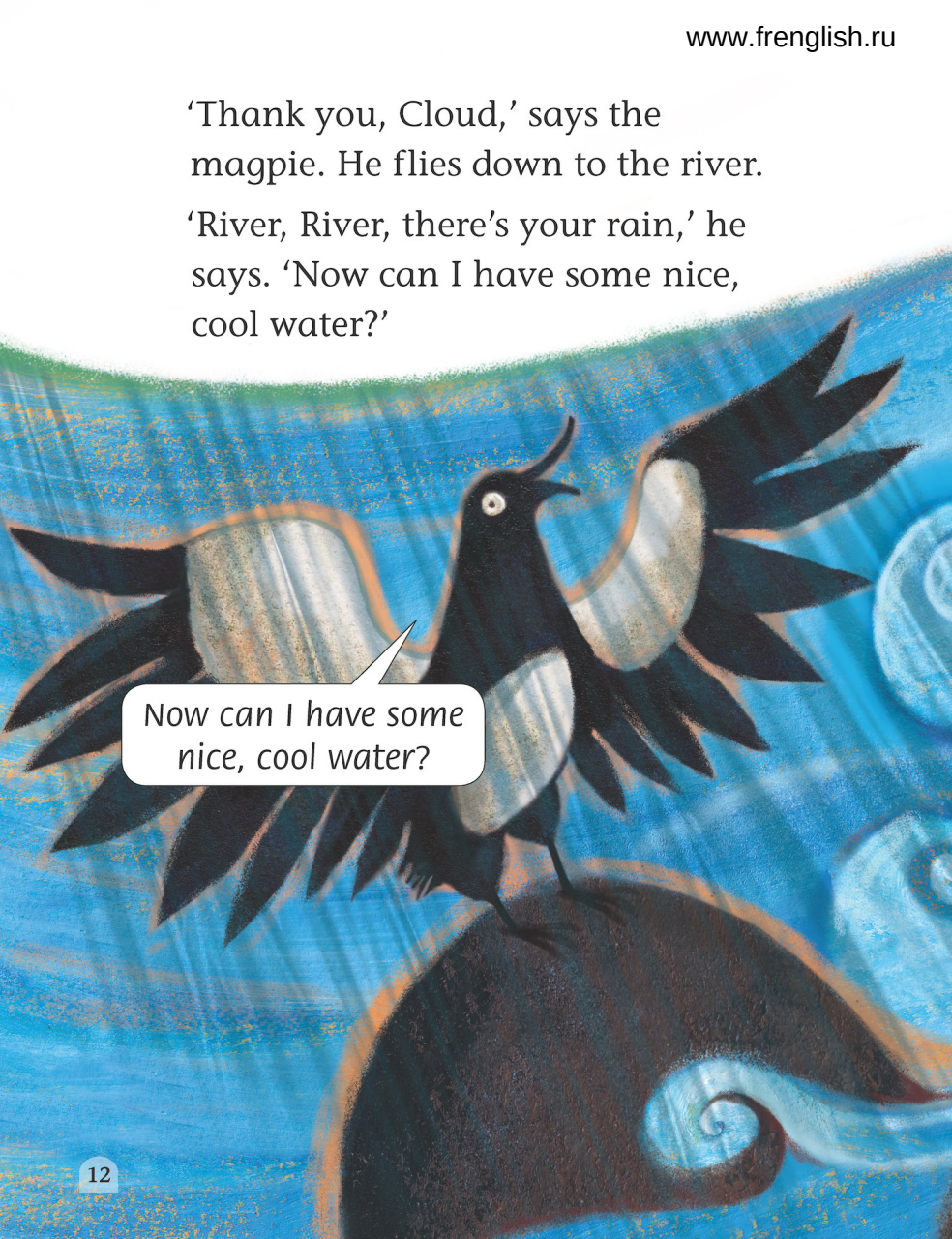
And it rains. It rains on the
mountains. Then the rain
goes down the mountains
and into the river.



I can help you, Magpie.

‘Thank you, Cloud,’ says the magpie. He flies down to the river.

‘River, River, there’s your rain,’ he says. ‘Now can I have some nice, cool water?’

A stylized illustration of a magpie with black and white feathers, wings spread wide, flying over a blue river. The river has white, swirling patterns representing rapids or eddies. The background is a mix of blue and green, suggesting a sky and distant land. The magpie is positioned in the center, facing slightly to the left but looking towards the viewer.

Now can I have some nice, cool water?

‘Yes, Magpie,’ says the river. ‘Here it is.’



‘Thank you, River,’ says the magpie.
He takes the water to the field.

‘Field, Field, here’s your water,’ he
says. ‘Now can I have some long,
green grass?’



Can I have some
long, green grass?

‘Yes, Magpie,’ says the field.
‘Here it is.’



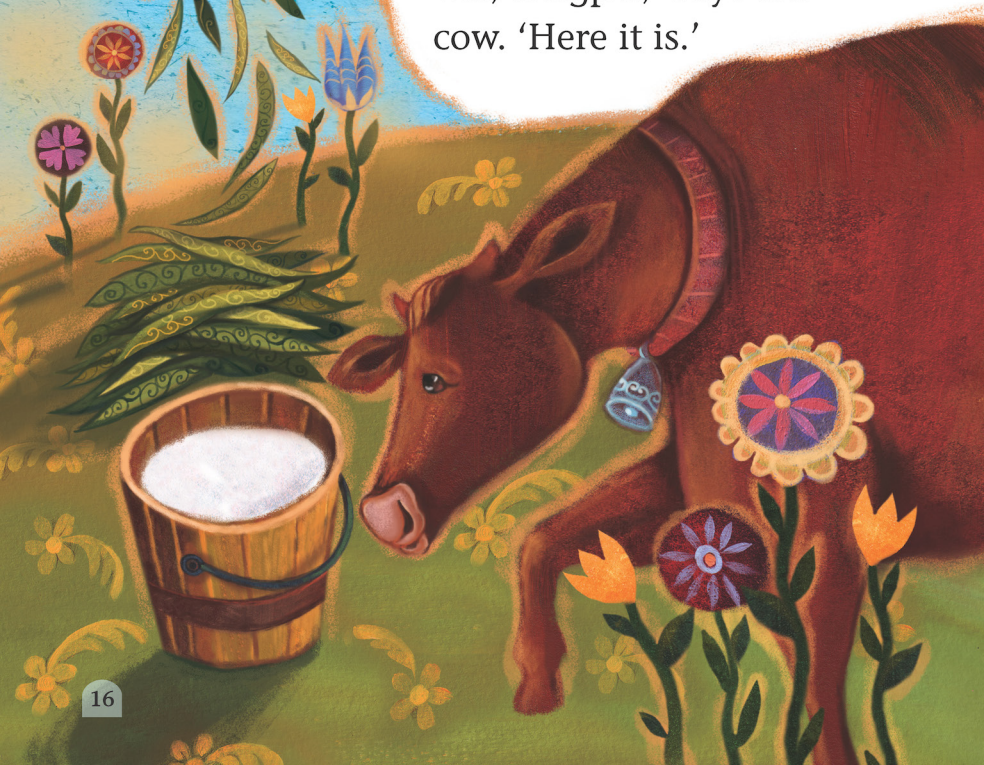
Here it is.

Here's
your grass.

'Thank you, Field,' says
the magpie. He takes
the grass to the cow.

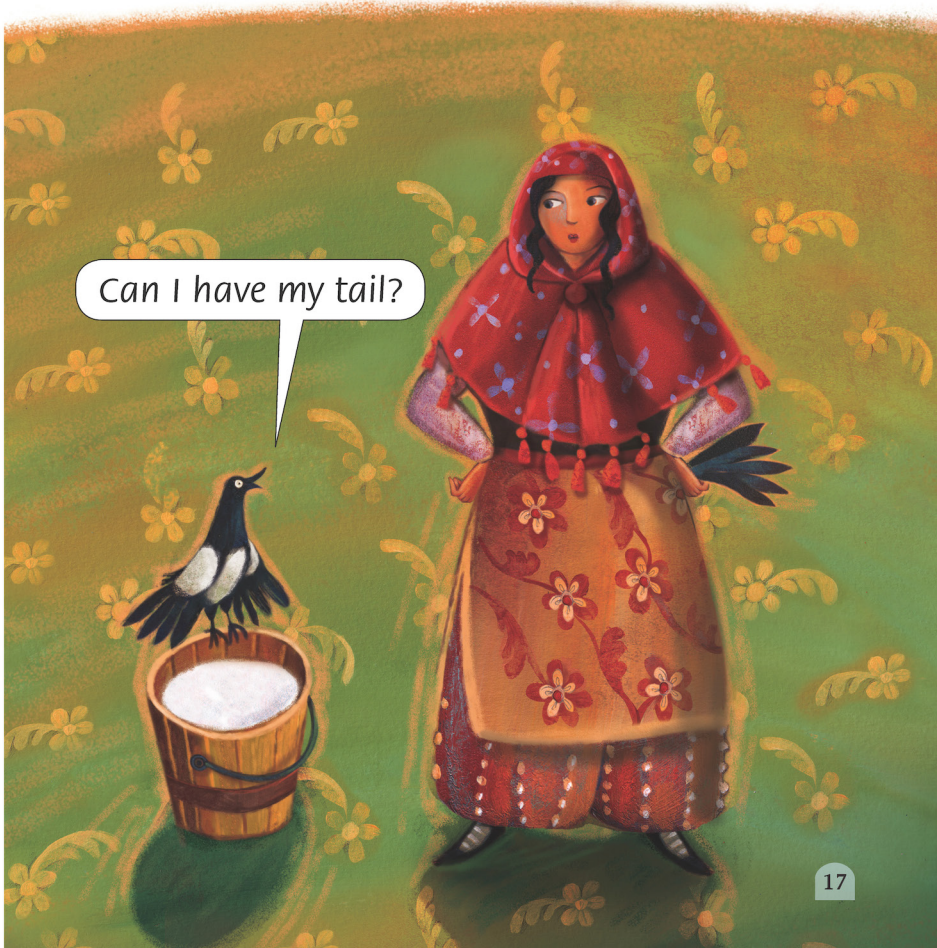
'Cow, Cow, here's your
grass,' he says. 'Now
can I have some nice,
warm milk?'

'Yes, Magpie,' says the
cow. 'Here it is.'



‘Thank you, Cow,’ says the magpie.
He takes the milk to the farmer.

‘Farmer, Farmer, here’s your milk,’
he says. ‘Now can I have my tail?’



‘Yes, Magpie,’ says
the farmer. ‘Here
it is.’

She puts on the
magpie’s tail, and
he flies away.



Here it is.



‘There,’ says the farmer. ‘Now I can make my cheese.’



Exercises

1 Join the words and pictures.

nice, cool

long, green

a big, white

nice, warm

a long, black

grass

cloud

tail

water

milk



2 Write the words.



Please give me some rain
for the river. Then
the _____ can have
its water. The _____
can have her grass. The
_____ can have her
milk. And _____
can have my tail.

3 Write the words and number the sentences 1–5.

catches flies down sees falls comes off

- ☐ The bucket _____ over.
- ☐ The magpie's tail _____.
- ☒ 1 The magpie _____ sees the milk.
- ☐ The farmer _____ the magpie's tail.
- ☐ The magpie _____ to the bucket.

4 Answer the questions.

- 1 Who is it? The farmer.
- 2 Does she have milk? _____
- 3 Does she have a fire? _____
- 4 Can she make cheese? _____

- 1 Who is it? _____
- 2 Does he have a tail? _____



Picture Dictionary

bring



come off



bucket



cool *It's cool.*



catch



cow



cheese



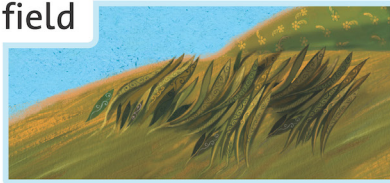
fall over



cloud



field



fire



mountains



fly



pull



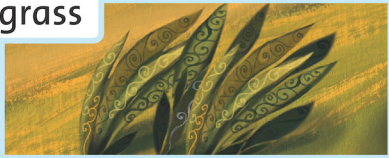
fly away



put on



grass



river



magpie



tail



milk



warm *It's warm.*



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- The Magic Cooking Pot
- The Magpie and the Milk
- Mansour and the Donkey
- Peach Boy
- The Princess and the Pea
- Rumpelstiltskin
- The Shoemaker and the Elves
- Three Billy-Goats

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- Big Baby Finn
- The Fisherman and his Wife
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Level 1

The Magpie and the Milk

Enjoy this tale from Turkey about a farmer,
the milk from her cow, and a magpie ...

A retelling of the classic story for learners of English

Retold by Rachel Bladon
Illustrated by Alida Massari

**Classic Tales – bringing the magic of traditional
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|--|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | Level 1: 100 headwords | | Level 4: 300 headwords |
| | Level 2: 150 headwords | | Level 5: 400 headwords |
| | Level 3: 200 headwords | | |

Word count for this story: 491

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