



Level 1

The Magic Cooking Pot



OXFORD



The Magic Cooking Pot

Retold by Sue Arengo
Illustrated by Virginia Allyn



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A little girl lives here.
She lives here with her
mother. They have no
money. And they're very hungry.

‘Oh, Mother!’ says the little girl.
‘I’m hungry, hungry, hungry!’
But there’s no food in the house.





I'm hungry!

It's cold.

'Oh, I'm hungry, hungry,
hungry!' cries the little girl.
'I want something to eat!'

The little girl sits down and cries.
But look! Who's this? It's an old
woman. An old, old woman.
'Don't cry!' she says.

Don't cry!



‘I must cry,’ says the little girl.

‘I’m hungry.’

‘Don’t cry,’ says the old woman.

‘Look! You can have this.’

‘What is it?’ says the little girl.

What is it?



‘It’s a magic cooking pot,’
says the old woman.

‘Cook, little pot, cook!’
says the old woman.

Cook, little pot, cook!



And the pot cooks. It cooks nice
hot porridge.



‘Oh!’ says the little girl.

‘Oh! Oh! Oh!’

‘Wait!’ says the old woman.

‘First the pot must stop.’

Then she says to the pot,

‘Stop, little pot, stop!’

The pot stops.

‘Now you can eat,’ says
the old woman.



It's delicious!

'It's very good!' says the little girl.

'It's delicious!'

'You can have this pot,' says the old woman. 'When you want to eat, you say, "Cook, little pot, cook!" And the pot cooks. Then say, "Stop, little pot, stop!" And you can eat the porridge.'

'Thank you!' says the little girl.

The little girl runs home.

‘Look, Mother! It’s a magic cooking pot!’



‘Cook, little pot, cook!’
says the little girl.

And the pot cooks. It
cooks nice hot porridge.

‘Oh,’ says the mother.

‘Oh! Oh! Oh!’



‘Wait, Mother!’ says the little girl.

‘Stop, little pot, stop!’ she says.

And the pot stops.

‘Now you can eat,’
says the little girl.

‘It’s very good,’ says
her mother. ‘It’s
delicious!’



The little girl and her mother eat porridge every day. They aren't hungry now. They have a magic cooking pot.

'You're a good little pot!' says the girl. 'You're a good little magic cooking pot!'

You're a good little pot!





One day the little girl goes out. She goes out to play.

‘See you later, Mother!’ she says.

The little girl’s out for a long time.

‘I’m hungry,’ says her mother.

‘I want some nice porridge.’

‘But what do I say?’ she says.
‘Oh yes! Cook, little pot, cook!’



The pot cooks. It cooks nice hot porridge.

‘Oh good!’ says the mother. But she doesn’t say, ‘Stop, little pot, stop!’

So the magic cooking pot cooks and cooks. It cooks more and more porridge.

‘Oh no!’ says the mother. ‘What do I say? Please stop, little pot! Please!’



But she doesn't say the right words. So the magic cooking pot doesn't stop.



‘Stop! Stop!’ says the mother. ‘Stop it now!’

But the pot doesn’t stop. It makes more and more and more porridge.

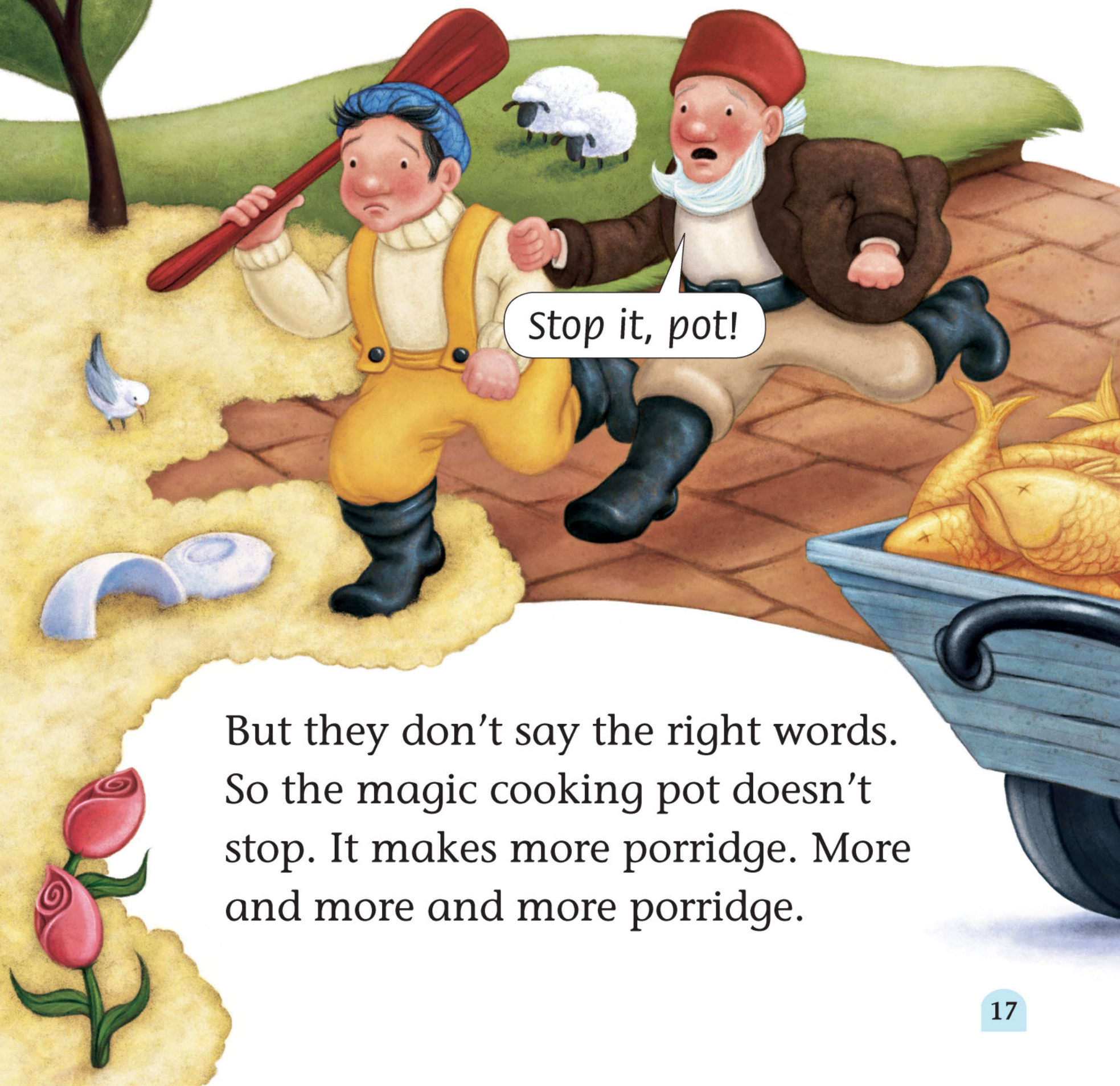
‘Oh no!’ says the mother. ‘Help!’



‘Help!’ says the mother. ‘I can’t stop this pot.’

Two men come to help her.

‘Stop it, pot!’ they say. ‘Stop it now!’



But they don’t say the right words. So the magic cooking pot doesn’t stop. It makes more porridge. More and more and more porridge.



Then the mother sees
the little girl.

‘Quick!’ she says. ‘Tell
this pot to stop!’

‘Stop, little pot, stop!’
says the girl.

And the pot stops. At
last the pot stops.

stop, little pot, stop!



'It's a good little pot,' says the girl.
'It does what you say. But you must
say the right words!'



Exercises

1 Put the words in the correct order.

1 magic It's pot cooking a.

It's a magic cooking pot.

2 nice It hot cooks porridge.

3 home The runs girl little.

4 out girl's long The little a time for.

5 pot a little It's good.

2 Answer the questions. Write Yes or No.



1 Is this the magic cooking pot?

Yes.

2 Does the pot cook porridge?

3 Is the porridge cold?

4 Can the mother stop the pot?

5 Does she say the right words?

3 Write the words and number the sentences 1–6.

goes out stops sees can't ~~cries~~ says

- ☐ The mother _____ the little girl.
- ☐ An old woman _____, 'You can have this magic cooking pot.'
- ☐ At last the pot _____.
- ☐ The girl's mother _____ stop the cooking pot.
- ☐ One day the little girl _____ to play.
- ☒ 1 A little girl is hungry. She sits down and cries.

4 What do they say? Write the words.

I'm hungry. Don't cry! ~~It's very good.~~ Stop it now!



Picture Dictionary

cold *She's cold.*



food



cook



girl



cry



go out



delicious *It's delicious.*



hot *It's hot.*



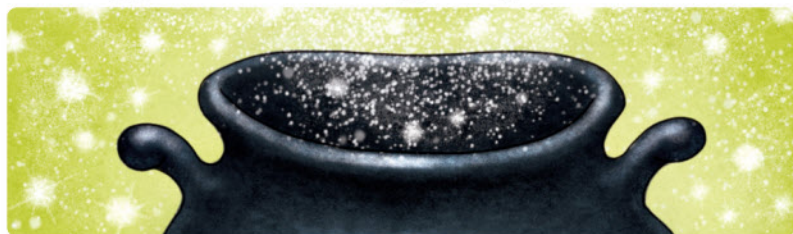
eat



hungry *She's hungry.*



magic *a magic pot*



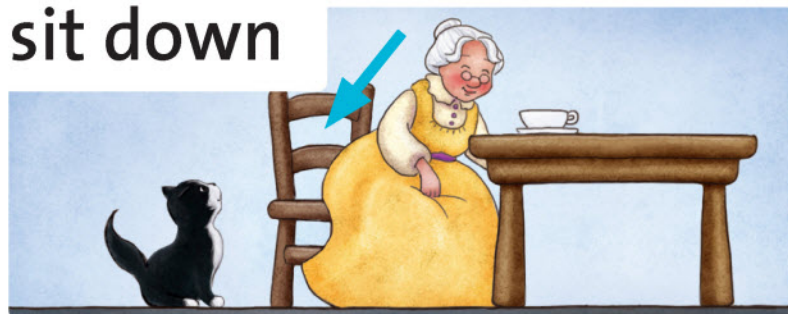
run



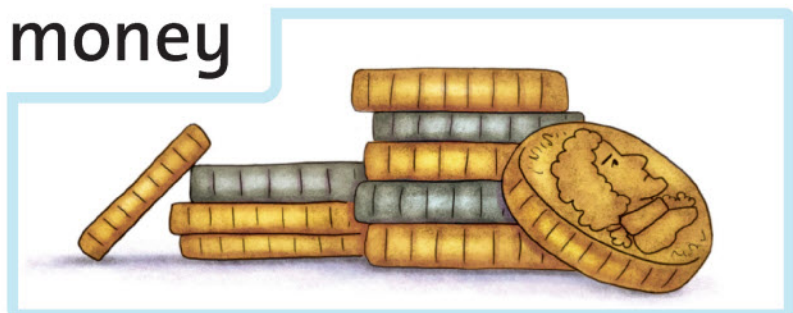
men



sit down



money



stop



play



wait



porridge



woman



pot



words



Classic Tales

Classic stories retold for learners of English – bringing the magic of traditional storytelling to the language classroom

Level 1: 100 headwords

- The Enormous Turnip
- The Little Red Hen
- Lownu Mends the Sky
- The Magic Cooking Pot
- Mansour and the Donkey
- Peach Boy
- The Princess and the Pea
- Rumpelstiltskin
- The Shoemaker and the Elves
- Three Billy-Goats

Level 2: 150 headwords

- Amrita and the Trees
- Big Baby Finn
- The Fisherman and his Wife
- The Gingerbread Man
- Jack and the Beanstalk
- Thumbelina
- The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse
- The Ugly Duckling

Level 3: 200 headwords

- Aladdin
- Goldilocks and the Three Bears
- The Little Mermaid
- Little Red Riding Hood

Level 4: 300 headwords

- Cinderella
- The Goose Girl
- Sleeping Beauty
- The Twelve Dancing Princesses

Level 5: 400 headwords

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Level 1

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Enjoy the tale of the hungry little girl, her mother, and the magic cooking pot.

A retelling of the classic story for learners of English

Retold by Sue Arengo
Illustrated by Virginia Allyn

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The stories are carefully graded at Levels 1–5 to provide easy and enjoyable reading. Beautiful illustrations on every page work closely with the text to help understanding. Each *Classic Tale* also includes activities related to the story, and a picture dictionary or glossary.

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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: 562

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