

First Read: The Lucky Coin

Note

As you read

- use context clues to analyze and determine the meanings of the vocabulary words and note unfamiliar vocabulary;
- ask questions about passages of the text that may be unclear or unresolved;
- identify key details and ideas and the connections among them;
- generate questions before, during, and after reading.

Read

Maggie did not believe in magic. She did not make wishes on shooting stars or search for four-leaf clovers. Whenever she had a dream, she worked hard to make it come true. When she wanted to make the basketball team, she practiced for two hours every day for a month. So when Maggie's grandpa brought back a lucky coin from a trip to Ireland, Maggie thought it was a joke.

"I have no doubt that your future will be bright," Grandpa said with a grin. "But if you ever find yourself in need of luck, this coin will do the trick. Wrap your hand around it tightly and make a wish. The coin will do the rest."

Maggie snorted, "Grandpa, you know I don't believe in stuff like that."

Grandpa just winked and insisted, "The coin is very powerful, so you have to promise me you will use it responsibly."

Maggie pocketed the coin, rolled her eyes, and thought, *A lucky coin. How **ridiculous!***

The next day Maggie's heart stopped when her teacher surprised the class with a quiz; she forgot to do the reading assignment. *I've never missed an assignment before. What am I going to do?* Maggie suddenly realized that the lucky coin was still in her pocket, so she pulled it out and held it close. *This is so silly, but what have I got to lose? I wish for a **miracle.***

Maggie took a deep breath and looked down at the quiz. The questions were not for last night's reading assignment at all! The quiz was about a story she read last week. *It's a miracle! The coin worked!*

The bell rang for lunch, and Maggie's stomach grumbled. *I know exactly what to wish for next: pizza.*

She held the coin tightly and made her wish. When she saw the menu in the cafeteria, she cheered. As she bit into her second slice of pepperoni pizza she thought, *I could get used to this.*

Maggie wished to be chosen as **captain** of the basketball team, and then she wished that the team would win the next game. She repeated the wish before every game, and soon she was leading the **undefeated** team into the championship.

Then one day, Maggie led the team on an outdoor run, and the coin bounced out of her pocket somewhere along the trail. She tried to retrace her steps, but it was too late. The coin was gone.

On the morning of the championship game, Maggie couldn't seem to do anything right. She didn't sink a single basket during the first half of the game. Her teammates were also struggling without Maggie's usual **confidence** to guide them. It looked like the team was going to lose. The referee blew his whistle, announcing a timeout. Maggie slumped on the bench, ignoring her coach's peptalk. *I didn't used to believe in magic, and now I can't do anything without it. I wish I'd never heard of that lucky coin!*

"Hey, Maggie! Are you listening?"

Maggie snapped to attention and saw her coach waving his hand in front of her face.

"We need some of your usual magic, or we don't have a chance. Can we count on you?"

A second whistle called the team back to the basketball court. Within seconds, the ball was in Maggie's hands. She took a deep breath, dribbled skillfully toward the basket, and took a shot.

Annotations
