

The Wishing Ring

Approach: Independent

Level: Year 4 and year 8

Resources: Audio recording on videotape of the start of a story.

Questions/instructions

You are going to hear the start of a story called The Wishing Ring. You will hear most of the story — but not its ending.

After you have heard the start of the story, I will ask you to make up your own ending to the story. If you already know this story, you should try to think of your own ending — not the one you already know.

Start the video now

The Wishing Ring — a folk tale

Once upon a time there was a poor farmer whose life was very hard. He was resting at his work one day when an old witch walked past. She stopped and asked, "Why do you work so hard when it brings so little reward? I'll tell you what to do. Walk straight ahead until you get to a great pine tree in the forest. Chop it down and your luck will be made."

The farmer took his axe and started out. After two days he found the pine tree. He chopped at its mighty trunk, and when the tree finally came down, there fell from its highest tip a great bird's nest with two eggs in it.

The eggs rolled on to the ground and broke. Out of one came an eagle, out of the other fell a gold ring. Then the eagle grew and grew until he was half as big as the farmer himself. The eagle tried his wings and as he flew up he called out, "You have rescued me. Take the ring that fell from the egg. Its a wishing ring! Put it on your finger as you speak your wish out loud, and the wish will surely come true. But remember there is only one wish with the ring. When it has come true it will have lost its power and will be like any other ring. So think hard before you make your wish so that you don't regret it later." Then the eagle flew away.

Now I want you to write an ending for the story. Don't write the whole story — just the ending. Here is some paper for doing your writing now.

% responses
y4 y8

Hand out answer sheets.

Continuity:

<i>follows appropriately from reading</i>		
good	43	73
some	34	17
does not follow storyline	23	10

Achieving closure: *rounding out the story*

very cohesive, satisfying ending	4	17
quite cohesive, most elements pulled together	18	39
some sense of completion	44	32
story not completed	34	12

Creativity/originality:

highly creative	6	21
good level of creativity	26	39
some creative effort	41	33
low creativity	27	7

OVERALL SCORE:

6-8	16	45
3-5	48	43
0-2	36	12

Commentary

Year 8 students had considerably higher success than year 4 students. About 30 percent more year 8 than year 4 students achieved high scores on each attribute. Forty-five percent of year 8 students achieved a strong ending (total score 6-8) compared to 16 percent of year 4 students.

HIGH RANGE

The eagle flew away. I was standing in the middle of the forest holding the ring. I thought to myself, 'What should I wish for??' I will save this wishing ring until I know exactly what I want. A week passed. I still had no idea what to wish for. Then it came to me in the middle of the night. I would wish for world peace and happiness. I got up to go and look for the ring. I checked my top draw where I last left it. My heart stopped. It wasn't there! I frantically searched my whole house till 5am the next morning. I sat down and cried. I still

hadn't found it anywhere. I cried out aloud 'Oh I wish I had the ring on my finger right now!' I felt something cold on my finger. I looked down. The ring! I had found it! Now I can make my wish! 'I wish for world peace and happiness!' nothing happened. I went outside. I saw people fighting. It hadn't worked! I had wasted my wish on nothing! I learnt my lesson, not to be so clumsy and forgetful. (YEAR 8)

HIGH RANGE

The man went home and thought about the wish. He came up with I wish I had a better job and I wish I had good clothes. But the best one he came up with was I wish I could talk to animals. He put the ring on. Wished and the ring suddenly turned brown and ended up as ashes on the ground. He went outside and asked the donkey to plow the field and it did. He got animals to do all his jobs and all he did was sit back and rest. One day the chief animal said you have taken advantage of us. Making us work you must pay. Before the farmer could get his gun the birds had pecked out his eyes and the horse was plowing him into the ground. Then the witch came and took all his riches. She left with a Te he he he. (YEAR 8)

Soon after the eagle flew away. The farmer went home wondering what he could wish for. When he got back he thought of something "The golden touch" he said. So he closed his eyes and made his wish.

The next morning the farmer woke and went into town. He brought a watermelon but it turned to gold. He helped a little girl up when she fell over and she turned to gold. The farmer thought "what have I done". The farmer ran as fast as he could before the crowd had seen what he had done. Now people say he turned him self into gold and others say he died. The moral of the story is think carefully before you make a wish you never know it might come true. (YEAR 4)

The farmer watched the eagle's dark, large shape glide away, and picked up the ring. The stone set in the ring glowed enigmatically.

The farmer smiled shrewdly and whispered: "I want to have 3 more wishes".

Suddenly, a dark spirit with wings came down from the sky, red eyes flashing angrily.

"You have a greedy mind," it said in a firm tone. "If you are shameless enough to use this wish now, you will use it for your last wish again and again. You shall be punished for your greedy conspiracy."

The spirit aimed a strike of lightning at the farmer. The farmer turned into a cockroach and scuttled away. The spirit vanished. Had the farmer been less greedy, he would have turned into a leader. (YEAR 8)

MID RANGE

As the bird flew away the man had a smile on his face saying how pleased he was. As time went by the man had a wish and knew what to say I wish that I will live in a flash house and that I will live happy with my family. As time went by again and again his wish had finally come true, but wait! there was something missing, something inside him was really hurt and knew that he wanted it badly. His family gone and he was never as happy as he was before. The man went back to the woods and yelled out bird! bird! have you ring back it not worth anything. So after he said what he wanted to say he ran off crying his heart out. But at least he still had his home and the forest. THE END! (YEAR 8)

Then the man thought carefully and then he wished. I wish I wish this ring would make more wishes for me. This is a voice side your wish has come true. Then he wished more. I wish I wish I was rich. your wish has come true. One day the man was so rich that his house was full of gold. Then one day the ring was not gold. It was white. That meant the strength was gone there was only 1 wish left. So if you see a white ring make a wish. The end. (YEAR 4)

He thought hard, two days had gone past and he still couldn't think of what to wish for. The farmer was very clever so he didn't just wish for anything.

He thought and he thought but he still couldn't think of what to wish for. Then a week later it hit him he would wish to have good luck for the rest of his living days.

As soon as he had made his wish there came a knock on his cottage door, he opened his door and there on his door step was a brown bag a seed and a note that said.

IN THE BROWN BAG IS SOME MAGIC DUST
SPRINKLE IT ON YOUR DOOR STEP AND
PLANT THE MAGIC BEAN. (YEAR 8)

After 2 days the farmer returned home to his hut in the forest. He thought hard about his wish and finally he made his wish and it came true, his wish was to be the richest man in the world! the next day he woke up in a beautiful, glittering gold mansion!!!

He ran around the mansion and looked in all the rooms, and in one room he saw a big pile of gold right in front of him. He pulled the ring out of his pocket and kissed the ring. The end. (YEAR 4)