



The Fisherman and the Turtle

By Eric A. Kimmel

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In the tale of “The Fisherman and the Turtle,” set during the time of the Aztecs, a fisherman catches a magical turtle who grants wishes in exchange for being released. The fisherman’s wife nags her husband to ask for increasingly extravagant wishes, and in the end learns that greed is not the road to happiness.

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The Fisherman and the Turtle By Eric A. Kimmel Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 3—In ancient Mexico, a fisherman catches a green sea turtle in his net. The turtle is one of the seven sons of Opochtli, god of the sea, and will grant the fisherman a wish in exchange for his freedom. The fisherman's wife is dissatisfied with her husband's wish for a good catch and sends him back to wish for first wealth and then power. Unhappy with both, she wants to become a god. Paddling out into the black water of an angry sea, the fisherman calls out one final time to the turtle, who asks what the man wants for himself and grants it. He returns to his hut to find his wife a stone statue, like the other Aztec gods.

Aviles uses acrylics and liquid watercolor, as well as motifs from Aztec art, in the brightly patterned illustrations. She changes the placid, blue-green sea in the opening pages to a truly frightful place at the end. Kimmel reminds readers that "the great turtle still swims in the sea" and asks what they might wish for. Pair this story with Margaret Read MacDonald's *The Old Woman Who Lived in a Vinegar Bottle* (August House, 1997) or a version of the Grimm brothers' "The Fisherman and His Wife" for an interesting exploration of the same folktale in different cultures.—Mary Jean Smith, Southside Elementary School, Lebanon, TN
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From [Booklist](#)

In an adaptation of "The Fisherman and His Wife," set during the time of the Aztecs, a green sea turtle is caught by a fisherman and grants wishes in exchange for being released. The fisherman wishes for a day's catch of four fish; his wife demands that he wish for wealth and a stone house to replace their hut. For a time they are happy—but then the wife decides she wants to become a god. Her greed results in her being turned into a stone statue, just like the other gods in Tenochtitlán. In addition to elements drawn from the familiar brothers Grimm tale, Kimmel incorporates details of "The Crown of Sang Nila Utama," a story from Singapore with a similar theme. The vivid colors of the acrylic-and-watercolor illustrations and pages bordered with motifs from Aztec art give the tale an authentic flavor. A good choice to introduce children to a culture underrepresented in picture books. Grades K-2. --Randall Enos

About the Author

Author Eric A. Kimmel is a master storyteller who has adapted, retold, or written more than eighty tales. He visits schools all over the world, entertaining children with his banjo while telling them stories from different cultures. He lives in Portland, Oregon, with his wife, Doris.

Illustrator Martha Aviles lives with her family in Mexico City. She has illustrated *Amelia's Show-and-Tell Fiesta* and is working on the illustrations for a new story about Quinceañera.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Cedric Baker:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or even goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They may be reading whatever they have because their hobby is reading a book. How about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you'll have this The Fisherman and the Turtle.

Larry Murray:

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the extra time or they will get lot of stress from both day to day life and work. So , if we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, the actual book you have read will be The Fisherman and the Turtle.

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