



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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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:

James Cansler:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or maybe goal; it means that book has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. These are reading whatever they consider because their hobby is usually reading a book. Consider the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, individual feel need book after they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will need this The Fisherman and the Turtle.

Ryan Moore:

This book untitled The Fisherman and the Turtle to be one of several books this best seller in this year, that's because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this book in the book retailer or you can order it through online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, since you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason for you to past this publication from your list.

Jack Caldwell:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or all their friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book may be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the reserve untitled The Fisherman and the Turtle can be great book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Wanda Riddle:

Is it anyone who having spare time after that spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something new? This The Fisherman and the Turtle can be the answer, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your free time by reading in this fresh era is common not a nerd activity. So what these guides have than the others?

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