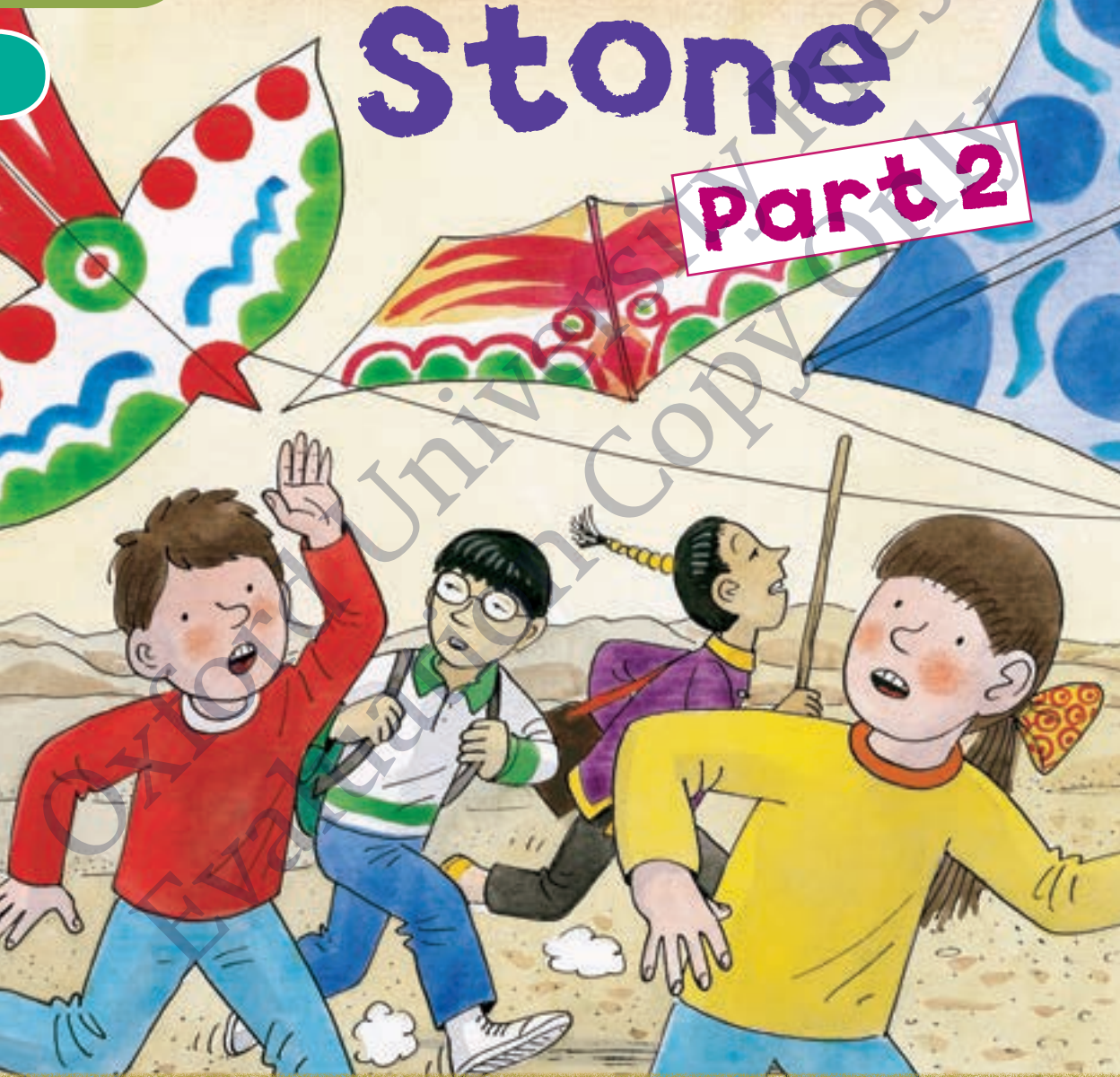


The Riddle Stone

Part 2





Written by Roderick Hunt
Illustrated by Alex Brychta

BEFORE READING

Talk together

- Look at the cover and read the title together. Talk about what happened in Part I of *The Riddle Stone*.
- Remind your child that Dad found a stone with Chinese writing on it and it is in Hong's rucksack.
- Look through the book and talk about the pictures.

About the words in this book

- Your child will probably be able to read most of the words in this book. Encourage your child to sound out and blend any challenging words, such as those below. If necessary, model the blending or read the words for your child.

flier mountain answer
tired wolves



DURING READING

Enjoy the story together.
If your child needs support to read the story:

- Remind your child to blend unfamiliar words from left to right.
- If a word is still too tricky, simply say the whole word for your child.
- Re-read sentences to focus on their meaning where necessary.



See the inside back cover
for more ideas.



Have you read Part 1?

The Goblin King looked at the children. His small eyes glinted and he snapped his long, thin fingers.

“How do you want to die?” he asked.



“We want to die of old age,” said Hong.

“Grrr! That is the right answer,” said the Goblin King. “So I must let you go.”

He opened the door of the cage.



“Brilliant!” said Chip. “But how did you know the right answer?”

“I don’t know,” said Hong. “I just did.”

“Let’s find the next riddle,” said Ty.



“The goblins still have the magic key,” said Biff. “We must get it back.”

“Give us back our key,” said Chip.

“No,” said a goblin. “We won’t.”



“Give it back!” shouted Chip.

“Make us!” called the Goblins.

Hong had an idea. He spoke to the Goblin King.



“We will ask you a riddle,” Hong said.
“You must give us back the key if you
can’t answer it.”

“All right,” said the Goblin King. “What
is the riddle?”



Hong wrote in the sand,
 $1 + 1 = 6$.

“Make this work by drawing a straight line,” he said.

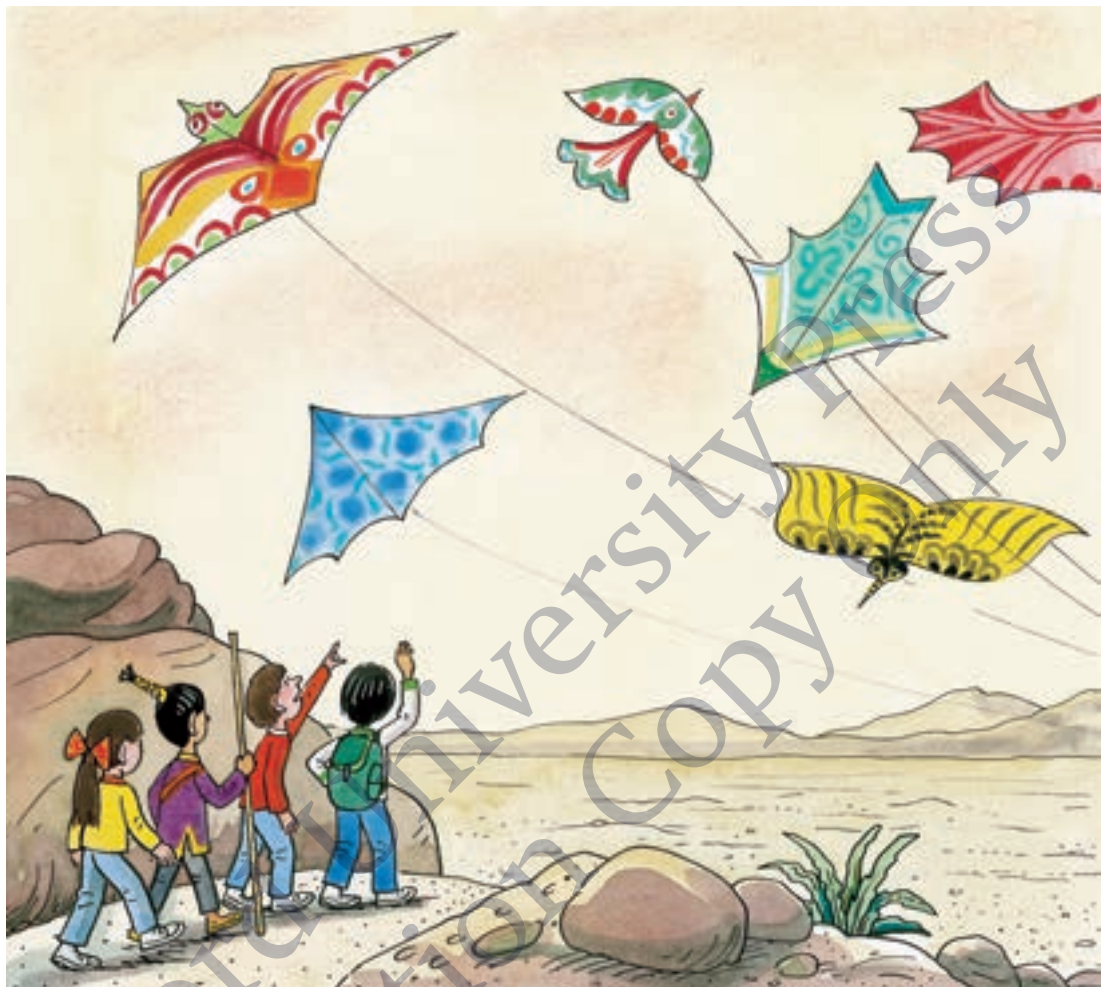
The goblins scratched their heads. At last they said, “We can’t do it.”



Hong put a line on the 'plus'.

"One, and one, and four add up to six!" said Hong

"Very clever," said the Goblin King and he gave Biff the key.



The children went on. At last, they came to a flat desert.

There were strange shapes in the sky.

Suddenly, the shapes flew down and whizzed over the children's heads.



“Ouch! That one hit me,” said Ty.

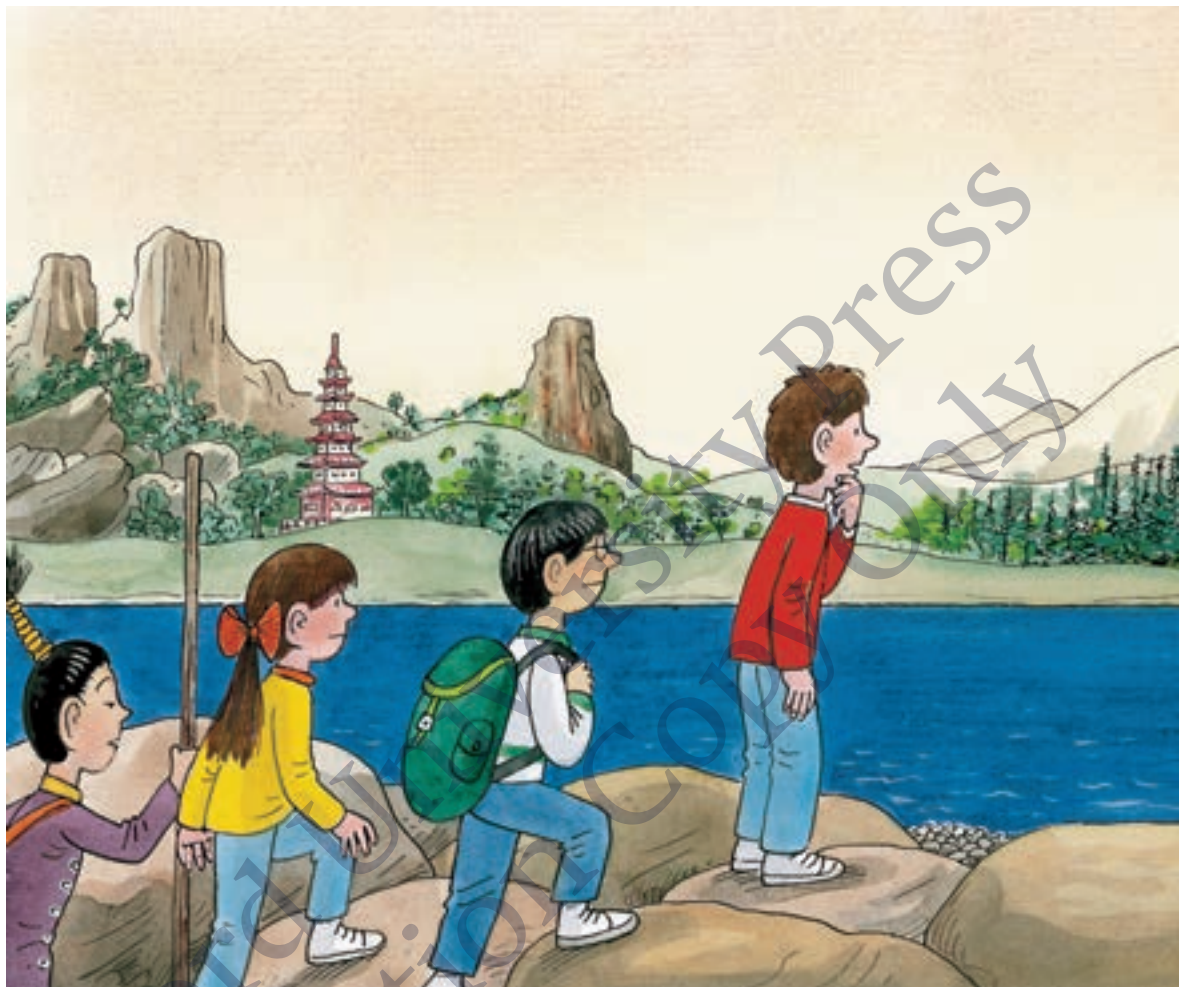
The flying shapes were kites. The kites dived at the children.

“What is the answer to this riddle?” shouted the kite flier.



“I can be cracked, I can be played, I can be told, I can be made. What am I?”

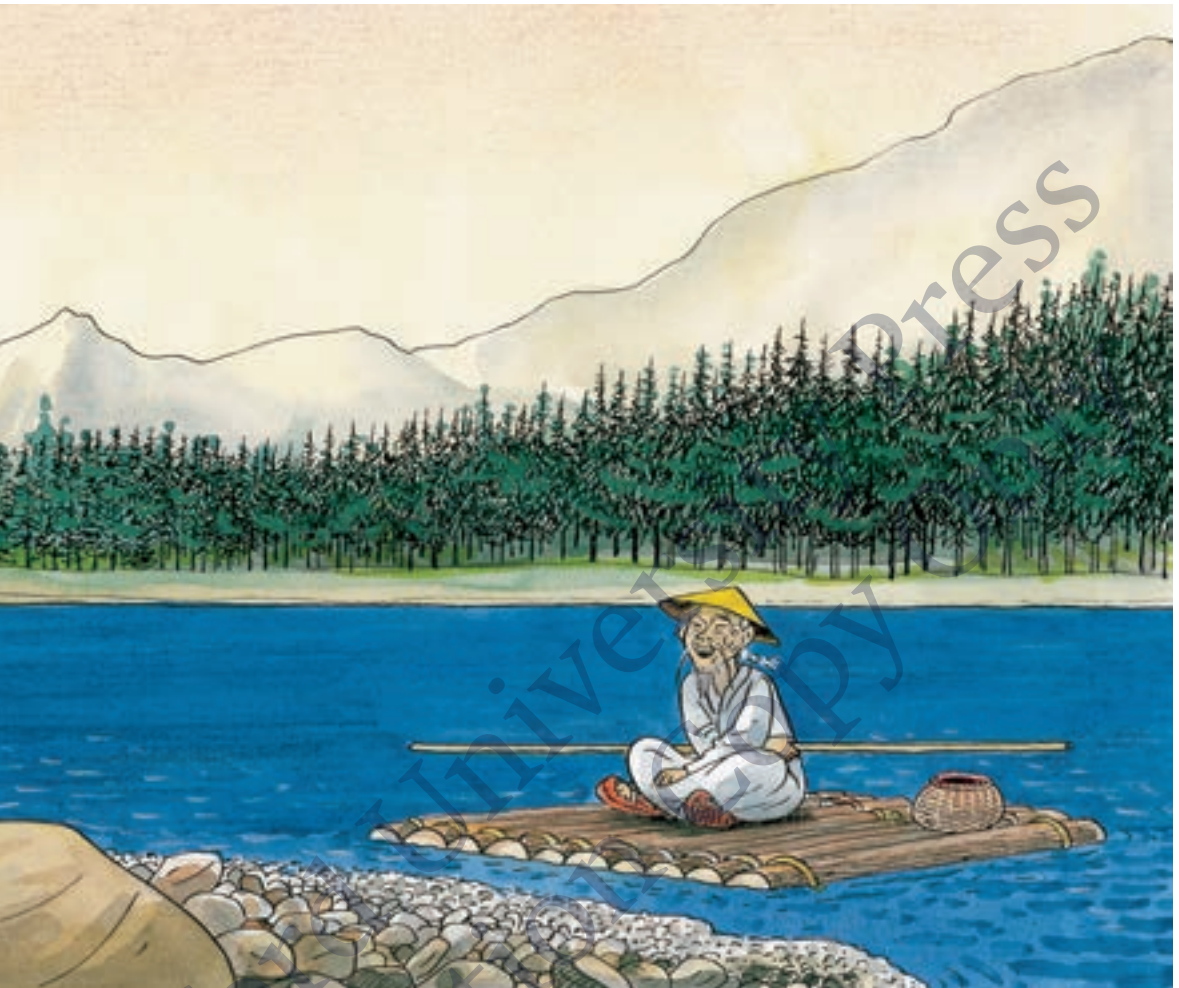
“I know this one,” said Hong. “The answer is a joke.”



The kite flier let them pass, but next they came to a wide river.

“We can never cross this,” said Chip.
“It’s too deep and dangerous.”

Then they saw an old man on a raft.



“I will take you across,” said the old man. “But first answer this riddle. I have seven children. Half of them are boys. How can this be?”



“I know the answer,” said Hong. “All your children are boys.”

“That is right,” said the old man. “I will take you across the river.”



“How *do* you know the answer to all the riddles?” Ty asked Hong.

“I don’t know,” said Hong. “The answers just come to me.”



The children came to a dark, gloomy forest. The trees were bent and twisted.

“What a scary place,” said Biff. “I can see eyes looking at us.”



Suddenly, wolves sprang out of the trees. They had red eyes and long, sharp, white teeth.

“They’re after us,” yelled Chip. “Run!”



The children ran fast, but the wolves were faster.

“Quick!” yelled Biff. “Climb a tree.”

The children climbed quickly, but Hong was a bit slow. A wolf sprang up at him.



The wolf snapped at Hong. It sank its teeth into his bag and pulled it off his back.
“Help!” yelled Hong.



Then a strange woman came out of the trees. The wolves ran up to her. The Wolf Woman told the wolves to sit. She told the children to climb down.



The Wolf Woman picked up Hong's bag, but she gave it to Ty.

"Answer this riddle," she said. "It lives half its life. It dies half its life. It dances to no music. It drinks with no mouth."



This time, Ty knew the answer. “That’s easy,” he said. “It’s a tree.”

“Good,” said the Wolf Woman. “The next riddle is at Riddle Mountain. No one has ever got it right.”



The children went on. Then Biff said,
“Hong has known the answers to all the
riddles, but not the last one. Why?”

“I don’t know,” said Hong.

“It’s strange,” said Biff.



By now they were at Riddle Mountain.
At the top was a cave.

“The last riddle will be up there,” said
Ty. “Come on!”

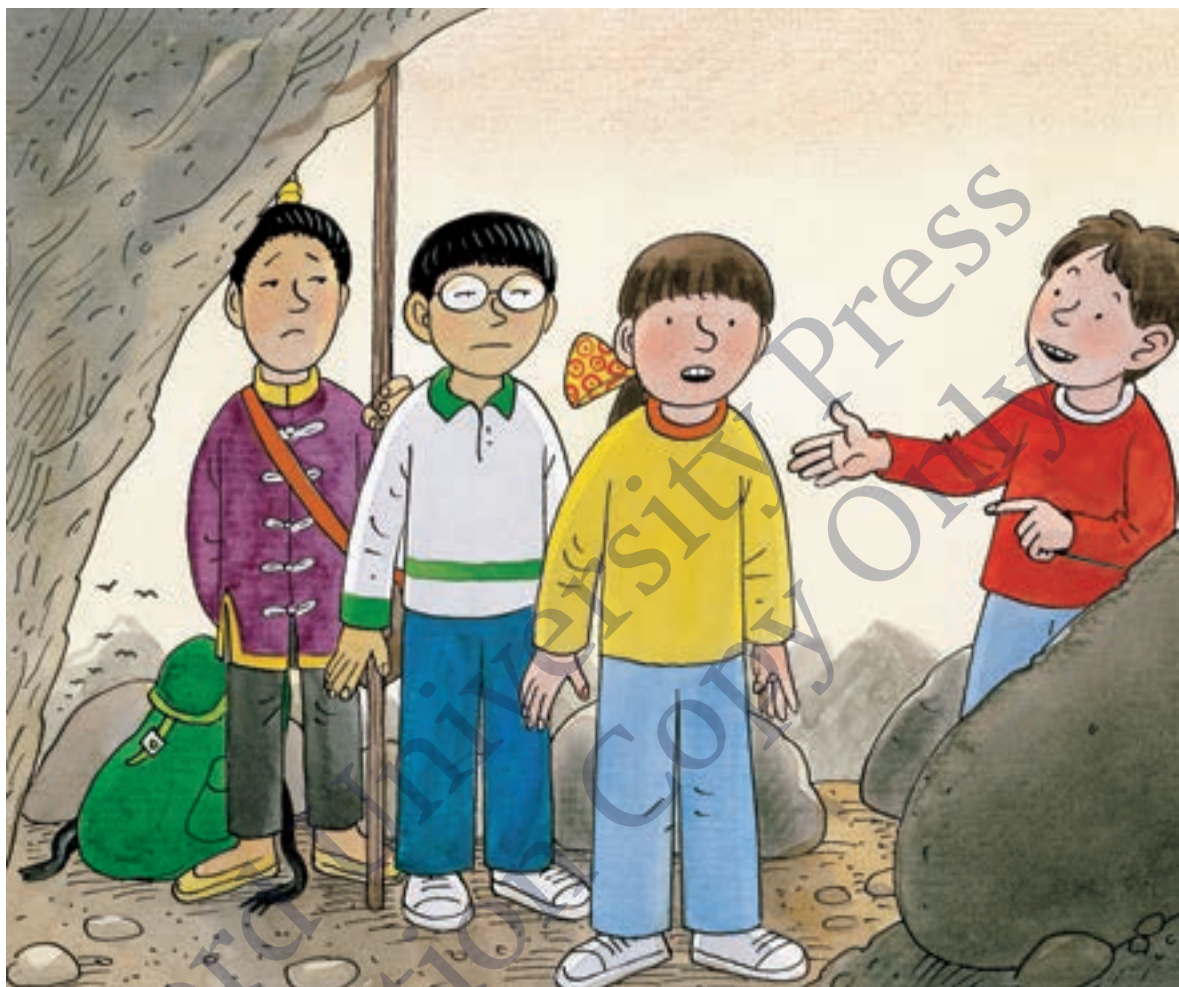


They climbed up to the cave.

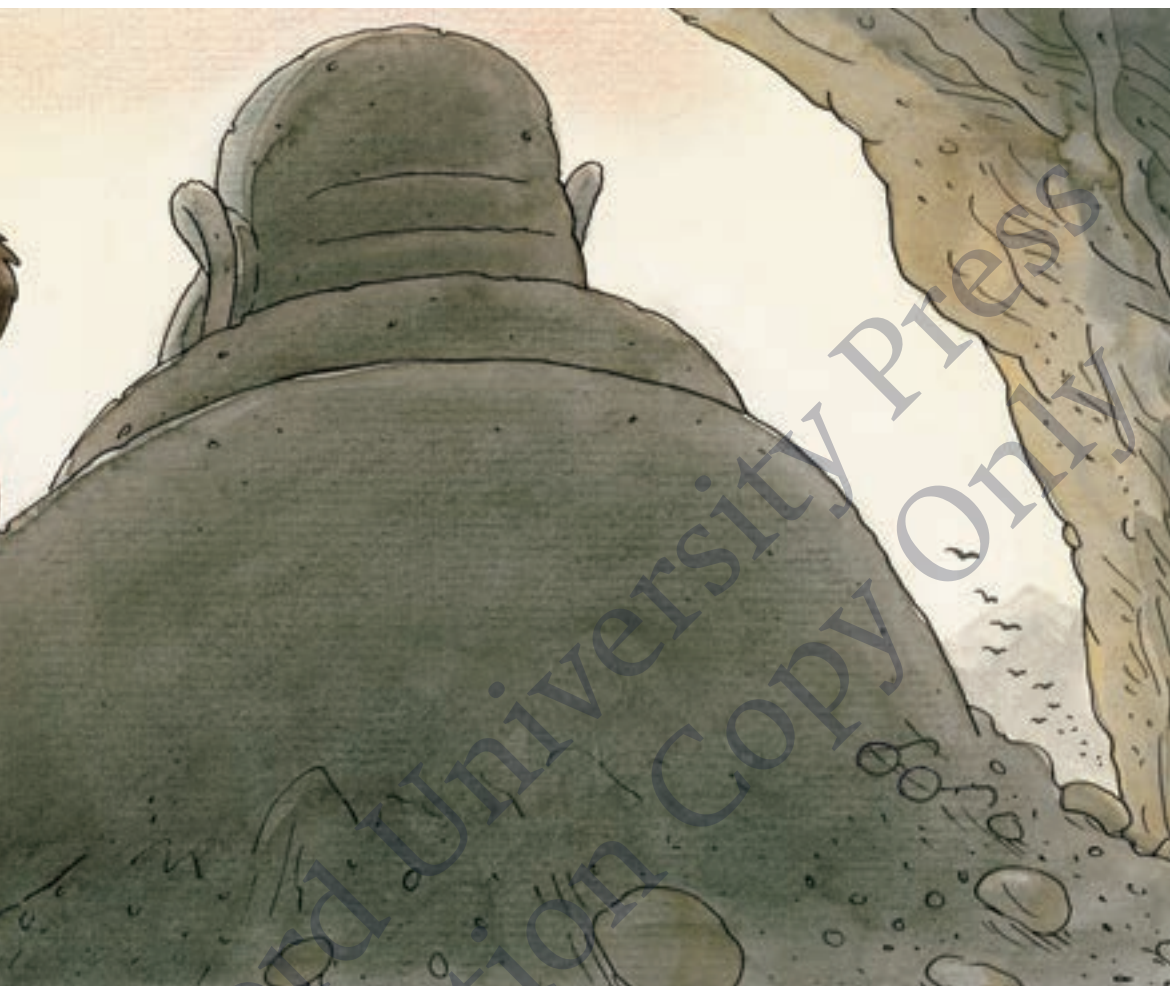
“What a climb!” said Chip. “I’m tired.”

“Let’s have a rest,” said Ty.

The children sat down. Ty took off Hong’s bag.



Suddenly, the ground began to shake.
A stone statue rose up out of the earth.
The statue opened its hand and spoke.
“Who answers this riddle, will be the
Riddle Maker!” it said.



“This is the riddle,” said the statue.
“If the answer I give is ‘yes’, but what I
mean is ‘no’, then what is the question?”
Everyone looked at Hong.



“I don’t know the answer,” said Hong.

“Neither do I,” said Ty sadly.

“We’ve failed,” said Biff.

“Wait!” said Chip. “I have an idea!”



“Where is that stone with the Chinese writing?” he asked.

“It’s in my bag,” said Hong.

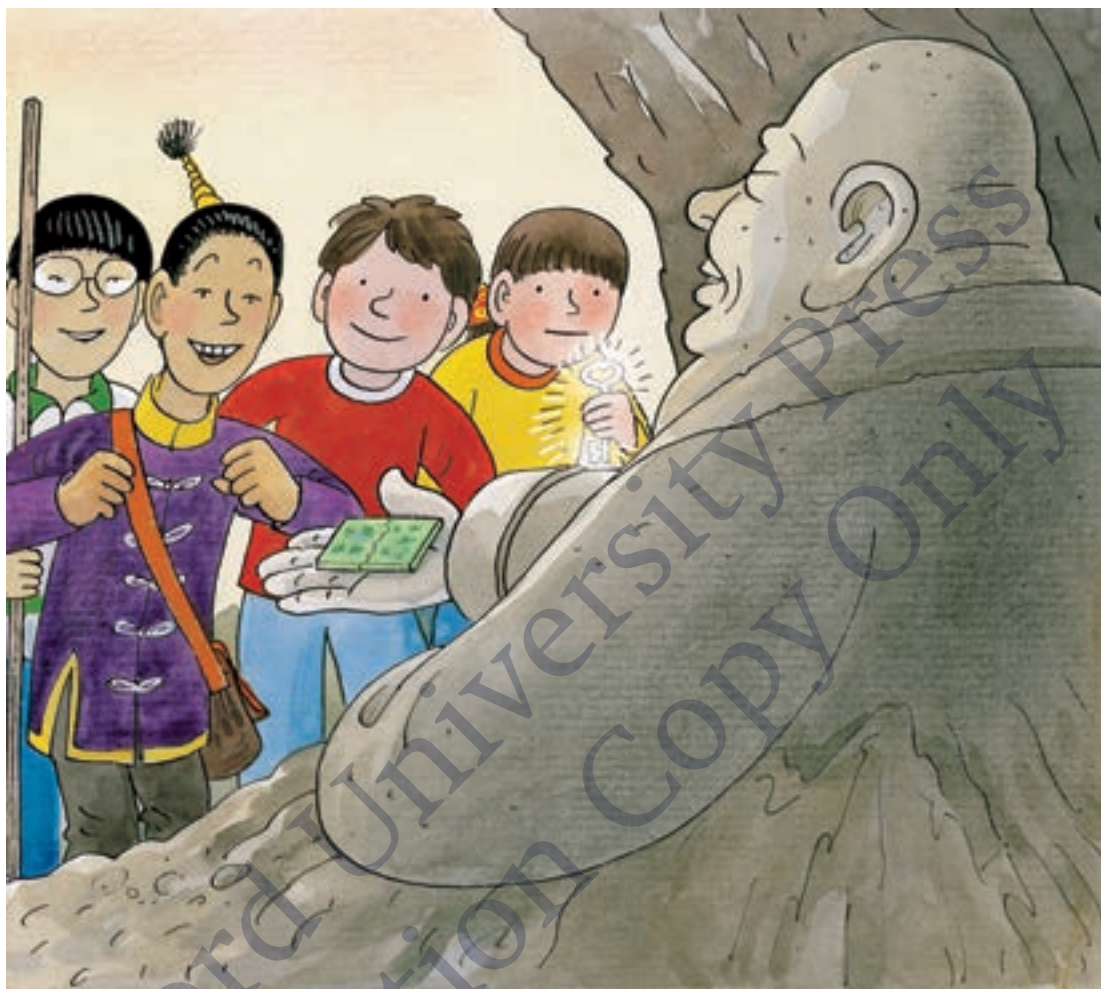
“Ty knew the Wolf Woman’s riddle and he had Hong’s bag,” said Biff.



“Maybe whoever has the stone can answer riddles,” said Chip.

Ty took the stone out of the bag.

“I know the answer to the question,” he said. “It is ‘Do you mind?’”



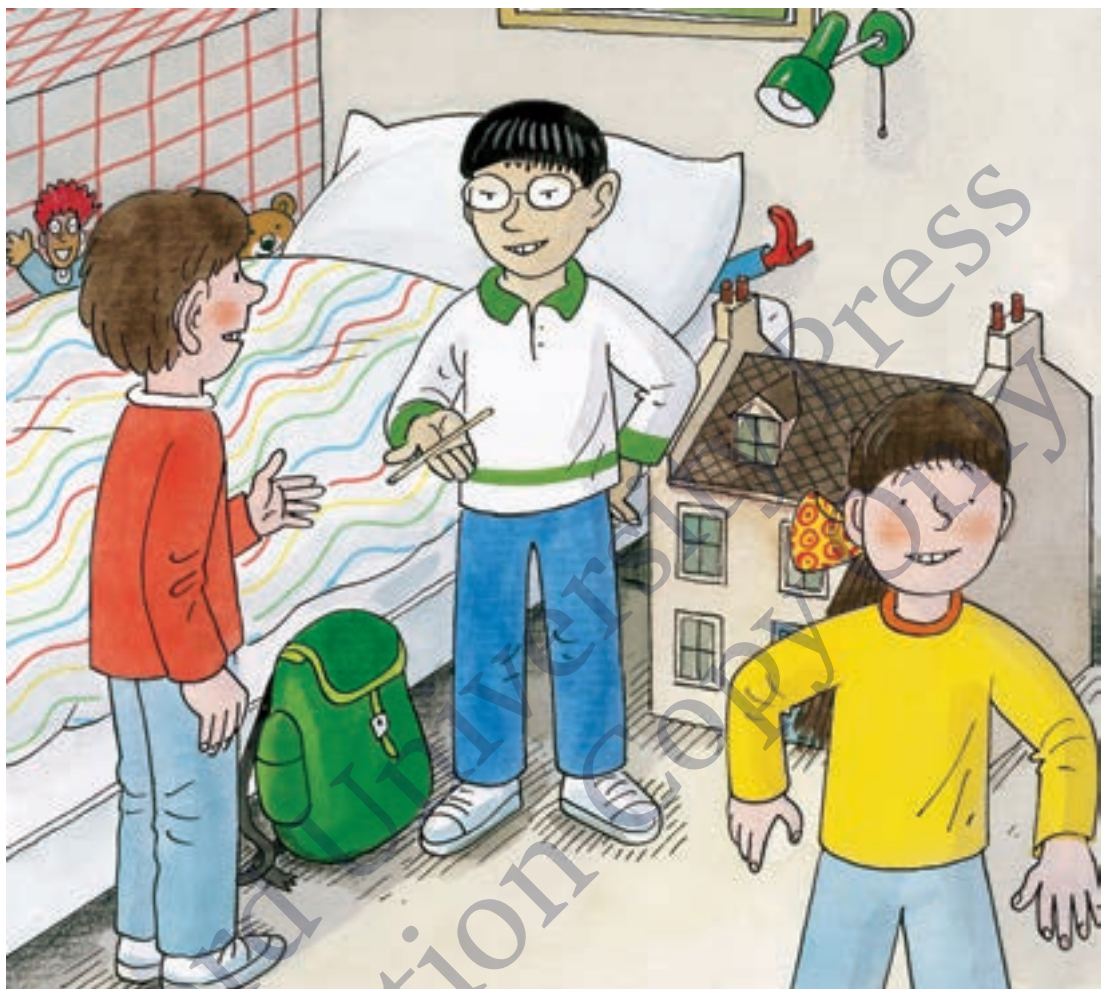
Ty put the stone in the statue's hand.

"It is the right answer," said the statue.

"You are the new Riddle Maker."

Just then the magic key began to glow.

The adventure was over.



“So we knew the answer all along,” said Chip. “It was on the stone.”

“Well, I didn’t want to be the Riddle Maker,” said Hong. “Did you?”

“No,” said Biff. “And I never want to hear another riddle.”

AFTER READING

- Look back through the riddles and discuss any that your child is unsure of.
- Re-read page 32. Ask: *Why didn't Hong and Biff want to be the Riddle Maker?*
- On page 7 point to the word *scratched*. Ask your child to think of other words beginning with **scr**.

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the hardest riddle of all?



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