

Elena's Wish

by Claire Tan
illustrated by Nancy Cote



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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BOSTON

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🔊 Elena liked her town. She liked her house. She liked going to school with her friends. Mr. Gomez, the man who worked at the market, always smiled at her. Elena even liked the dogs on her street. She knew all their names. Elena did not want to move.



There was a playground in Elena's town. In the playground there was a pond, and swings to sit on. Elena liked the playground, too. Elena liked everything about her town.

Elena and her friend Marisa were in the playground. Elena said, "Marisa, my parents are **planning** to move. Everything in the new town will be different. I will not have friends there. I will not have any fun."



🔊 Marisa said, “Don’t be sad. Maybe it will be okay.”

“No,” Elena said. “I know I will be lonely there without you.”

🔊 “We can make wishes,” said Marisa.

“Does that really work?” Elena asked.

“We will see,” answered Marisa.



🔊 Elena and Marisa walked to the fountain in the park. Marisa said, “People say that you can wish on this fountain. You must throw in a coin and make a wish. Just **copy** me!”

🔊 Marisa took out a coin. She threw the coin into the fountain.

Elena threw a coin into the fountain.

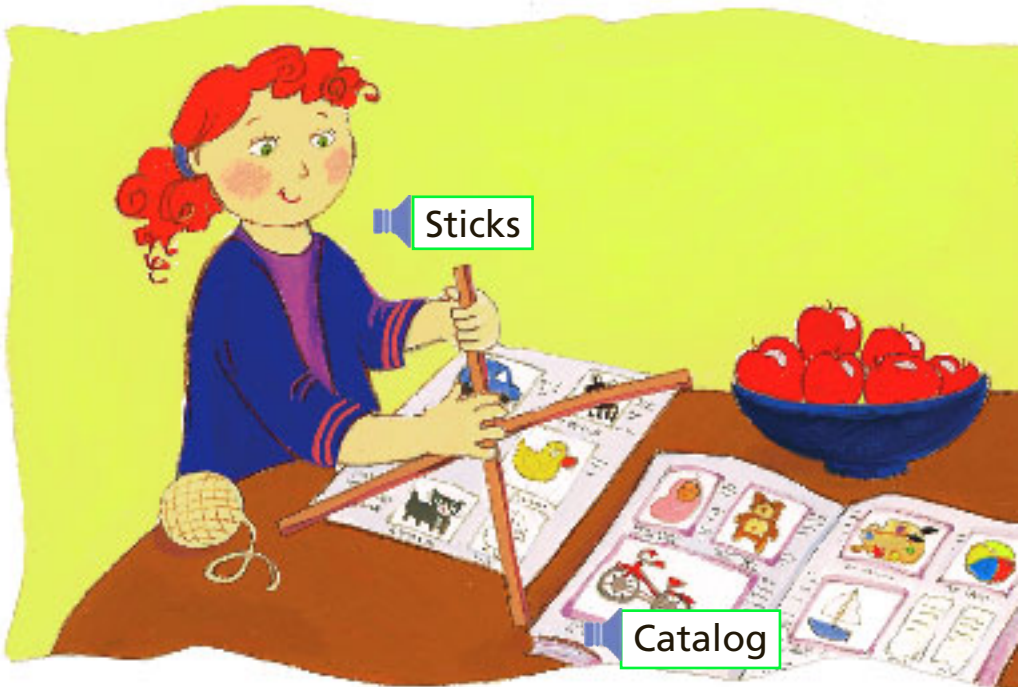
Then she said, **seriously**, “I never want to move. Please let my parents say we can stay!”



🔊 Elena's wish did not come true. The next day, her parents still talked about the move.

Elena looked for Marisa after school. She said, "My first wish did not come true!"

🔊 Marisa said, "I know. We will make a kite. You can write your wish on a piece of paper. We will tie your wish to the kite. When we fly the kite, your wish will fall. Then it will come true."



🔊 “What will we use to make the kite?” Elena asked.

“I have some catalog books. We can use the pages from the catalogs,” said Marisa.

“All right!” Elena said.

🔊 Elena and Marisa used sticks and catalog pages to make a kite.

“Write your wish on this piece of paper, Elena,” said Marisa. “I will use a **knot** to tie it to the kite.”



“Shall I tell you what my wish is?”
asked Elena.

“I have already **guessed** it!” said Marisa.

The next day, Elena and Marisa walked to the park. They lifted the kite into the air. The wind blew the kite higher and higher. The kite string pulled **heavily** in Elena’s hand. Soon the girls saw the paper wish fall to the ground.



But Elena's wish did not come true. The next day, her parents still talked about the move.

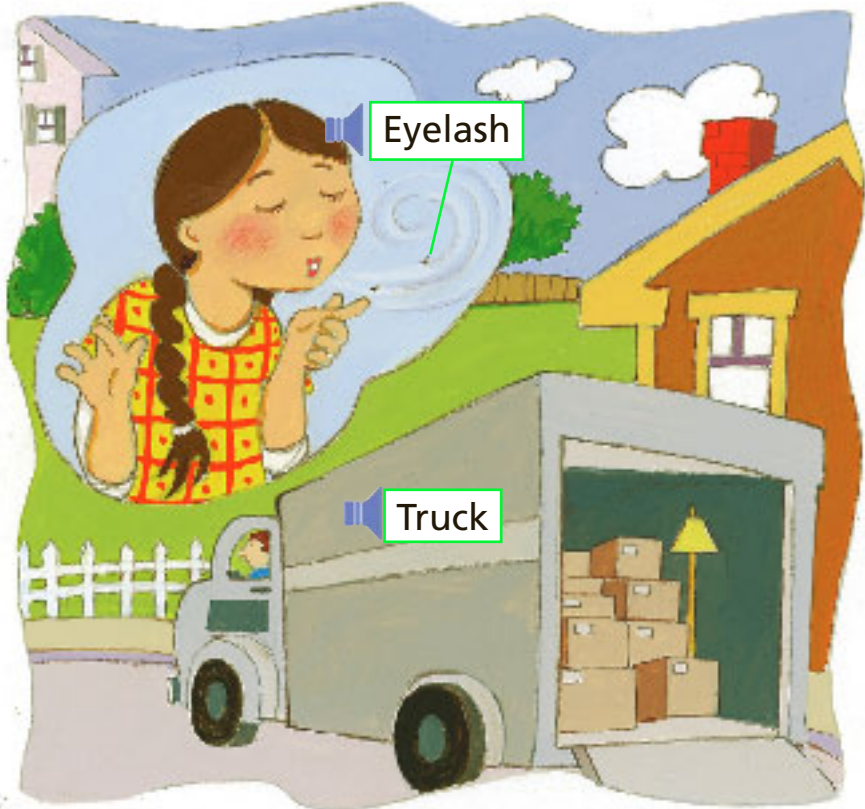
Then it was Elena's birthday. She had a party with a birthday cake. "Make a wish and blow out your candles, Elena!" everyone said.

Elena wished and wished. She wished to stay in her town.

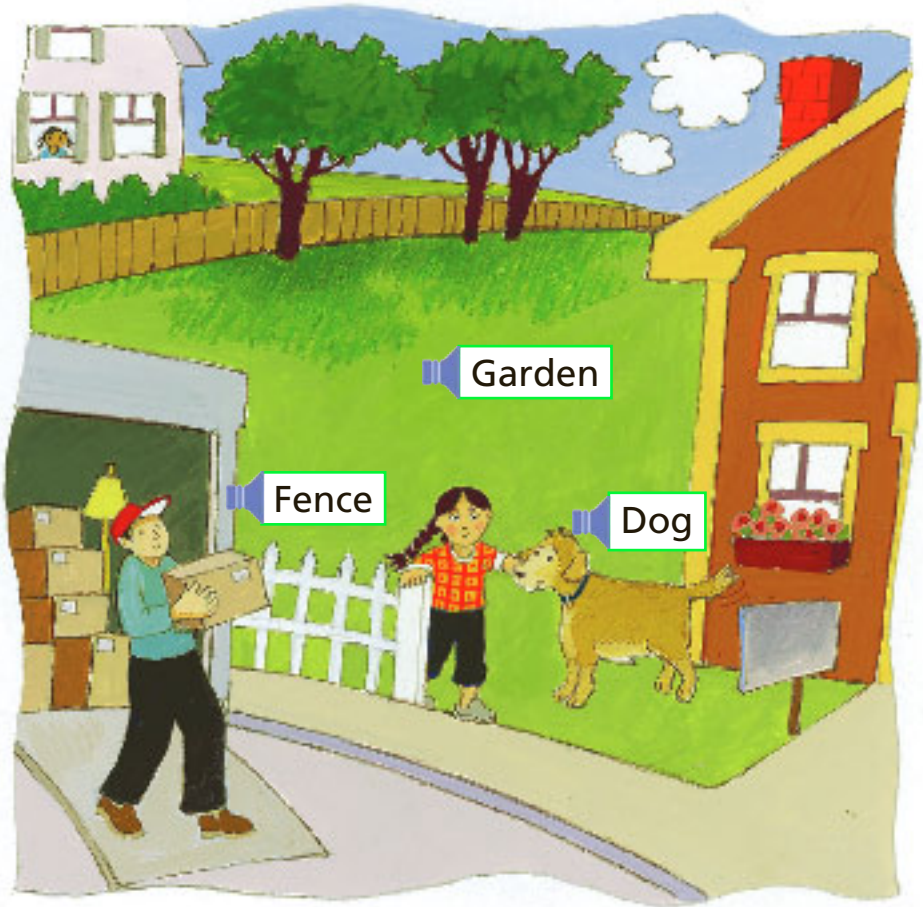


Two eyelashes dropped from Elena's eye. "People say you can wish on eyelashes," Elena said to herself.

Elena blew the eyelashes into the air and made one wish for each eyelash. But her wishes did not come true. On moving day, Elena had to go to the new town.



🔊 Elena looked at her new house. It was nice and new. The house had a big garden, too. There was a dog at the house next door. The dog ran up to the fence and wagged its tail. “Hello,” said Elena. “What is your name?”



🔊 Elena and her mother walked around their new town. There was a swimming pool. There was a field with kids playing ball. Elena looked at the market. The man who worked there smiled at Elena. And when Elena got home, something very nice happened.



🔊 A girl walked out of the house next door. She smiled at Elena and said, “Hi! This is my dog. His name is Oscar. I’m Geena.”

“I’m Elena,” said Elena.



🔊 Geena said, “I am so happy you are here. I wished for a new friend. Now my wish is coming true!”

Elena smiled. She said, “I wished for a nice town. My wish is coming true, too!”



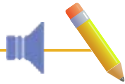
Responding



TARGET SKILL Understanding

Characters What kind of wishes did Elena make? Copy the chart. Fill in details from the story that tell about Elena's wishes.

Kind of wish	What Elena wished for	What happened?
coin in fountain	?	?



Write About It

Text to Self Think of a time when something you wished for came true, and a time when something you wished for did not come true. Write a few sentences comparing and contrasting these times.



TARGET VOCABULARY

answered

copy

guessed

heavily

knot

lonely

planning

seriously



TARGET SKILL **Understanding**

Characters Tell more about the characters.



TARGET STRATEGY **Question** Ask

questions about what you are reading.



GENRE Realistic fiction is a story that could happen in real life.

Level: J

DRA: 18

Genre:

Realistic Fiction

Strategy:

Question

Skill:

Understanding Characters

Word Count: 708

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