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Fresh Fish Sold Here

by Angel Flores

Before You Read

Before you read "Fresh Fish Sold Here," study the words below. Make sure you know what each word means. This will help you understand the story.

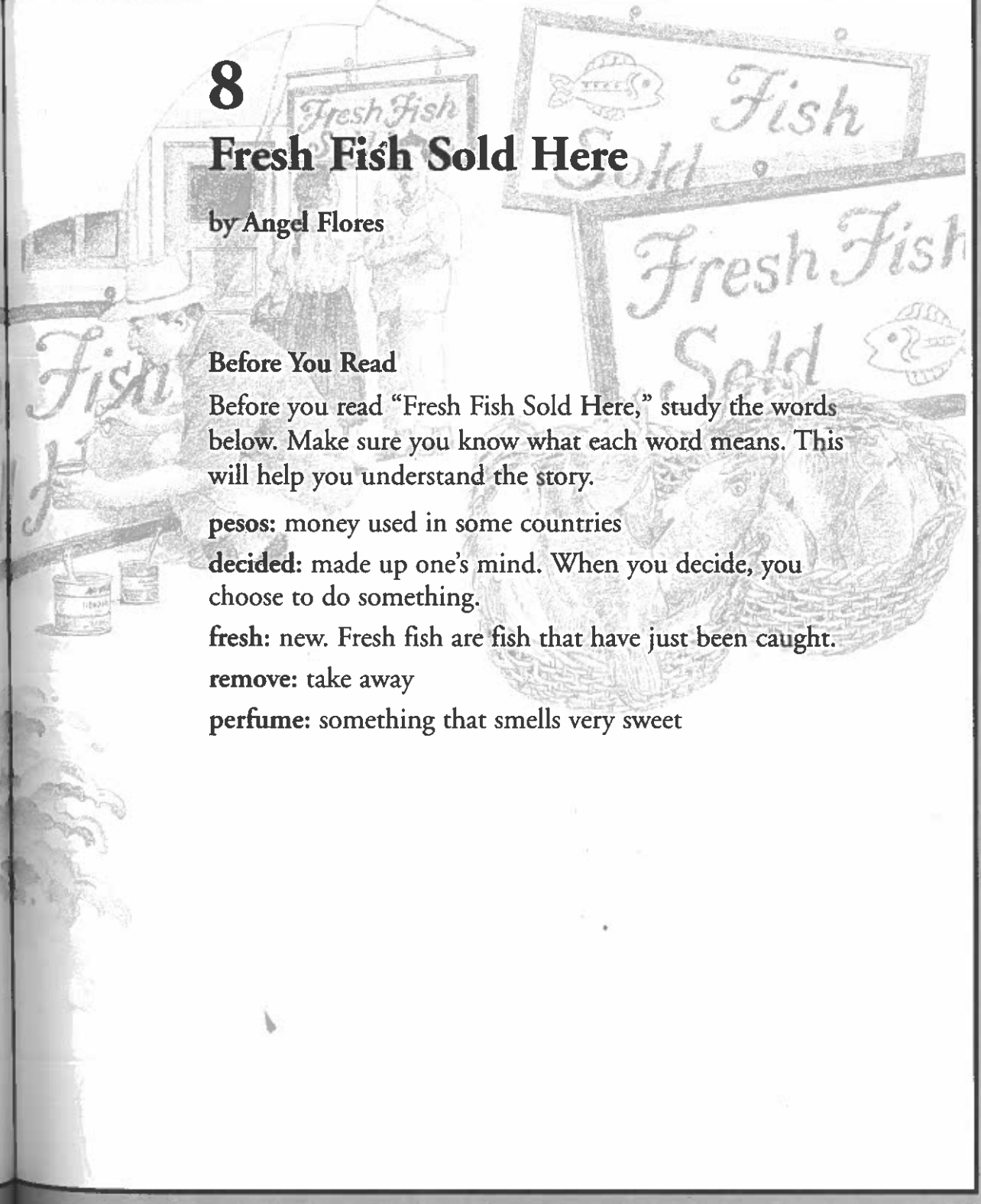
pesos: money used in some countries

decided: made up one's mind. When you decide, you choose to do something.

fresh: new. Fresh fish are fish that have just been caught.

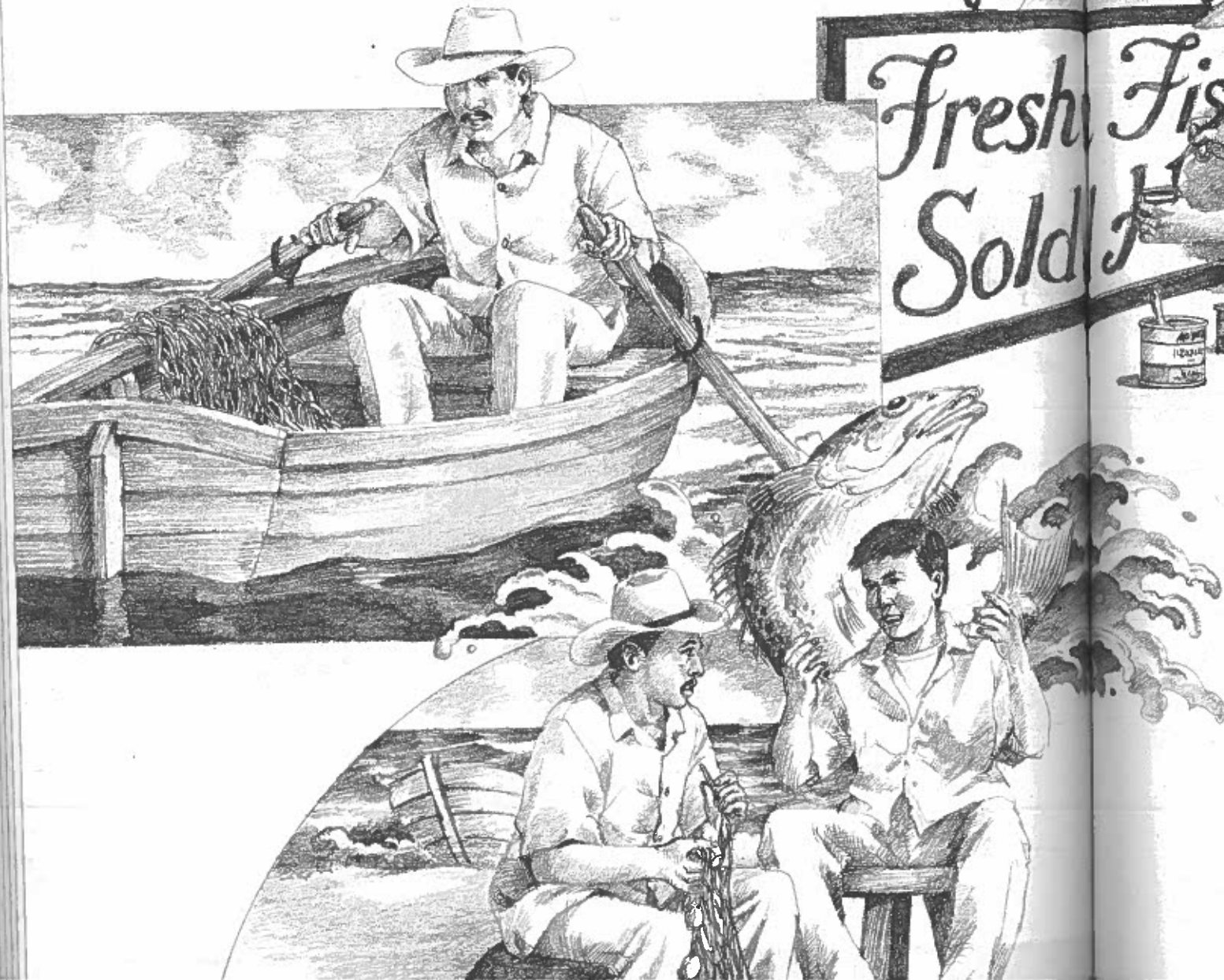
remove: take away

perfume: something that smells very sweet

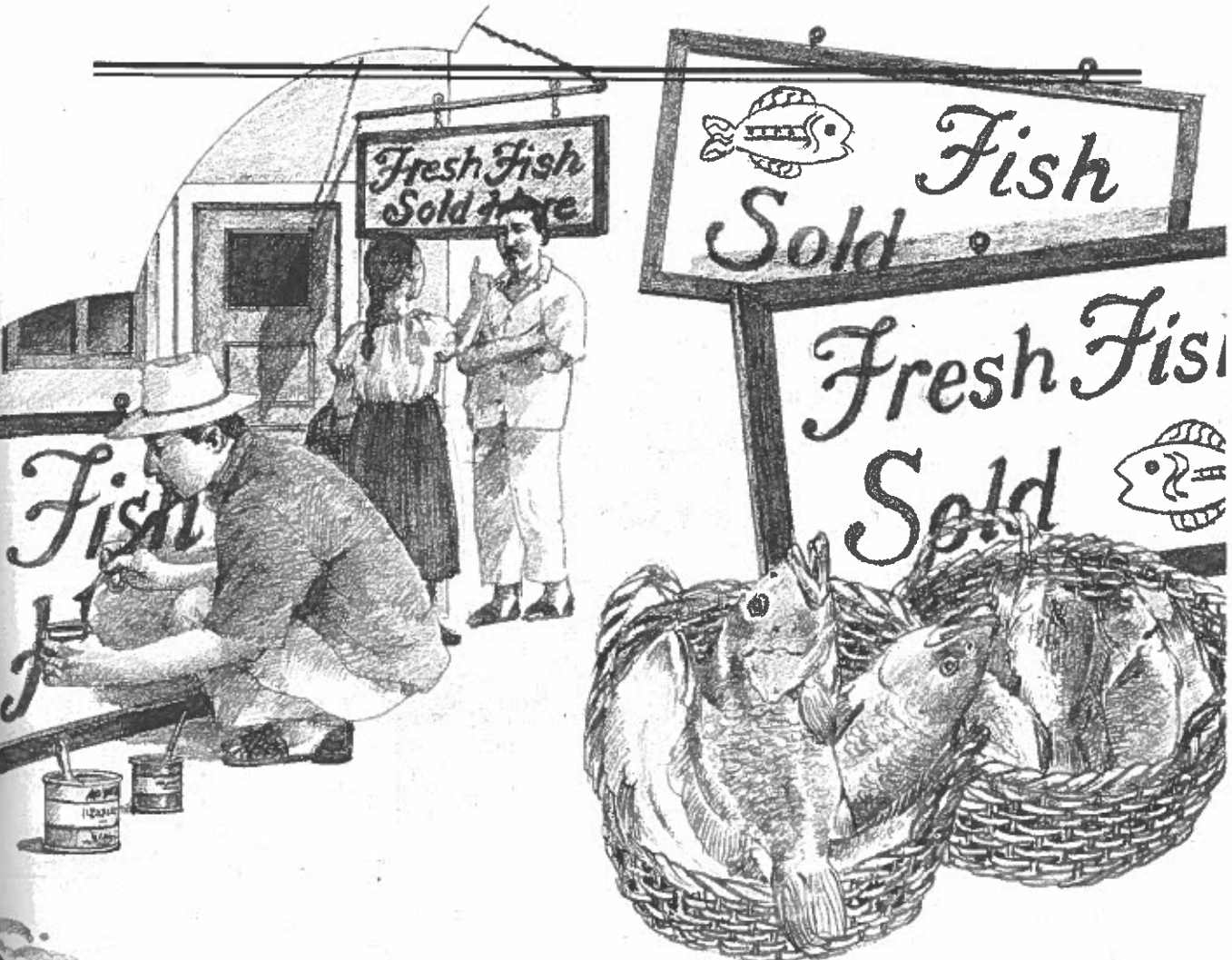


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Pedro was a fisherman. He loved his work. In the morning he went out in a boat. He fished until dark. Then he rowed back.

Pedro sold the fish he had caught. He sold them to the villagers. They came down to the shore. They waited there for the fishermen.

Pedro was a very good fisherman. He always caught many fish. But he did not make much money. Still, he made enough to live on. And he was able to save some pesos.

Pedro was happy. He never complained. He liked to fish. He liked the fresh air. And he liked the sea.

Pedro had a friend named Carlos. One day Carlos and Pedro were talking. Carlos said, "Pedro, you should open a store. You should sell fish. You know many fishermen. They will sell you their fish. You can sell a lot of fish in a store. You will make a lot of money. You will make more money than you are making now."

Pedro thought about this. He liked the idea. But he was worried. He said, "I never sold fish in a store."

Carlos said, "Do not worry. It is easy. Don't you sell fish now? You can sell fish in a store. Everyone in the village likes you. People know you are honest. They will buy fish from you."

"Do you think so?" asked Pedro.

"Oh, yes," said Carlos. "Your store will do well." Carlos thought for a moment. Then he said, "The most important thing is the sign."



"The sign?" Pedro asked.

"The sign," Carlos said. "First you must put up a big sign. It must be a good sign. People will read the sign. Then they will come into your store."

"Are you sure?" asked Pedro.

"Of course I am sure," said Carlos. "Think about the sign. The sign is very important."

Pedro decided to open a store. He remembered what Carlos had said. He thought about the sign. He thought for a long time. He needed a good sign.

Finally, he knew what the sign should say. Pedro called a sign painter. Pedro told the painter what to write on the sign. The sign cost a lot of money. It was very large. The words were very big. They were painted in bright colors. This is what the sign said:

FRESH FISH SOLD HERE

Pedro was very happy with the sign.

The first customer came into the store. She bought some fish. Then she said to Pedro, "Why do you have the word HERE on the sign? Everyone knows that it is *here* where fish are sold. The store is *here*. It is not on another block. You do not need the word HERE on your sign."

Pedro thought about what the lady said. "She is right," Pedro told himself. "I do not need the word HERE."

Pedro called the painter. Pedro said, "Please remove the word HERE from my sign."

The painter came to the store. He took the word HERE off the sign.

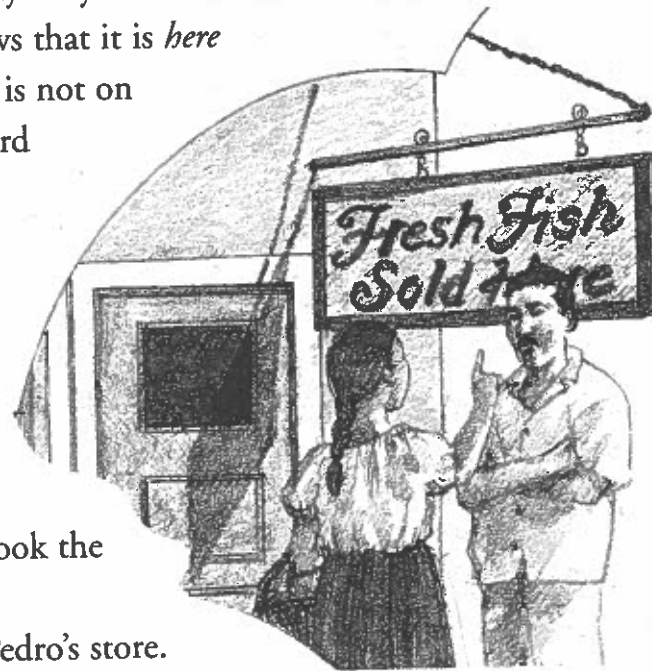
The next morning a man came to Pedro's store. The man bought some fish. The man was just about to leave. Then he turned around. He said, "Pedro, there is something wrong with your sign."

"Wrong?" said Pedro. "Wrong? What is wrong with my sign?"

The man said, "You do not need the word SOLD on your sign. Everyone knows that fish are *sold* in the store. Nobody thinks that the fish are free. No one thinks that you *give* them away."

Pedro thought about this. "Yes, that is so," Pedro told the man.

The man said, "Your sign will be better without the word SOLD. The only words that you need are FRESH FISH."



"You are right," Pedro said. So Pedro called the painter again. The painter came to the store. He removed the word SOLD from the sign.

Two days later a man from the telephone company came to Pedro's store. The man bought some fish. Then the man said, "I like your sign. I like it very much. It is a beautiful sign."

Pedro smiled. His heart was filled with joy.

The man said, "But there is one thing the matter with your sign."

"The matter with my sign?" said Pedro. "What is the matter with my sign?"

The man said, "You do not need the word FRESH on your sign. Everyone knows that you cannot sell fish that are *old*. Everyone knows that fish *must* be fresh. You do not need the word FRESH on your sign. Your sign should say FISH. FISH is enough."

"I see what you mean," Pedro told the man. "I will have the word FRESH removed from the sign."

The painter came that day. He took the word FRESH off the sign.



Pedro looked at his sign. It said FISH. Pedro thought to himself, "It cost a lot to keep changing the sign. But now it is right." Pedro felt good.

Two days later a fisherman passed by Pedro's store. The fisherman stood on the other side of the street. "Pedro!" the fisherman called. "What a fool you are! From far away, everyone can tell that *fish* are sold there. Why do you need that sign? You do not need the word FISH. Everyone can tell you sell *fish*. Fish smell like *fish*. They do not smell like perfume!"

So Pedro had the last word removed.

The next morning Carlos came by. Carlos was surprised. "Pedro!" said Carlos. "Don't you remember what I said? You must have a sign! The most important thing is the sign!"

Pedro did not say a word. He walked out of his store. He went down to the water. He got into his boat. He began to fish. And he has been a happy man ever since.



TELL ABOUT THE STORY.

Put an x in the box next to the right answer. Each sentence tells a *fact* about the story.

- Carlos thought that Pedro should
 a. open a store.
 b. become a painter.
 c. give Carlos a job.
- Pedro's sign was very
 a. small.
 b. large.
 c. old.
- Pedro kept calling the painter to ask him to
 a. buy fish.
 b. take a word off the sign.
 c. put some more words on the sign.
- When Carlos did not see a sign, he was
 a. angry.
 b. happy.
 c. surprised.

ADD WORDS TO SENTENCES.

Complete the sentences below. Fill in each blank with one of the words in the box. Each word can be found in the story. There are five words and four blanks. This means that one word in the box will not be used.

Did you _____₁ there are more than forty thousand different kinds of fish? They live in bodies of _____₂ all around the world.

There are far _____₃ fish than any other animal on earth. There are more _____₄ than *all* the other animals together!

water idea
 know
fish more

$\times 5 =$
NUMBER CORRECT YOUR SCORE

$\times 5 =$
NUMBER CORRECT YOUR SCORE

LEARN NEW WORDS.

The vocabulary words are printed in **dark type** in the story. You may look back at the words before you answer these questions. Put an *x* in the box next to the right answer.

1. The villagers came down to the shore. The word *shore* means
 a. a large boat.
 b. the middle of the sea.
 c. the land at the edge of the water.
2. Pedro was happy and never complained. The word *complained* means
 a. said something was wrong.
 b. told funny stories.
 c. had many friends.
3. People liked Pedro because he was honest. Someone who is *honest*
 a. is poor.
 b. is fair and does not lie.
 c. is always happy.
4. A customer came into Pedro's store. A *customer* is someone who
 a. sells things.
 b. works hard.
 c. buys or shops.

<input type="text"/>	x 5 =	<input type="text"/>
NUMBER CORRECT		YOUR SCORE

EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED.

Here is how to answer these questions. First think about what happened in the story. Then *figure out* (work out) the right answer. This is called *critical thinking*.

1. People probably went to Pedro's store because
 a. he gave away fish.
 b. they knew him and liked him.
 c. no other store was near.
2. The story shows that Pedro
 a. had no money.
 b. never listened to anyone.
 c. usually listened to what people said.
3. Pedro wanted his sign to be
 a. bigger than any other sign.
 b. small but beautiful.
 c. just right.
4. Which sentence is true?
 a. Being happy was more important than money to Pedro.
 b. Money was the most important thing to Pedro.
 c. Pedro had no friends.

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SPOT STORY ELEMENTS.

Some story elements are **plot**, **character**, and **setting**. (See page 3.) Put an *x* in the box next to the right answer.

1. What happened first in the *plot*?
 a. A fisherman called Pedro a fool.
 b. The painter took the word **HERE** off the sign.
 c. Pedro opened a store.
2. Who is the *main character* in the story?
 a. Pedro
 b. Carlos
 c. a man from the telephone company
3. Which sentence best *characterizes* (tells about) Pedro?
 a. He was a very good fisherman who loved to fish.
 b. He liked working in a store.
 c. He made a lot of money.
4. Where is the story *set*?
 a. in a city
 b. in a village
 c. in a large, busy town

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NUMBER CORRECT		YOUR SCORE

THINK SOME MORE ABOUT THE STORY.

Your teacher might want you to write your answers.

- At the end of the story, Pedro gave up his store and went back to fishing. Do you think he did the right thing? Why?
- Should Pedro have listened to any of the people who told him to change his sign? If so, which person? Explain your answer.
- Why do you think Pedro did not tell Carlos about what happened to the sign?

Write your scores in the boxes below. Then write your scores on pages 138 and 139.

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+	
<input type="text"/>	A DD WORDS TO SENTENCES
+	
<input type="text"/>	L EARN NEW WORDS
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<input type="text"/>	E XPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED
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<input type="text"/>	S POT STORY ELEMENTS
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<input type="text"/>	TOTAL SCORE: Story 8