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# Orion and Isabela's Adventures in the



# Highlands



# **Orion and Isabela's Adventures in the Highlands**

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ORION AND ISABELA'S ADVENTURES IN THE HIGHLANDS

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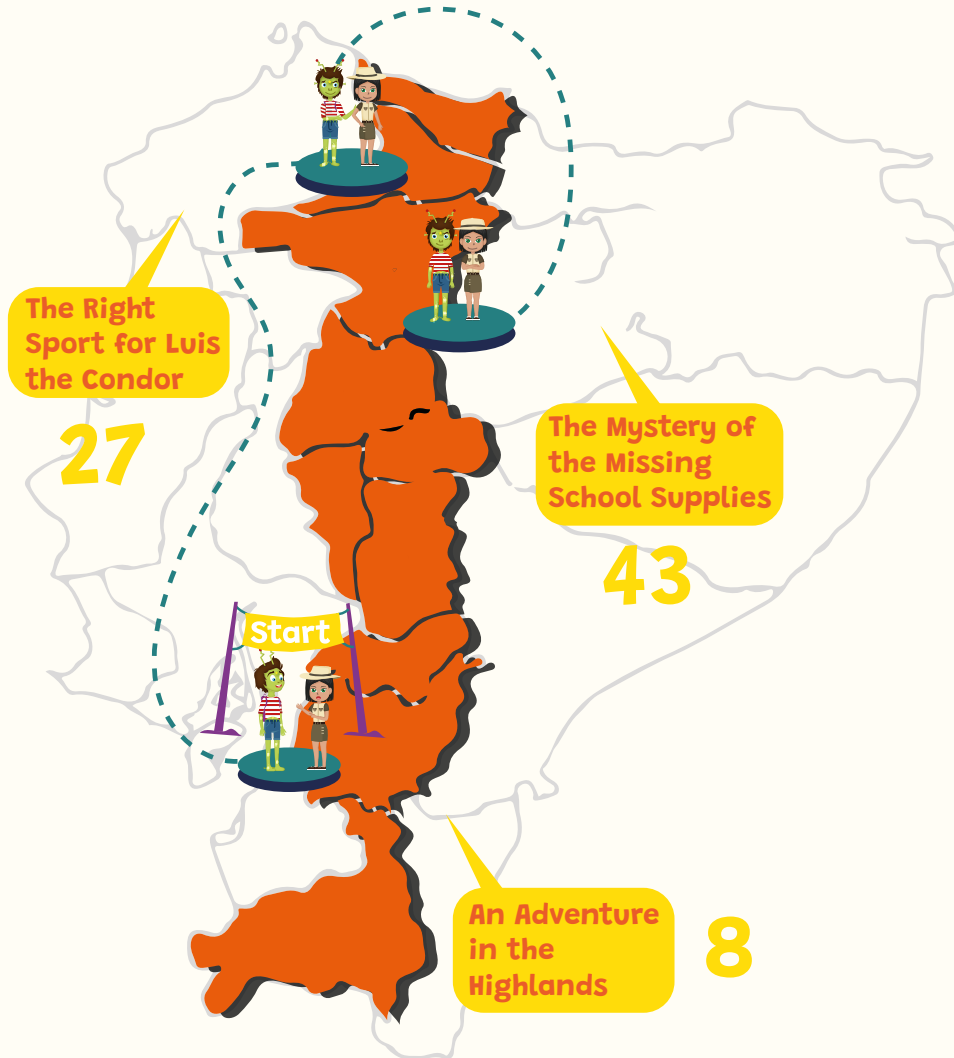
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# Content





# Prologue

In this book, you will find three stories about Orion and Isabela's adventures in the Highlands of Ecuador. These stories are based on specific grammar and vocabulary topics to be used inside or outside the classroom. Teachers can do storytelling and group work activities in class time to practice, or they can ask parents to tell the stories to their children, outside the classroom, as an autonomous activity. This book offers pre-reading, while-reading, and post-reading activities on each story, so educators can practice reading as a skill and, at the same time, interact with students and have fun with the interesting activities provided by the publication.

This book goes along with the curricular threads of communication and cultural awareness, oral communication, reading, and language through the arts, topics proposed by Ecuador's Ministerio de Educación. All the stories can be used for the fourth grade of elementary school to complement the fifth module of Ministerio de Educación del Ecuador's curriculum.

"An Adventure in the Highlands" is a story with which students can identify geography, vocabulary, and concepts to know different Ecuadorian places. "The Right Sport for Luis the Condor" can be used to learn vocabulary about sports and their equipment and also, to practice the days of the week. "The Mystery of the Missing School Supplies" can be used to practice vocabulary related to school supplies.

# An Adventure in The Highlands





# Pre-reading Activity

**1. First, find a partner to work with. Then, read the story and underline the words of the list below. The first pair that find all words will win. Let's start! Look for:**

- country
- highlands
- flying saucer
- landscape
- location


Who finished first?  
Students:

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Well done! Congratulations! You won!


Let's discover the adventures of two best friends in the Highlands of Ecuador. They are Orion and Isabela. Orion is an extraterrestrial, and he's never been to Earth before. That's why he's very curious about Earth. Isabela is Orion's guide and his best friend on the whole planet.



Hello, Orion!  
Welcome to Earth  
and Ecuador!

Hi, Isabela! Thank you!  
I have always wanted  
to learn more about  
your planet and to visit  
your country and its  
regions.

Great! I will take  
you around our  
four regions, so you  
can learn about  
Ecuador. Let's start  
this adventure!




In which region will we start, Isabela?

Here in the Highlands!  
What do you think?

I think it is a great idea! Can we go to the ocean, please?

—No, we cannot, Orion. Actually, we are far from the sea—said Isabela smiling—. Here, we only can see rivers, lakes, and lagoons.



Look, I have a map of the highlands, Orion. We can follow it to get to all the places we want to visit and explore! As you can see, we are here, in the South of Ecuador. Let's start by visiting Cuenca. Then, I plan to take you to Otavalo and Antisana volcanoes near Quito.

Great! We can use my flying saucer to travel!

That would be amazing, Orion. I have good friends in this region, like Luddy! She lives with her family in Cuenca. We could pay her a visit!

Let's go!

After landing Orion's flying saucer, he and Isabela started walking around.

Here we are, Orion. This is Cuenca. Many people say this city has a European style but is in South America.

Everything looks fantastic! We are surrounded by mountains!

This landscape is beautiful, Orion! I will call my friend Luddy so that she can show us around!

I can't wait to meet her and this place.



—Hello?

—Hi, Luddy! This is Isabela. Do you remember me?

—Hi, dear Isabela. Of course, I do.

—I am in Cuenca with a friend.

Can we meet?

—Yes! Let's meet at Cajas National Park. I'll send you the location!

# While-reading Activity

**1. Speculation.** Now that you know a bit about the story, what do you think will happen next? Write your predictions down.

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**2. Can you draw them?**

Perfect! You are amazing! Now let's continue with our great adventure.

I am happy to see you again, Isabela!

—Hi, Luddy! —said Isabela and Orion at the same time.

I am happy to see you too. Luddy, this is my friend Orion.

Lovely to meet you, Orion, and welcome to Cajas National Park!





Orion and Isabela were really cold and shaking, but they were ashamed to say anything, because Luddy seemed so happy to talk about all the plants and animals.



—How rude of me!—  
suddenly said Luddy—Cajas  
is cold. You need warm  
clothes!

—What can we  
wear? —asked  
Isabela while she  
trembled.




An illustration showing four hands holding a poncho with diagonal green and yellow stripes. The background features a landscape with green hills and a blue sky with white clouds. A speech bubble is positioned above the poncho, and another is below it.

Here are some ponchos.  
They are perfect for Cajas' weather!

—I am happy with my poncho! —said Isabela, and added:— I live in Galápagos and there are no ponchos there, because it is hot and near the sea.

They started their adventure by walking up a hill. Luddy and Isabela were fine, but Orion felt very tired.



We should rest, Luddy.

I feel really tired, Isabela, and it is hard to breathe.


No problem. We can rest for 10 minutes. We know that it is difficult to breathe when you are this high on a mountain.

We can walk slowly  
until you feel better.

Thank you! I would  
really like that!

—We will stay with  
you, Orion! We are  
friends, and friends  
understand each  
other!—added  
Luddy.

The three friends kept walking up and down the hills until they arrived at a lagoon.



Wow! There are so many lagoons!

—That is amazing! Cajas National Park is a wonderful place!—exclaimed Orion, and then, suddenly, his stomach started to make noises.

Let's have lunch near the lagoon! I am hungry too.

In fact, there are 235 lagoons here.

For the first time during the walk, Luddy remained and quiet.

Is everything ok, Luddy?

—I do not bring food—said Luddy, ashamed.

No problem! I have food for everyone.

Thank you!

Thank you!

Of course! Friends always share.



After lunch, they continued hiking and decided to swim in a lagoon, but Isabela couldn't swim.

We can teach you!

Friends help each other, Isabela!

—There is no problem —  
reassured Orion.

Really? Thank you!



When the sun was setting, the three friends said goodbye.

It was a wonderful day! Please visit me every time you want! Orion, I am glad you enjoyed Cajas. Where are you going next?

—I'm not sure—  
answered Orion while looking at Isabela.

Right now, we are going to Otavalo! Thanks, Luddy. See you soon.





# Post-reading Activities

**1. Isabela wrote a letter to you. Read it and answer her questions in another letter.**

Cuenca, November 16, 2022

Hi, friend!

My name is Isabela, and I'm traveling with my friend Orion. He loves Ecuador! He liked Cajas, and he is excited to visit more places in our country! I'm looking for friends who can host us. Where do you live? I have an idea. If you invite me and my friend, Orion, to visit your city, I can later ask you to visit Galápagos, where I live. Orion and I will be very happy to go to your city. We hope you can answer this letter!

Sincerely,  
Orion and Isabela

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Orion and Isabela,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ . I live in \_\_\_\_\_ .

It is located in \_\_\_\_\_ . Some touristic attractions here  
are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ . My favorite place in my city is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ .

You can come whenever you want. I'll be happy to host you!

Sincerely,

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

# The Right Sport for Luis the Condor



# Pre-reading Activities

1. Let's create a schedule! Do you remember the days of the week? Let's say them together!

2. Now that you have remembered, write them down in the schedule and add three activities you do for each day. If you need an example, look at Isabela's schedule.

Days of the week							
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Isabela's schedule</b>	I play soccer.	I practice tennis.	My friends and I go swimming.	I play basketball at school.	I go canoeing.	I rest this day.	My family and I go to the park, and we go cycling.
<b>Your schedule</b>							

When Isabela and Orion arrived in Otavalo, they visited a museum.

Look, Orion, that is Ecuador's coat of arms.

It is a condor! It is an *endangered* animal.

It means that they are animals at risk of extinction.



Yes. That is why we need to protect them!

That sounds incredible!



It is amazing, Isabela! What animal is that? The one on top of the coat of arms?

Endangered?

That sounds bad!

You know, with my powers, we can become condors.



Orion and Isabela turned into condors and decided to fly to Otavalo's Parque del Condor.




When they arrive at the park, Orion and Isabela transform into themselves again. Then, they saw a young condor and walked toward it.

You are right. We are really lucky to see one. They fly really high, and it's not easy to see them!

Look, Isabela! I really like this bird. It is so big and majestic!





It's amazing! We must name it, so we can distinguish it from the others!

Let's call it Luis!  
Like the one in the story!

I'll tell you: Once upon a time —said Isabela—, there was a condor named Luis that wanted to play different sports.

What story?



On Monday, Luis went to San Pablo to go swimming in the pool. He wore a swimsuit and put on goggles. Then, Luis swam from one side to the other, but he did not feel that swimming was the sport for him because his wet wings prevented him from swimming fast.



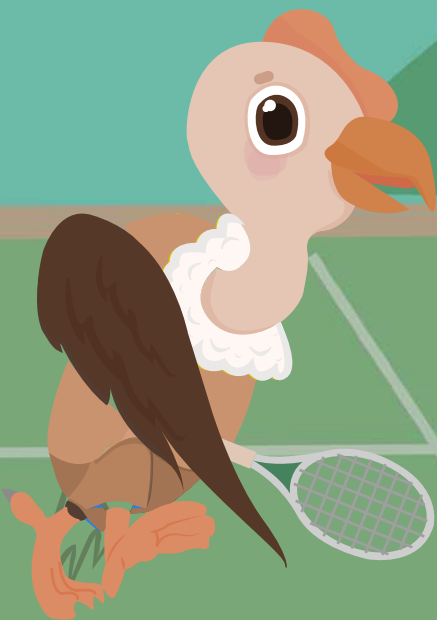
# While reading activities

1. Think about what sport do you think Luis is going to practice next?  
Then, draw what you imagined.

On Tuesday, Luis went cycling. He passed through Plaza de los Ponchos, where he saw a lot of beautiful and colorful ponchos. Luis cycled for hours but was unhappy because his claws often got stuck on the pedals. Cycling was not the sport for Luis.



On Wednesday, Luis tried tennis. First, he went to Otavalo's Sports Center. Then, he took tennis balls and rackets to the court. Luis played a few matches, but because his eyesight did not allow him to see well the ball's direction, he felt tennis was not the sport for him.



On Thursday, Luis went to Lagunas de Mojanda to play ping pong. He played for hours, but he was sad because the ping-pong racket slipped from his wings. Ping Pong was not the sport for Luis.





On Friday, Luis went to San Sebastian Park to practice basketball. He wore a basketball jersey and shorts. When he was on the court, Luis started dribbling the ball and shooting some hoops, but he was not convinced that this was his sport because when the ball bounced, it always hit his beak.

On Saturday, Luis felt sad and started to cry. He didn't want to practice any more sports. He thought that his wings, claws, eyes, and beak were not suited for playing sports. "There is not a sport appropriate for me," he said to himself.



But then, suddenly, he remembered what his mother used to say when things didn't turn out the way they expected: "Luis, everything is a process! You have to be patient!". Then, Luis wiped his tears and said to himself: "The perfect sport is waiting for me. I will try one more sport tomorrow!"





On Sunday, Luis went to the soccer field at Cotama Community Stadium. There, he kicked the ball, and it went to the other side of the field. Then, Luis realized that he had very powerful legs. That was it. Soccer was his sport! He was very happy because he didn't quit. That day, Luis learned that it is important to be patient and to feel content doing sports and being healthy. Exercise is very important in our lives.



# Post-reading Activities

1. Let's see what you remember from the story! First, find a classmate and then try to answer these questions together.

a) What sports did Luis try?

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b) Why was Luis sad?

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c) What sport did Luis enjoy the most?

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d) What sports do you practice?

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# The Mystery of the Missing School Supplies



# Pre-reading Activities

**1. Answer: What do you have in your pack back?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

Orion and Isabela were visiting the Antisana volcano. When Orion realized something:

I learned a lot of this at school, Orion!

Isabela, how do you know so much about everything?

—Really? We must visit a school, Isabela!—said Orion, excited.

While walking around the school, Orion and Isabela found a boy. He looked really sad.

Hi! We are Orion and Isabela. We noticed you look sad. Can we help you?

Hello! My name is Tupac. I'm sad because my friends think I am a thief, but I am not! I swear!

Can you tell us what happened.

Sisa says I stole her pencil. Yachay says I stole his ruler. Asiri says I stole his eraser. But I did not!



Isabela and Orion decided they will find out what had happened, so they asked the students about the situation.

—Tupac stole my pencil! —said Sisa.

—Tupac stole my ruler! —said Yachay.

—Tupac stole my eraser! —said Asiri.



Orion and Isabela talked to the teacher, Ms. Killari, about what had happened. Then, the three of them thought about a solution.



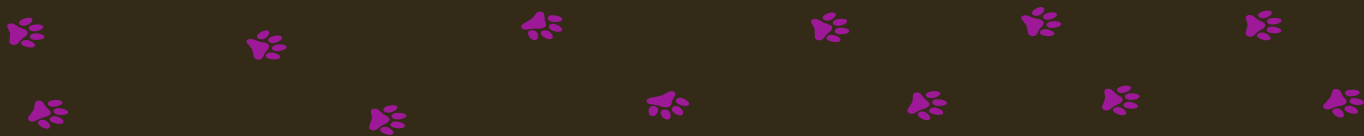


The next day, Ms. Killari brought a curious artifact to class.



This is an ultraviolet lamp, kids. It will help us see who the thief is.

Isabela turned off the lights, and the ultraviolet lamp showed purple footsteps.



Orion, Isabela, Ms. Killari, and all the children followed in the footsteps and found a cute fox.

—Look! What is that animal, Isabela? — asked Orion.

—Why did it take my eraser? — said Asiri.  
—Why did it take my pencil? — said Sisa.  
—Why did it take my ruler? — said Yachay.

—That is a fox, Orion.  
And, it looks like it is building a house with the stolen school supplies!



# While-reading Activities

1. What do you think the fox's house looks like? Share your idea below, and don't forget to include the missing school supplies (eraser, pencil, ruler).

The children took their school supplies back.

—We are sorry, Tupac. We shouldn't accuse you of stealing our things—said Sisa, Yachay, and Asiri.

I forgive you, friends. It's all ok now!



When Sisa, Yachay, Asiri, and Tupac hugged, they heard a loud noise. It was the fox's house! It fell to the ground without the school supplies.

—Oh no!—said,  
everyone.

—Don't worry! We will  
help the fox and build  
the house again!—  
proposed Tupac.



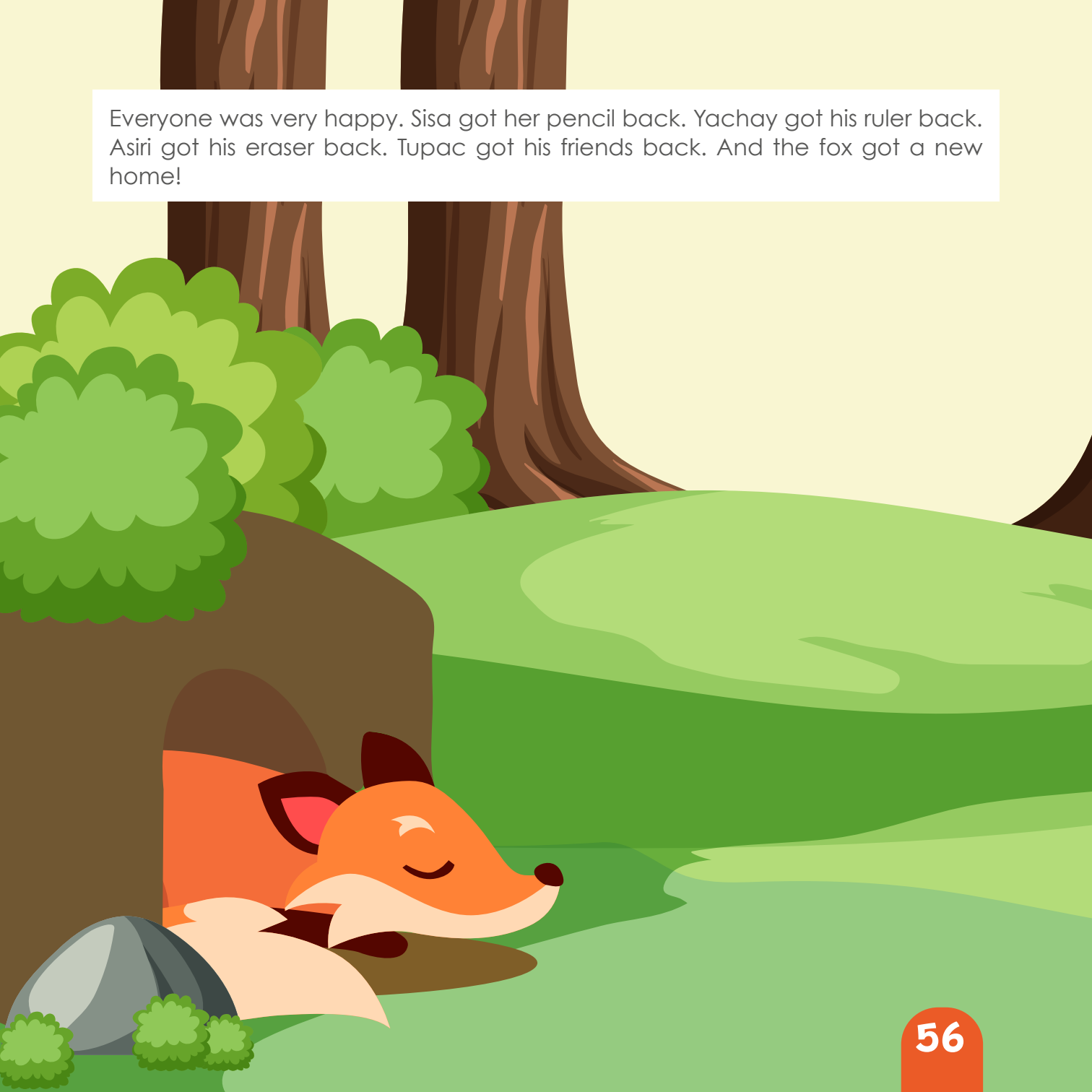
They all worked together to rebuild the fox's house. When they finished, the house looked beautiful! And the fox looked so cute and happy.

—That's a great idea!  
But remember, we  
must not touch wild  
animals!—said Ms. Killari.

—We should name  
him! —suggested  
Orion and Isabela.

—Let's call him  
Sayti—proposed  
Tupac.

Everyone was very happy. Sisa got her pencil back. Yachay got his ruler back. Asiri got his eraser back. Tupac got his friends back. And the fox got a new home!





Tupac thanked Orion and Isabela and invited them to play with his friends. Everyone had a great day and learned not to judge others.



# Post-reading Activities

1. Now, let's draw a comic about the story, but give it a different ending. Don't forget to share it with classmates.





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