

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

## Golly-Grue and the Grimblegoat

Golly-Grue and Grimbletoes were dwarves who lived deep in the woods. They were older than men could count, and they did everything together.

“Let’s see,” said Golly-Grue when they went to market. “We need tomatoes, beans, peas, and corn.”



While Golly-Grue was looking at the seeds, Grimbletoes wandered off toward a small table sitting in the shadows of a building. The vendor didn’t have much, just a few packets of seeds sitting in a basket.

“Helly-o, good sir,” said the vendor. He was a small man with a long nose and a wrinkled face. Black hair covered his head, and his beard grew into a sharp point. “What can I help you with today?”

“What have you got there?” Grimbletoes asked.

The man leaned across the table and whispered, “Magic corn seed.”

Grimbletoes tugged his beard. “What makes it magic?”

The man chuckled, a deep sound back in his throat. “Buy a package, and you’ll see.”

## Grade 4 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

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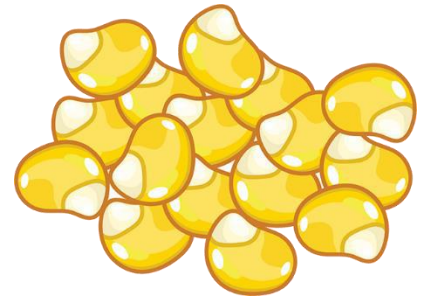
Grimbletoes tugged his beard again as he thought. He looked over his shoulder to see Golly-Grue still looking at vegetable seeds. She didn't much care for magic of any kind, but Grimbletoes was curious.

"All right," Grimbletoes said after several minutes. "Give me one pack."

Grimbletoes paid for his magic seeds and hurried back to where Golly-Grue was just finishing her purchase.

"Do we have all we need?" Grimbletoes asked.

Golly-Grue nodded. "We should have a glorious garden this year," she said with a smile.



The two dwarves headed back to their home in the forest.

Spring changed into summer, and the garden grew and grew. Grimbletoes kept quiet about the magic corn seed, for he saw no difference between it and the regular corn seed they had planted. Both stretched toward the sky and towered over Grimbletoes. It would soon be time to harvest the corn.

"Here it is," Grimbletoes said proudly as he lifted a heavy basket of corn onto the kitchen table. "Nice and crisp." He rubbed his hands together and licked his lips. "I can't wait to taste it."

Grimbletoes tugged his beard as he sat down to dinner. His mouth watered at the smell of fresh corn on the cob with butter dripping from its kernels. He reached for a cob and bit into it. It was sweeter than any corn he had ever tasted, and he closed his eyes to savor it.

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“Well, dog leaves and horse baaah,” he said.

Golly-Grue looked up. A purple goat sat in Grimbletoes' place. It had a long beard and wide, frightened eyes. Golly-Grue stared at the goat in shock.

After a moment Golly-Grue calmed down. She had figured out what had happened. “Well, I guess you visited the warlock's table.” She shook her head. “What have I told you about that?” Golly-Grue stood over the goat with her hands on her hips and scowled. “It'll take me hours to find a cure for you. When will you learn to leave magic alone?”

“Baaaahhh!”

“Out!” Golly-Grue pointed to the door. “You can stay in the garden until I figure out how to change you back.”

The goat shook his head, but Golly-Grue was having none of it. Out the door he went.

Grimbletoes watched the sun go down. He *baahed* and bleated and kicked up his back legs. He kicked at the door. Nothing worked. Golly-Grue was not letting a purple goat back into her house.

Golly-Grue stepped onto the porch with a bowl in her hand. “Come here and quit your fussing,” she said. She held the bowl out to Grimbletoes. “Eat this. I think it'll help.”

Grimbletoes gobbled up the mush in the bowl. It tasted like grass and chicken feed.



## Grade 4 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

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When he finished, he looked up at Golly-Grue.

“Baaah! Gobble, gobble!”

Grimbletoes had turned into a green turkey.

“Well, land sakes,” Golly-Grue said. “I’ll keep looking.”

Grimbletoes gobbled and cried as he ran from one end of the yard to the other. Why, oh why, had he gone to the warlock’s table? Why had he planted the magic corn?



It was close to midnight when Golly-Grue returned to the porch. This time, the bowl smelled of rotten meat.

“Eat this,” she said.

Grimbletoes backed away. There was no way he was eating that!

“Come on. You did this to yourself.”

Grimbletoes the turkey sighed and stuck his beak in the bowl. He closed his eyes as he nibbled at the stuff in the bowl.

*Ker-wham!*

Grimbletoes landed on his bottom at the base of the stairs. Golly-Grue burst into laughter at the startled look on his face.

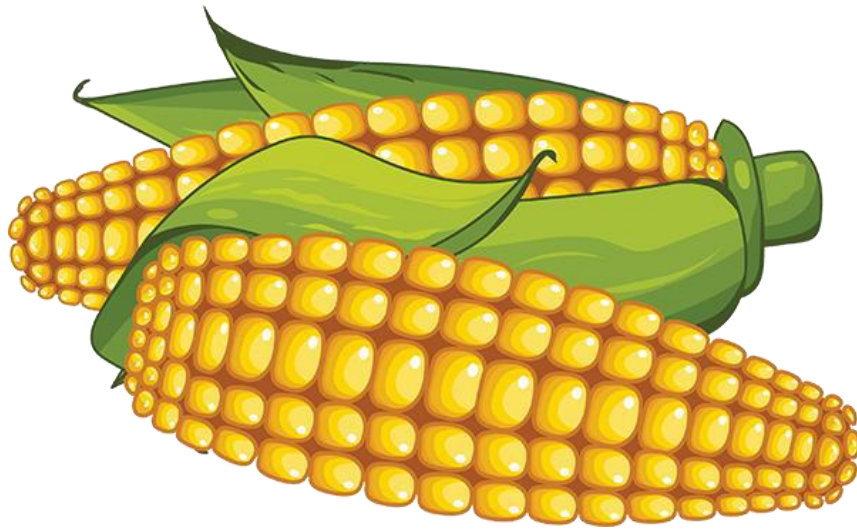
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“Am I me?” Grimbletoes asked. He looked at his hands. He looked at his feet. He smiled. “Yep. I’m me again.”

“And I hope you’ve learned your lesson about magic,” Golly-Grue said.

Grimbletoes climbed to his feet. “I sure have.” He shook his head. “I hate to throw out all that corn, though.”



**Questions:**

1. Describe the warlock Grimbletoes meets at the market.

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2. What animal does Grimbletoes turn into first?

- a. Grimbletoes turns into a blue monkey.
- b. Grimbletoes turns into a purple goat.
- c. Grimbletoes turns into a green turkey.
- d. Grimbletoes turns into a yellow cow.

3. What is good about the magic corn?

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4. What is bad about the magic corn?

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5. Would you eat something that someone told you was magic?  
Why or why not?

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**Answers:**

1. Describe the warlock Grimbletoes meets at the market.  
The warlock is a small man with black hair, wrinkles, and a pointed beard.
  
2. What animal does Grimbletoes turn into first?  
b. Grimbletoes turns into a purple goat.
  
3. What is good about the magic corn?  
The magic corn is very sweet.
  
4. What is bad about the magic corn?  
The magic corn turns whoever eats it into a goat.
  
5. Would you eat something that someone told you was magic?  
Why or why not?  
Answers will vary.