

Quest to New Orleans

An illustration of three children in Mardi Gras costumes. The child on the left is a girl with brown hair, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and a light blue skirt. She has a green mask with yellow feathers on top and is smiling with her arms raised. The child in the middle is a girl with dark skin and brown hair, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt. She has a purple and yellow beaded necklace and is smiling with her arms raised. The child on the right is a boy with light skin, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and red pants. He has a green and yellow hat with a white band and is smiling with his arms raised. The background is a light yellow-green with colorful dotted lines (red, green, purple, pink) and confetti (orange, yellow, green) scattered around. The title 'Quest to New Orleans' is written in a large, bold, black font with a white outline.

By Ashley Franklin
Illustrated by Ria Maria Lee

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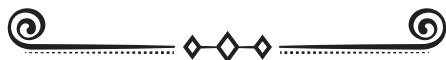
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CHAPTER ONE



Let's Make a Deal

“Here are some clean clothes so you can start packing,” Mom said cheerfully as she walked into Lexi’s bedroom. “Lexi?” Mom’s smile transformed into a frown. “Hellooooo?” She furrowed her brow.

Lexi didn’t answer. She was leaning too close to her computer monitor. The bright, flashing lights flickered on her face. The volume was ridiculously loud. Lexi was oblivious to her surroundings.

“Lexi!” Mom repeated, sounding annoyed. She put down the laundry basket and impatiently tapped Lexi on the shoulder.



“Ahhh!” Lexi almost jumped out of her chair. “Mom! You can’t just sneak up on me like that.” Lexi paused the game.

“Sneak up on you? I called your name multiple times!” Mom had one hand on her hip and angrily wagged a finger at the computer. “You’ve been on this thing for most of the day. Give it a rest.”

“Just a minute, Mom. One more quest and I’ll level up,” Lexi whined. She started playing the game again.



“It’s getting late, and you’ve used up all your screen time for today.” Mom took the folded clothes out of the laundry basket and passed them to Lexi. “You can play more tomorrow.”

Lexi pouted as she put the folded clothes away. “But Mom, you’re being unfair!”

“Back in Louisiana, when I was a girl, I had all kinds of adventures! I didn’t sit in front of a computer all day. I rode trains, went fishing, celebrated—”





“Mom, this *is* a real adventure,” Lexi rudely interrupted. “And I would like to get back to it.”

“I bet you haven’t even looked at the family photo album I gave you, have you?”

“Well, I started to,” said Lexi.

“Our family reunion is in a few days, and you don’t know the first thing about Louisiana or our family.” Mom shook her head.

“I do too!” said Lexi. “I know that the state is shaped like a boot, but not a fancy boot like Italy.”

“That’s it? You can’t go to a new place without knowing something about it.” Mom shook her head again. “Let’s make a deal.”

“A deal, huh?” asked Lexi. “I’m listening.”

Quest to New Orleans

Lexi has an upcoming trip for a family reunion, but she's more interested in her video games than learning about Louisiana. When she ends up in New Orleans, she must use her gaming skills to get back home.

Reading Levels

Guided Reading: O

DRA Level: 30

Lexile® Level: 620L

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