

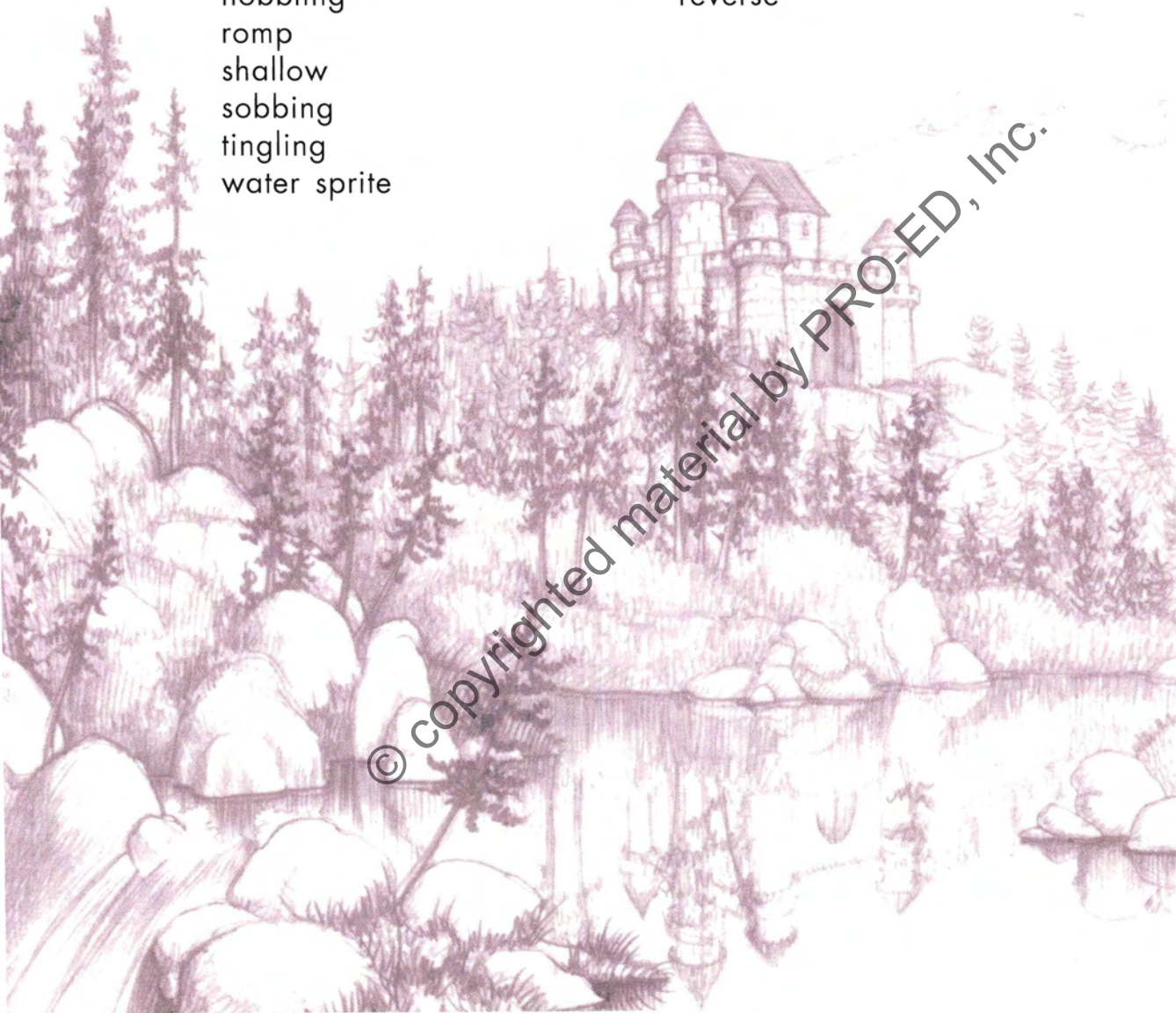
The Story of Rusalka

IMPORTANT WORDS

beloved
betray
brew
frolic
hobbling
romp
shallow
sobbing
tingling
water sprite

REVIEW WORDS

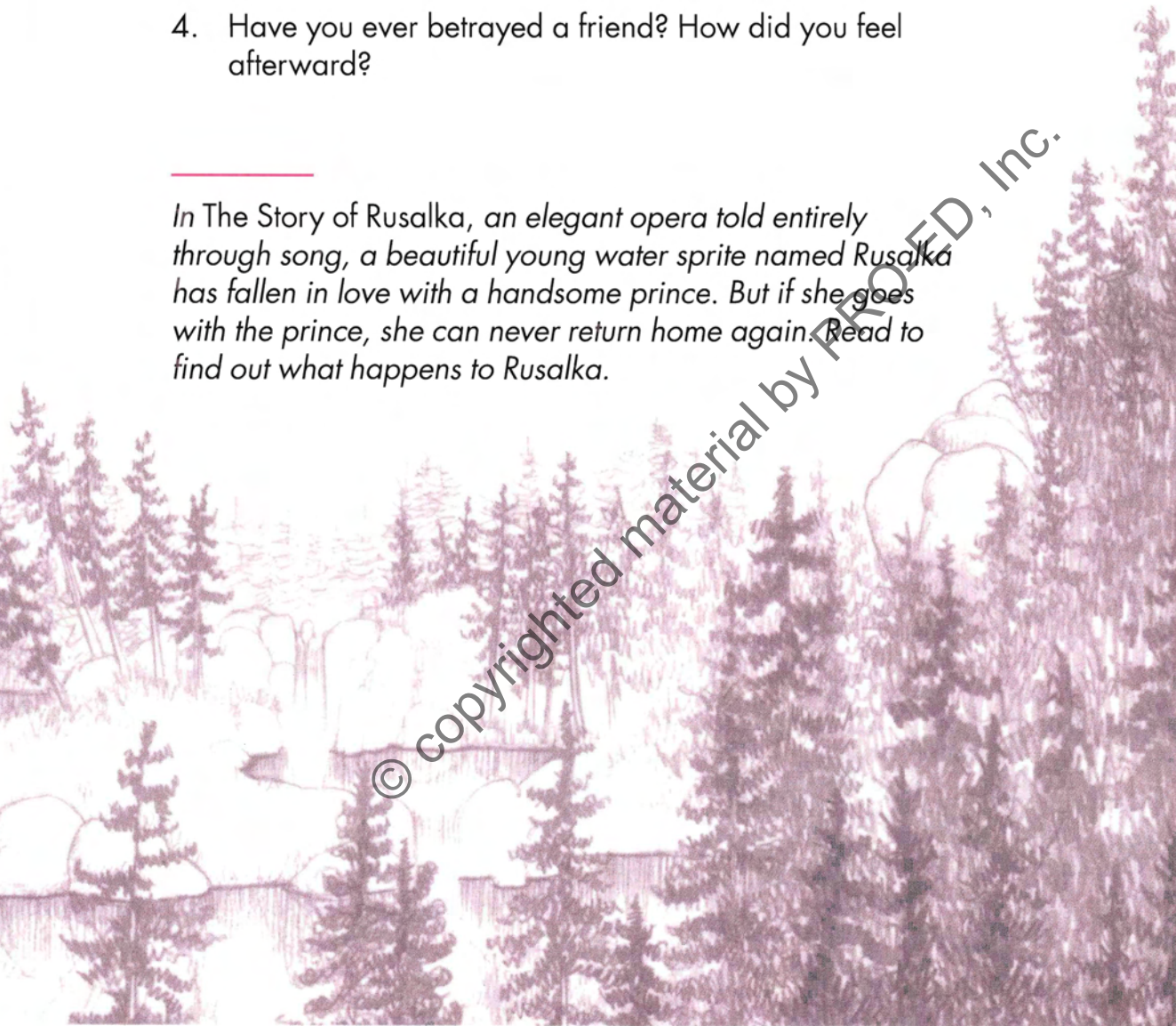
carefree
gracefully
invisible
magnificent
reverse



PREVIEW

1. Was there ever something that you wanted more than anything else in the world?
2. Did you have to make any sacrifices to get it?
3. What does it mean to betray someone? What are some examples?
4. Have you ever betrayed a friend? How did you feel afterward?

In The Story of Rusalka, an elegant opera told entirely through song, a beautiful young water sprite named Rusalka has fallen in love with a handsome prince. But if she goes with the prince, she can never return home again. Read to find out what happens to Rusalka.



THE SINGERS:

HASTRMÁNEK, the father of the water sprites.

RUSALKA, a beautiful water sprite.

JEZHIBABA, the Mother of the Forest.

THE PRINCE, the handsome young ruler of Bohemia.

WATER SPRITES, elf-like spirits dwelling in a tiny lake.

THE PRINCESS, a beautiful woman from a nearby castle.

THE STORY:

Far away in the kingdom of Bohemia a handsome prince lives in a lovely castle surrounded by green gardens full of fragrant flowers. Not far from the castle stands an enchanted forest. During the day the sun shines down with its warmth. Animals romp for joy; butterflies frolic in the trees; birds sing sweetly. Swans float gracefully among the lilies on a nearby lake.

At exactly midnight, when everyone is fast asleep, a mysterious gentle breeze begins to blow. Softly it moves through the forest, waking every woodland spirit with its tingling caress. Slowly the elves, fairies, and woodland spirits waken, yawn, and stretch. Before long, they begin their nightly romp. Round and round they spin, dancing from flower to flower as bursts of glitter stream from their toes. Tiny joyful faces fill the forest.

The mysterious breeze then stirs the tingling waters of the tiny lake. Before long, the water sprites of the deep have wakened and join in the nightly romp. Round and round they swim in a game of hide-and-seek, their carefree laughter bubbling to the surface. Hastrmánek, the father of all the water sprites, watches their playful game with a sparkle in his eyes.

