



# Read-Aloud The Collectors

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The Briarcliff Flea Market was full of life. Everywhere Steph looked, people were selling different things—racks of clothes, shelves of shiny rocks, even old toys.

But Steph and her mom had not come for clothes, or rocks, or even toys. They had come for Curioso cards.

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Steph's dad had given her a pack of cards for her birthday. They weren't many, but she loved them all the same. She took them with her everywhere—to bed, to dinner, to school. She liked having them near her. It made her feel happy and warm. Now she wanted to add to her collection.

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Together, Steph and her mom wandered the aisles. There were so many different kinds of shops with so many different kinds of shopkeepers.

There was Milton, the owner of Milton's Bits and Bobs.

His shop sold old things—old maps, old postcards, old newspapers. Some of the most interesting things were Milton's coupons. They were from a grocery store from a long time ago.

But Milton had no Curioso cards to sell.

 **Ask:** "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

5



Next, Steph and her mom met Yara of Yara's Tunes. Her tent was full of T-shirts, posters, and big round disks that play music called records.

On the table, Yara kept a giant jar of colorful plastic pieces, called picks. Musicians used them to play guitar, Yara explained. Every time Yara went to a concert, she'd search for picks to add to her jar.

They were cool, but Yara had no Curioso cards to sell.

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Next, Steph and her mom met Boris of Boris's Fine Collectibles.

Boris's booth was filled with beautiful objects. There were statues, vases, and shining silver spoons. But by far, the most beautiful were Boris's thimbles. They looked like tiny cups for mice to drink from. "They were used for sewing," Boris explained. People wore them on their fingers to protect from getting poked.

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His thimbles were pretty, but Boris had no Curioso cards to sell.

By now, Steph and her mom had been wandering the flea market for a long time. Steph's legs hurt. She was thirsty. And worst of all, she was starting to get worried.

What if there were no Curioso cards anywhere? What if nobody else even liked Curioso cards?

 **Ask:** "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

8



Just then Steph heard a voice. “Don’t worry! We have plenty of cards left!”

She looked up and saw a big crowd in front of a booth. Steph took her mom’s hand and they went toward the crowd. There they came to a shop called Prashant’s Comics and Games.

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A young man stood with a big album. But instead of pictures, the album held cards— Curioso cards! Steph and her mom made their way forward.

“Wow,” Steph said. Her eyes went big and wet. “I’ve never seen so many Curioso cards in my life.”

Prashant smiled. “It took me a long time to collect. Some of these cards were very hard to find” he said.

**Ask:** “What do you notice? What do you wonder?”

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Steph admired all the different Curiosos. She squeezed the few cards she brought with her in her hands. “Would you sell me one of your cards?” she asked.

Prashant frowned. “I’m sorry, these cards are not for sale,” he said. “They mean too much to me.”

Then he reached into a display case and handed Steph a fresh, new pack of cards. “But I’ll give you this as a gift. From one collector to another.”