He claimed to have seen rocks burn, bandits command sandstorms, lions tamed with a look, and sorcerers charm sharks while divers gathered pearls on the ocean floor. Marco Polo shook Europe with descriptions of the world he'd seen on his epic journey to the court of Kublai Khan. But was Marco Polo the world's most accomplished explorer? Had he really seen the Roof of the World in Central Asia, and the City of Heaven in far-off China? Or was he a charlatan who saw nothing more than the conjurings of his inventive mind? Join Russell Freedman as he tackles a centuries-old mystery.

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My Personal Review:
The artwork is beautiful and includes reproductions from medieval illuminated versions. (It's extremely annoying that you can't search inside the book, so you'll have to take my word for it.) The approach is sophisticated, leaving as an open question whether Marco Polo embroidered the truth or made up his tale out of whole cloth, and children will learn about Kublai Khan's empire, with its efficient messenger service and paper money. The vocabulary is challenging for grade-school children.

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