An A-maize-ing Story

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I'm Bongie. I'm planting corn seeds for the new season. I must hurry. My parents’ seeds have already sprouted.
The bird flocks keep flying down to eat the seeds. The cats and I have to chase them away.

“Fly away, you bad birds!” we shout.
A few days later, a single sprout shows up.

I name it Green Top. I read books to Green Top so he will grow up quickly.
When Green Top is thirsty, I water him.
The cats and I play hide-and-seek with Green Top.
I bring a new kind of food for Green Top. It is called fertilizer.
Green Top grows every day.
One day, I see the bees talking to the other plants. They say that corn is on its way!
I quickly run to Green Top. My parents' plants are happy. Why is Green Top so sad?
I ask his friends.
“Does anyone know why Green Top is sad?”
Snail doesn't.
Caterpillar doesn't.
Only Frog answers. He says *ribbit ribbit* and then jumps into the water. What does that mean?
Oh! I get it!
There’s too much water around Green Top. I’ll dig a trench, for the water to flow away.
Sometimes finding Green Top is hard. As he grows, he looks just like the others.

I’ll tie a red ribbon around my corn plant.
Now I can recognize Green Top easily!
Two more weeks pass.
Green Top grows taller.
At last it’s harvesting season.
Green Top gives me a gift.
It's corn!
Our maize harvest makes quite a mountain.  
I climb up and place Green Top's gift right on top.
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An A-maize-ing Story
(English)

While Bongie’s family is planting maize in the field, she plants a seed of her own. Bongie takes care of the seed everyday – watering it, making sure it has sunlight, protecting from birds and weeds, and even reading to it. Do you think the seed will grow for Bongie?

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.

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