



Cross-Country Cousins

by Samantha Rabe
illustrated by Nicole Tadgell



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN



Cross-Country Cousins



by **Samantha Rabe**
illustrated by **Nicole Tagdell**



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT
School Publishers

Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Requests for permission to make copies of any part of the work should be addressed to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers, Attn: Permissions, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, Florida 32887-6777.

Printed in China

ISBN-13: 978-0-547-01867-6

ISBN-10: 0-547-01867-3

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 0940 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11

If you have received these materials as examination copies free of charge, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers retains title to the materials and they may not be resold. Resale of examination copies is strictly prohibited.

Possession of this publication in print format does not entitle users to convert this publication, or any portion of it, into electronic format.

▶ Jessie and Chris were cousins. They were good friends, too, even though they lived far apart. Jessie lived in Vermont, and Chris lived in southern California. They had met only three times, but Jessie said the first time didn't count because they were babies then.



🔊 The second time they met, they were three years old. Chris and his parents came to Vermont to see the farm that Jessie's parents had just bought. Chris and Jessie played in the apple orchard. They had fun running from tree to tree.

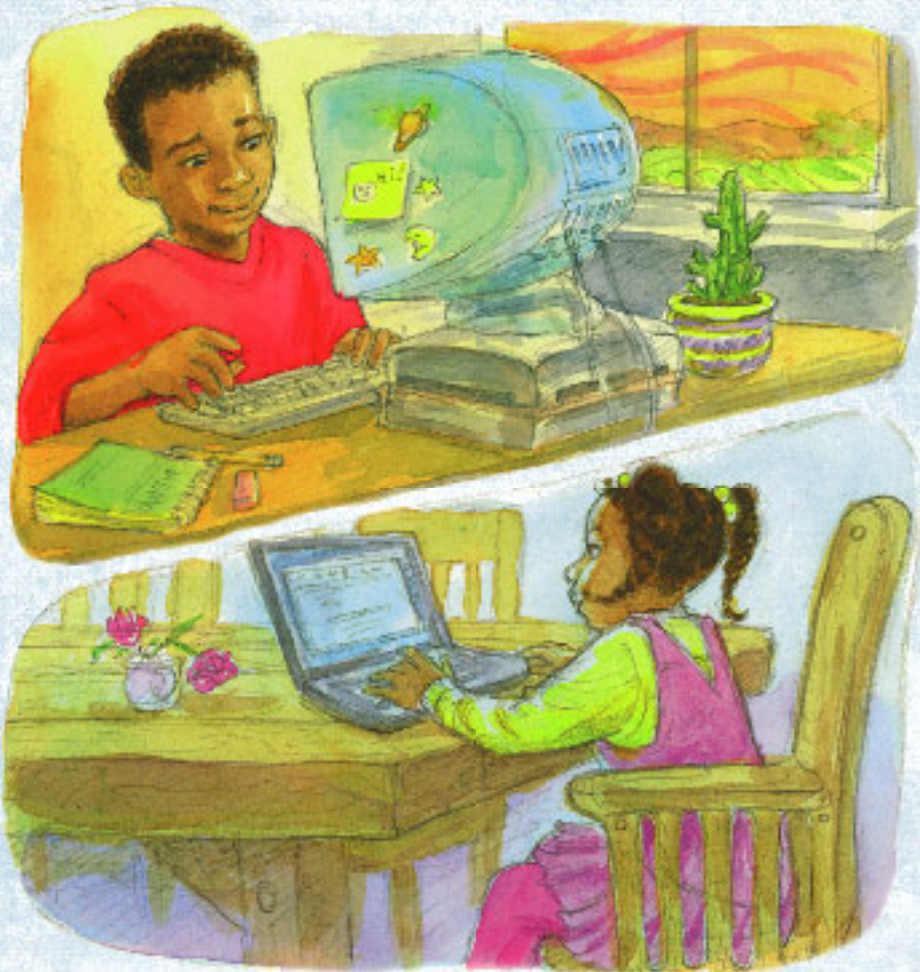




When Chris and Jessie were seven years old, Chris and his mom came for a visit to see Jessie's new baby sister.

Jessie and Chris played in the barn and built a clubhouse. The cousins roamed through the orchard. They collected wrinkled brown apples left over from last year's harvest and fed them to the cows.

Even though they lived far apart, Chris and Jessie kept in touch. They sent each other birthday cards and e-mailed each other about things they were doing.



🔊 One day in late winter, Jessie sent Chris an e-mail.

Hi, Chris!

It's time for one of my favorite things: sugaring, or making maple syrup. Do you remember the grove of sugar maple trees on our farm? Well, Mom and Dad have tapped those trees. They drilled a little hole in each tree trunk and stuck a spout in it.

🔊 Sap from the tree drips out of the spout into a bucket. When the buckets are full, we empty them into a tank in our sugarhouse. The sugarhouse is where we boil the sap until it becomes syrup. The air fills with the sweet **scent** of maple syrup. I love that smell!

Jessie





▶ Chris sent an e-mail back to Jessie.

Hi, Jessie!

I wish we could make maple syrup here, but we don't have any sugar maple trees. We don't have snow, either. It's too warm.

▶ Because it's warm, we can grow crops all winter, so this is a busy time of year for us. We've been growing and harvesting citrus fruit, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, and other vegetables. Many of these vegetables are sold around the country. Maybe the grocery stores near you sell fruit and vegetables from our farm.

Chris

🔊 In the spring, Jessie e-mailed Chris.

Hi, Chris!

We had our usual muddy start to spring, but now the apple trees are **blooming**. So many bees are buzzing around them that you can hear the orchard before you see it.

🔊 We got our **shovels** out and started planting. Our asparagus is growing. We have some spinach and other greens, but that's it for now.

What's growing in your garden?

Jessie





Chris replied to Jessie.

Hi, Jessie!

Spring is another busy season in southern California. We still have asparagus, but now we also have artichokes, peppers, onions, tomatoes, and melons.

It gets warmer each day. Soon it will be really hot!

Take care,
Chris

Early in summer, Jessie wrote to Chris.

Hi, cousin!

Summer is here at last. It's time to pick strawberries to sell at our farm stand. I picked loads of them yesterday. My muscles ached and my fingers were sticky with juice. So was my mouth! (Okay, so I wasn't just picking!)

We're eating lettuce and spinach from our garden, and soon we'll have peas and potatoes! It will be a while before the tomatoes, squash, and blueberries are ripe.

Let me know what's going on with you!

Jessie






Chris wrote back to Jessie.

Hi, Jessie!

It's super hot here! We're still growing melons and tomatoes, and we have squash and other vegetables, too.


My friends and I go swimming a lot. We go to a pool when someone can drive us. Other days, we just spray each other with a hose.

Stay cool,
Chris

 In the fall, Jessie replied.

Hi, Chris!

It's my favorite time of year. The leaves of the sugar maple trees are turning from plain green to bright orange and red. I love the tough skin of the gourds. Some of the gourds look like hard, little pumpkins.

 Lots of people come to our farm to pick apples. We still have root vegetables to harvest, but soon the fields will be barren and the mornings will be frosty. Then winter will be here.

Take care,
Jessie





Chris replied.


Hi, Jessie!

Fall is my favorite time of year, too. Not because we have lots of vegetables and melons growing, but because my birthday is in November.

Mom and Dad told me I would be getting a big surprise. I wonder what it is.

Talk to you soon,
Chris

Jessie giggled. She knew exactly what Chris was getting for his birthday.


 On his birthday, Chris bounced out of bed, dressed, and raced into the kitchen. Mom and Dad were making pancakes.

“You’re up early,” they said.

Suddenly, the doorbell rang. Chris raced to the door and opened it.

 “Surprise!” yelled Jessie and her family.

“I can’t believe it!” said Chris. “When I wrote that I was getting a big surprise for my birthday, did you know that you were the surprise?”

 Jessie **nodded**. “But we brought you a surprise from our farm, too,” she said. “Maple syrup for your birthday breakfast.”

Responding

TARGET SKILL

Conclusions How did Chris feel on his birthday? How do you know? Copy and complete the chart below.

Detail: Chris bounced out of bed.	Detail: ?	Detail: ?
Conclusion: Chris felt ?		

Write About It

Text to Self Jessie and Chris wrote to each other about the changing seasons. Write a summary paragraph about how the seasons were different for Jessie and Chris. Then explain how the seasons are where you live.



TARGET VOCABULARY

blooming
muscles
noded
plain

scent
shovels
tough
wrinkled



EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY

barren
crops
grove
harvest

orchard
spout
sugaring



TARGET SKILL

Conclusions Use details to figure out more about the text.



TARGET STRATEGY

Analyze/Evaluate Tell how you feel about the text and why.



GENRE Realistic fiction is a story that could happen in real life.

Level: 0

DRA: 38

Genre:

Realistic Fiction

Strategy:

Analyze/Evaluate

Skill:

Conclusions

Word Count: 919

2.2.7

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

Online Levelled Books



ISBN-13: 978-0-547-01867-6
ISBN-10: 0-547-01867-3



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

1031711