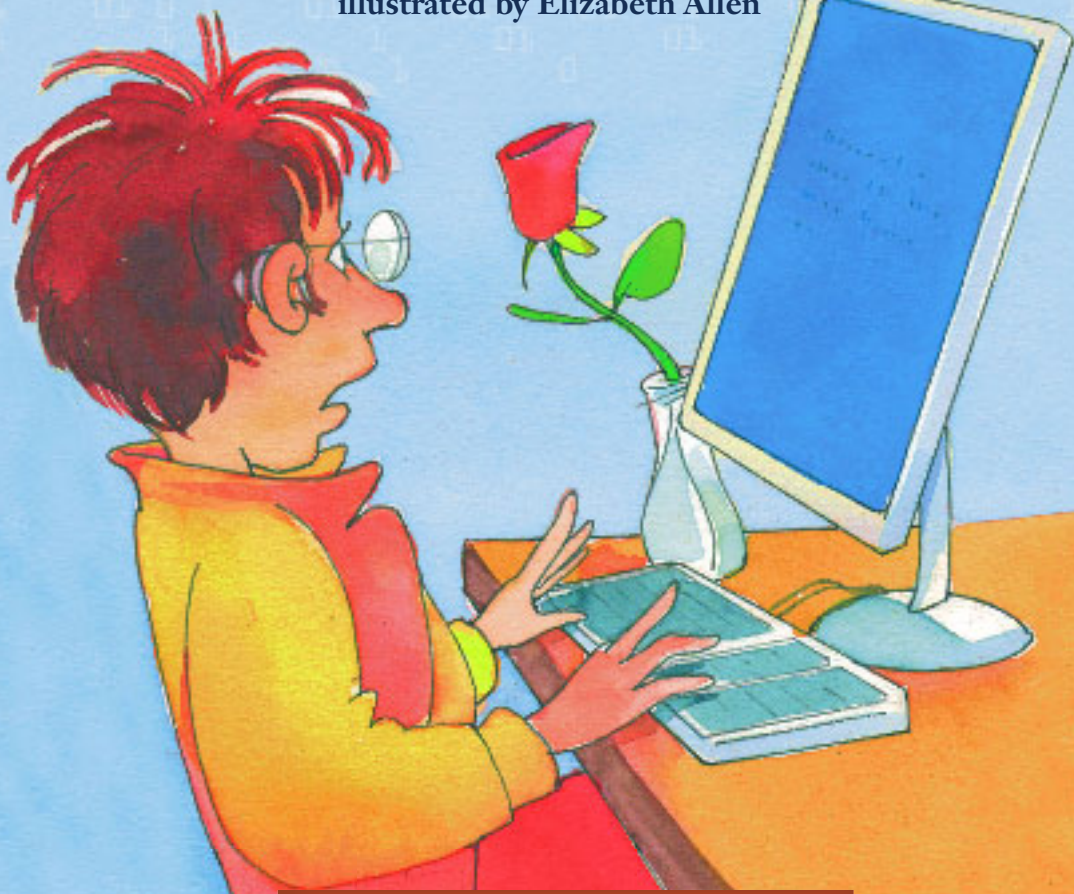
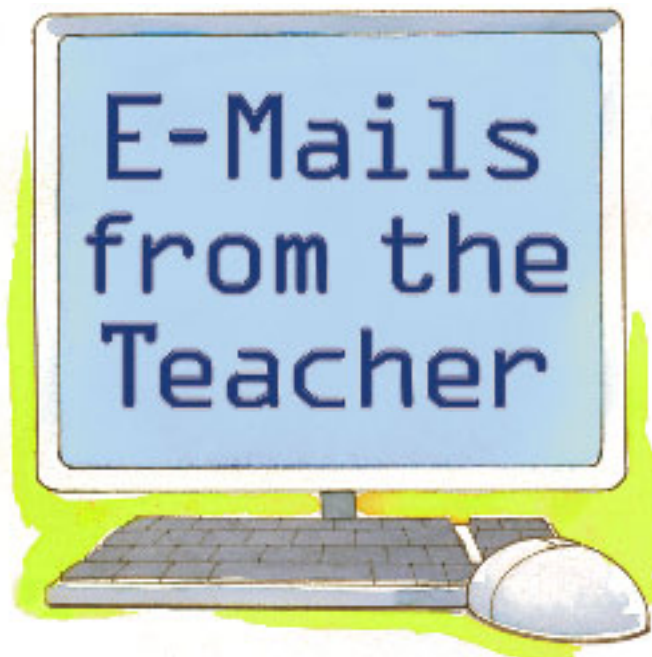


E-Mails from the Teacher

by Rachel Fogelberg
illustrated by Elizabeth Allen



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN



by Rachel Fogelberg
illustrated by Elizabeth Allen



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT
School Publishers

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Ms. Monroe looked from the list of jobs to the classroom pets and frowned.

Then she spoke. “Class, we have a **problem**. You are forgetting to do your classroom jobs. The pets need food, and they need their cages cleaned. The aquarium lights need to be turned on each day. Taking care of pets is a big responsibility. If these classroom jobs aren’t done every day, you know the consequence. We won’t be able to keep our pets. Remember to check the list first thing in the morning and then do your jobs right away.”



🔊 Lin looked at the list and said, “Oops!” Then she took care of the fish.

Anthony looked at the list and said, “Oops!” Then he took care of the rabbit.

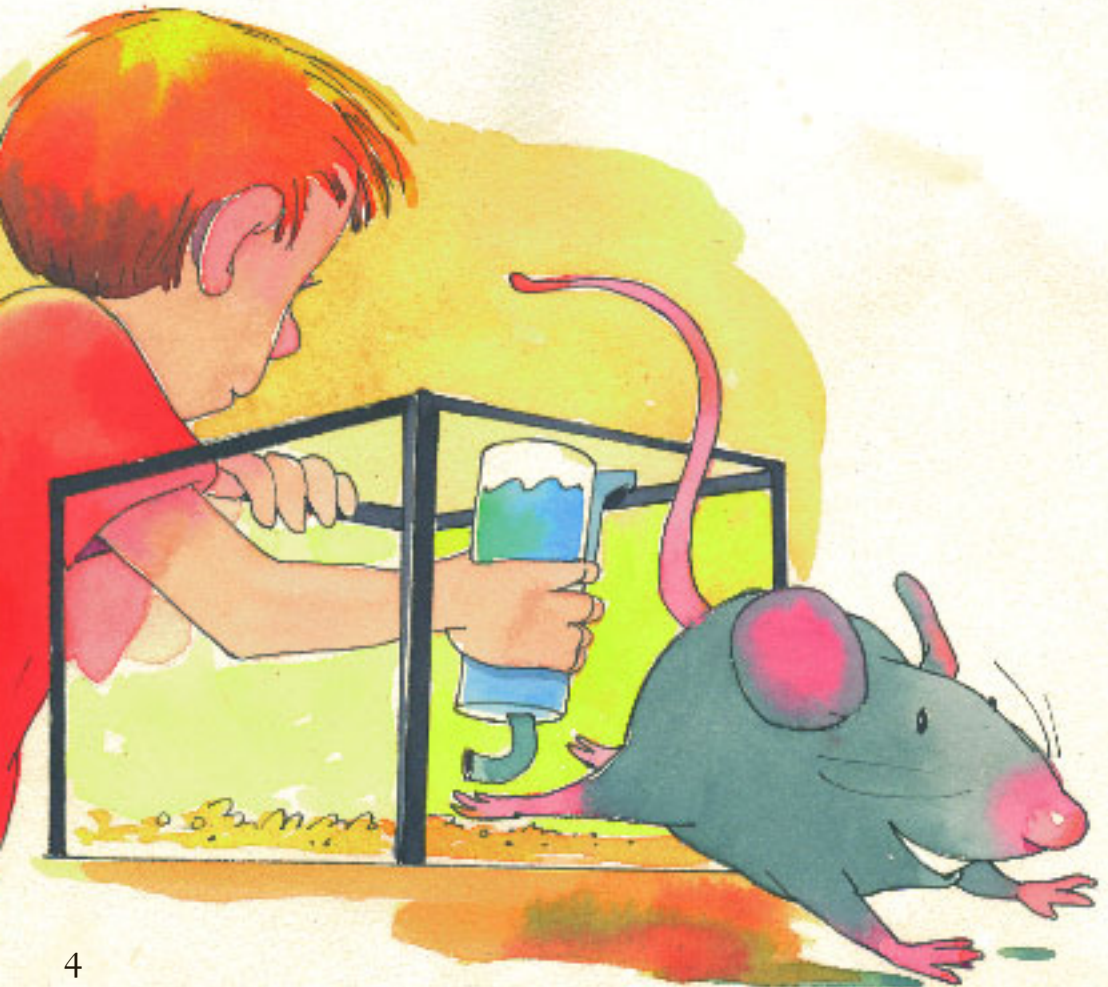
Philip looked at the list and said, “Oops!” Then he tried to take care of the mouse.



While Philip was cleaning Mouse's cage, Mouse scurried away. Philip yelled, "Oh, no!"

Everyone looked for Mouse, but they couldn't find him.

"I'll e-mail the principal to let her know that Mouse has escaped. Then we'll get on with our lessons," said Ms. Monroe.





That night, long after everyone had gone home, Mouse peeked out from behind the bookcase. He said hello to the rabbit and tapped on the aquarium.

“Who’s there?” cried the fish.

“It’s me. I’m Mouse! I’ll turn on the lights so you can see me,” said Mouse.

Mouse tried to turn on the lights, but he couldn’t. Then he looked at the computer and said, “I’ll find a solution to this problem.”

🔊 The next morning, Ms. Silva, the school principal, checked her e-mail.

“Ms. Monroe sent me an e-mail last night. I wonder what she wants,” said Ms. Silva. Then she read the e-mail.

🔊 Dear Ms. Silva,

Please ask the custodian to leave
the lights on in my classroom at night.
It keeps the fish happy.

Thank you,
Ms. Monroe

🔊 “I wonder why Ms. Monroe doesn’t ask the custodian to leave on the lights,” thought Ms. Silva. And she asked the custodian herself.

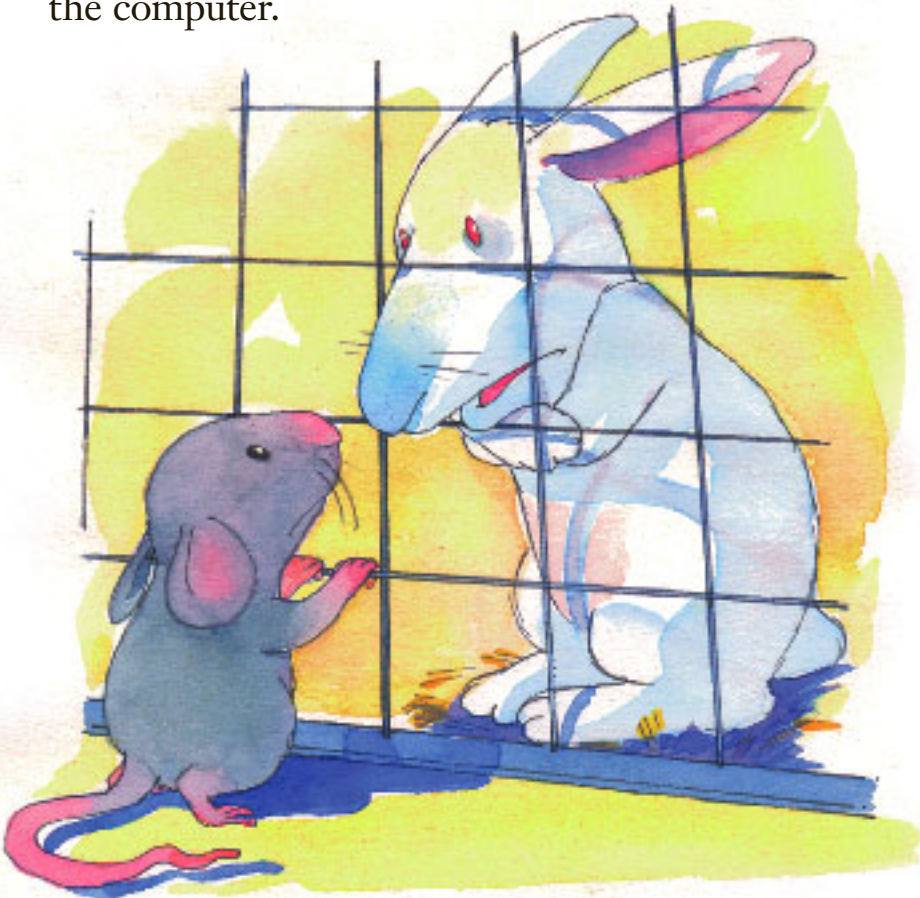


🔊 The next morning, Ms. Monroe was surprised to see the lights on in her classroom. “Did I forget to turn the lights off when I left?” she wondered.

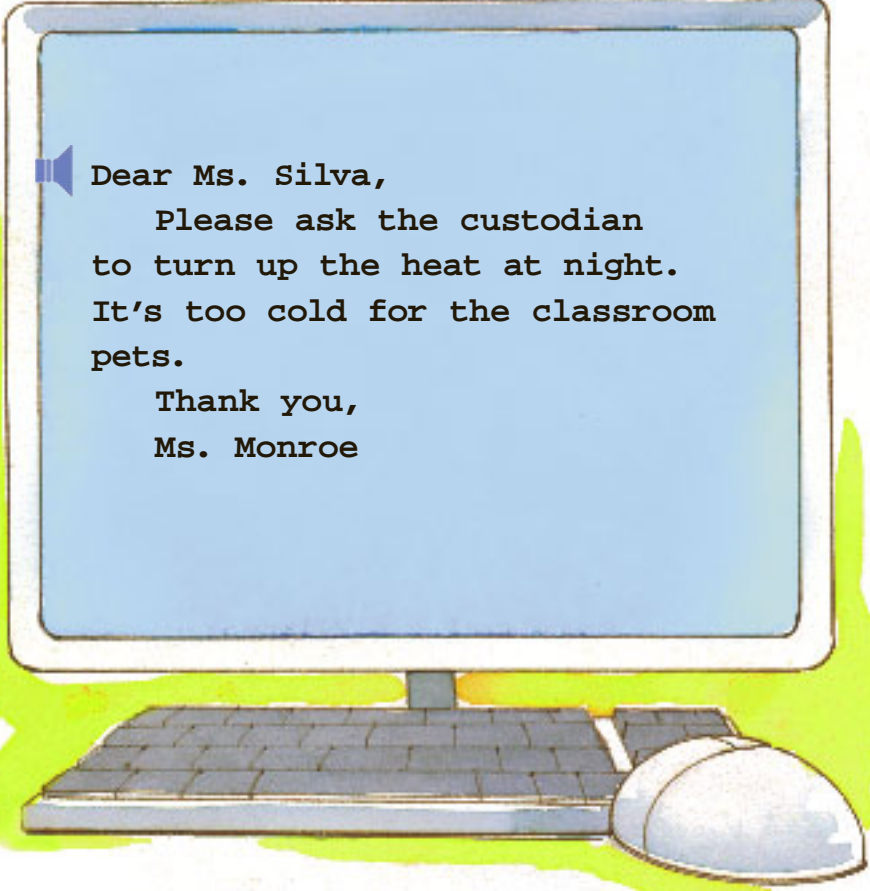
🔊 The following Monday, after everyone had gone home, Mouse came out from the bookcase and visited his friends.

🔊 “It’s cold. I need more hay in my cage,” complained the rabbit.

“I’ll find a solution,” said Mouse, and he ran to the computer.



🔊 On Tuesday morning, the principal received another e-mail from Ms. Monroe.



🔊 Dear Ms. Silva,
Please ask the custodian
to turn up the heat at night.
It's too cold for the classroom
pets.
Thank you,
Ms. Monroe

🔊 “Why doesn’t Ms. Monroe ask the custodian to turn up the heat? Maybe she’s shy,” said Ms. Silva. And then she asked the custodian herself.

🔊 On Wednesday morning, when Ms. Monroe opened the classroom door, the lights were on and the room was warm.

“Is something wrong with the heat?” wondered Ms. Monroe.

🔊 After everyone had left school, Mouse came out from the bookcase to visit the other pets. The rabbit pushed some lettuce through his cage for Mouse to eat.

🔊 “Wouldn’t some carrots be tasty?” said the rabbit.

“Sunflower seeds would be nice, too. I know just what to do,” said Mouse, and he ran to the computer.



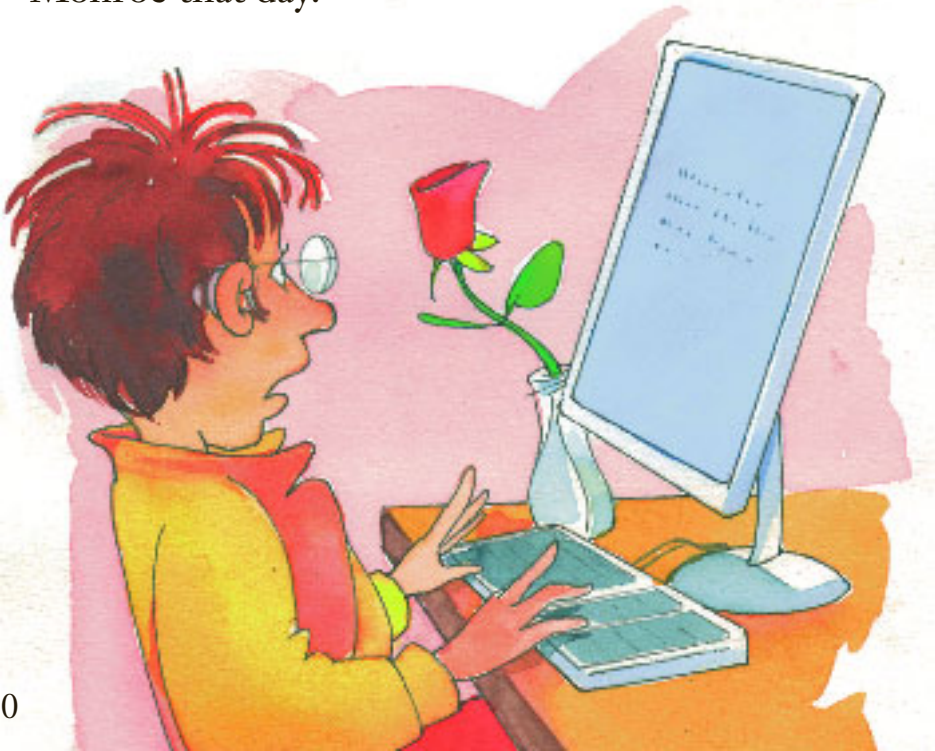
🔊 On Thursday morning, the principal had another e-mail.

🔊 Dear Ms. Silva,

Please bring sunflower seeds and carrots to my classroom tonight. The animals need variety in their diet.

Thank you,
Ms. Monroe

🔊 “Ms. Monroe must buy these things herself. I’ll tell her if I see her today,” said Ms. Silva. But the principal didn’t have time to talk to Ms. Monroe that day.



On Friday morning, Ms. Silva had another e-mail.

Dear Ms. Silva,

The animals are **furious**. They did not get any sunflower seeds or carrots last night. I **demand** that you bring some to my classroom tonight!


Sincerely,

Ms. Monroe

P.S. If you can't bring sunflower seeds *and* carrots, let's negotiate. Here's a compromise. You can bring either sunflower seeds or carrots.

Ms. Silva thought, "This has gone too far. I must speak to Ms. Monroe!"




 Ms. Silva rapped on Ms. Monroe's classroom door. "We must talk about the latest e-mail you sent me," she said.

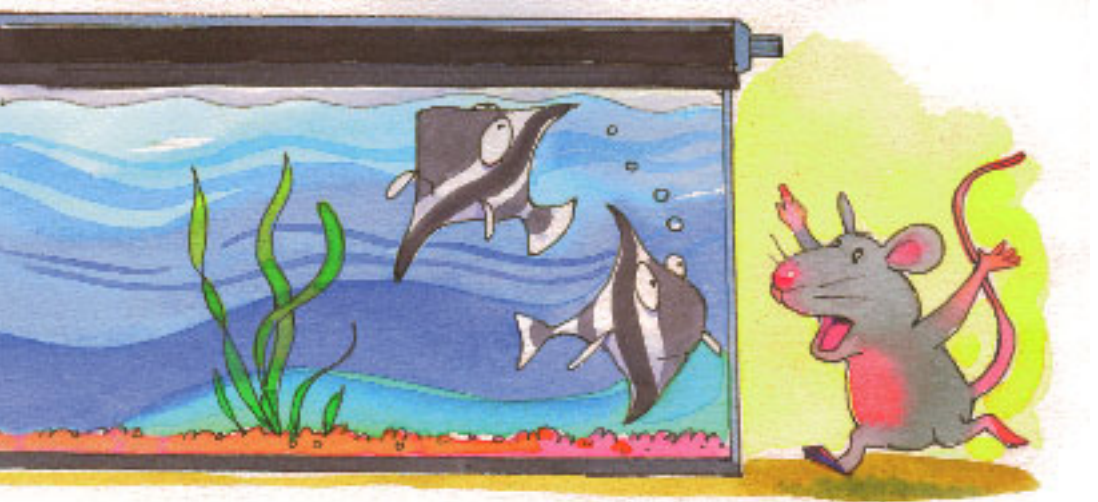
"Oh! Have you found our missing mouse?" exclaimed Ms. Monroe.


"No. I'm here to discuss your e-mail about carrots and sunflower seeds," said Ms. Silva.

"I never sent such an e-mail!" exclaimed Ms. Monroe.

 Suddenly Lin pointed to the bookcase. "Look! It's our mouse!" said Lin.

Mouse squeaked and ran to the fish tank. He pointed at the lights and squeaked some more. Philip said, "He's trying to tell us something, but I don't **understand** him."



 Then Mouse ran to the computer. Everyone gathered around him.

“Mouse is typing a message!” said Anthony.

“That’s impossible!” said Ms. Silva.

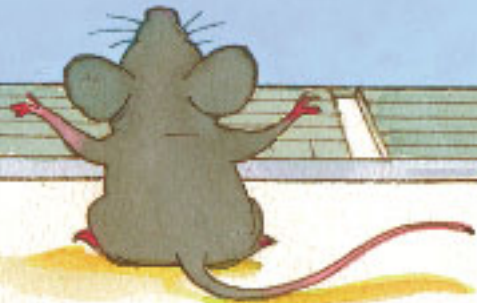
“I can’t believe it,” said Ms. Monroe.

 Dear everyone:

We pets need better care.
I was impatient, so I sent
e-mails to Ms. Silva. I apologize
for using Ms. Monroe’s name,
but I didn’t think anyone would
listen to a mouse.

I’m sorry for the trouble
I caused.

Sincerely,
Mouse



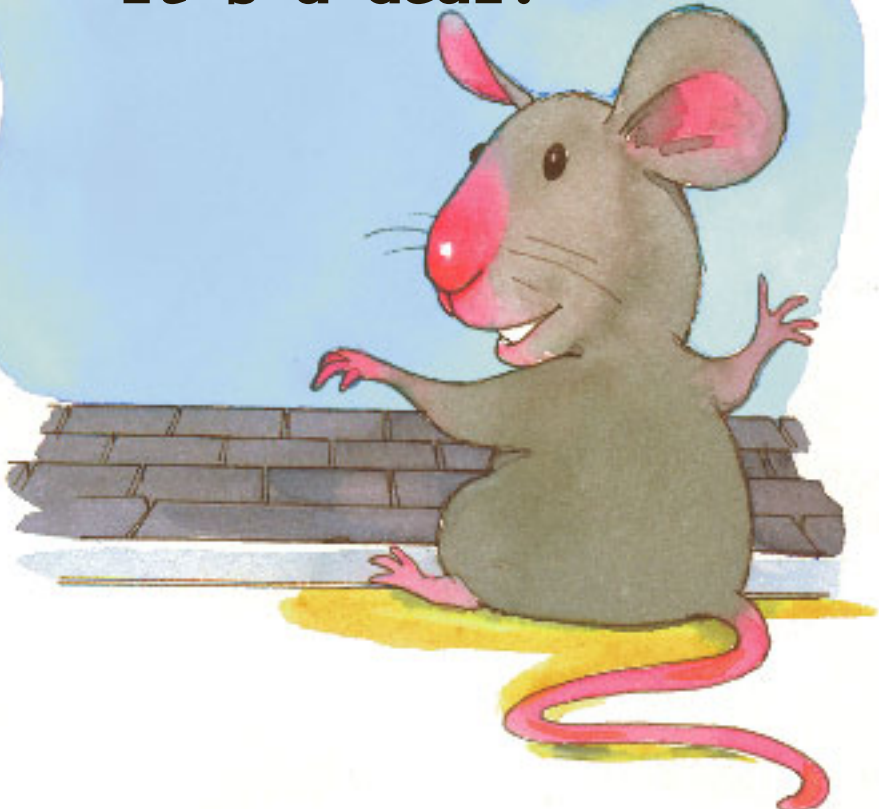
 Ms. Monroe said to Mouse, “It was wrong of you to use my name.”

Lin said, “Send an e-mail to Ms. Monroe or to us students whenever you have a problem, Mouse. Then we’ll find a solution.”

Philip said, “We promise to take better care of you.”

Mouse typed, “It’s a deal.”

It’s a deal.



Responding

TARGET SKILL

Conclusions

Why do you think Mouse sent e-mails to Ms. Silva instead of Ms. Monroe? Copy the chart. Write two more details that helps you make a conclusion. Then write your answer in the Conclusion box.

Detail: Ms. Silva is the principal	Detail: ?	Detail: ?
Conclusion: ?		

Write About It

Text to Text Think about a different story with a character who writes letters. Write a persuasive letter telling that character to change something about their behavior.



TARGET VOCABULARY

believe

demand

furious

gathered

impatient

impossible

problem

understand

EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY

compromise

consequence

negotiate

solution



TARGET SKILL

Conclusions Use details

to figure out more about the text.



TARGET STRATEGY

Infer/Predict Use

clues to figure out more about story parts.



GENRE Humorous fiction is a story that is written to make the reader laugh.

Level: N

DRA: 30

Genre:

Humorous Fiction

Strategy:

Infer/Predict

Skill:

Conclusions

Word Count: 915

2.3.11

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