

Phrases of Time - Excerpt A

After taking attendance, you made a big announcement:

“Welcome! This year we’ll be planting the first-ever
Second-Grade Garden.

It will be our great experiment.”

“Yay! We get to dig in the mud!” I shouted.

“True, but first we read about plants,” you said.

“We’ll use math to measure our plot,
and we’ll write our garden plan.”

Reading? Math? Writing?

I was better at running and jumping.



Phrases of Time - Excerpt A



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Phrases of Time - Excerpt B



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Phrases of Time - Excerpt C

When you weren't watching, I started to hop the rocks.
Right in the middle I got stuck.
"Look at me! I'm Mary What's-Her-Name," I hollered,
trying to sound brave.
"Watch out for crocodiles," you called back.
Then you rushed to rescue me.



On the way back, you held my hand,
and never told anyone how much I was shaking.

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Phrases of Time - Excerpt D



All fall, I tried hard to sit still.
Right before Thanksgiving vacation,
you asked who wanted to take the Mouse Brothers home.
“Me! Pick me!” I shouted.

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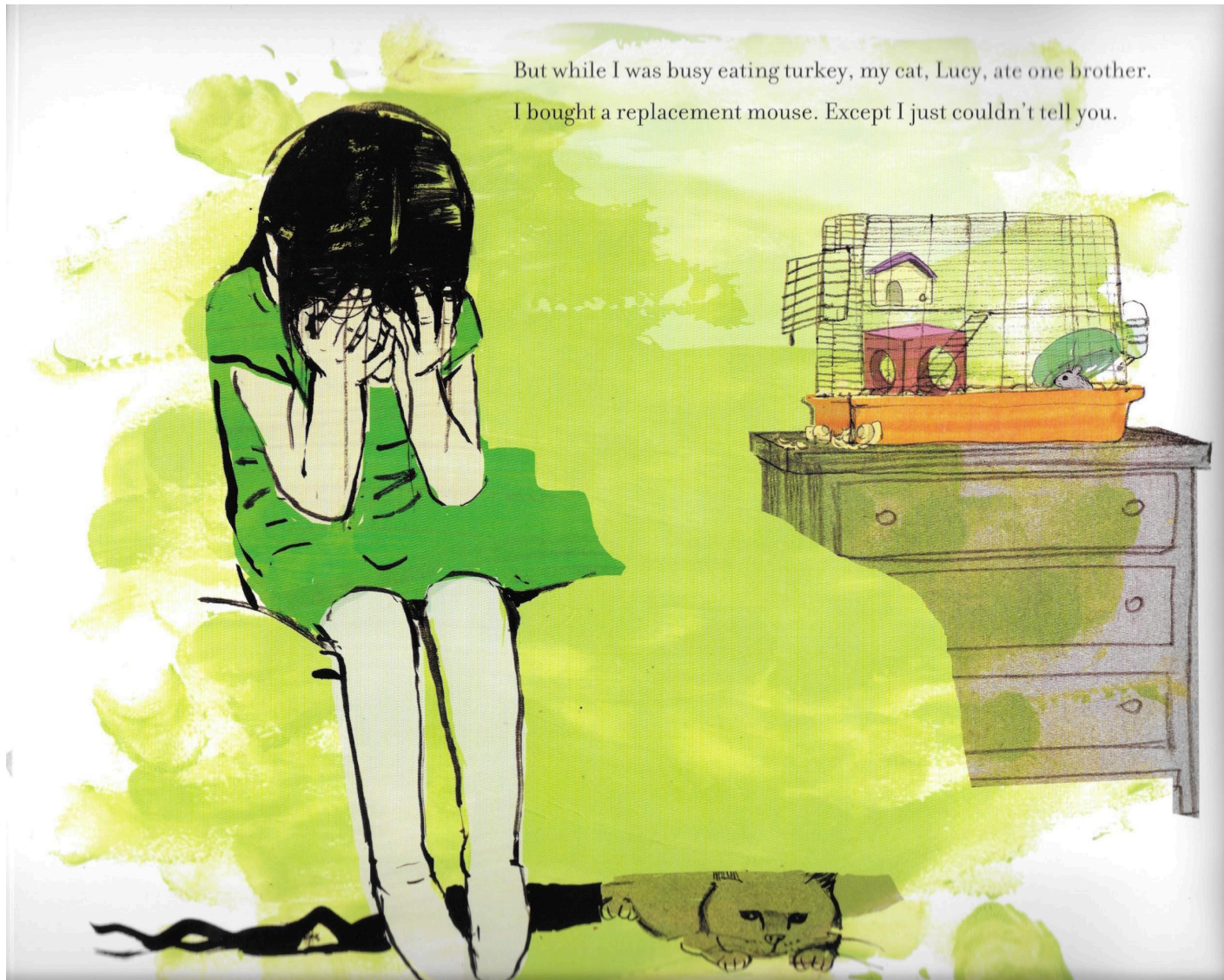
Phrases of Time - Excerpt D



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Phrases of Time - Excerpt E



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Phrases of Time - Excerpt F

One day when we were cleaning their cage,
you called me over to your desk and told me that
we might have to change the brothers' names
to Ma and Pa Mouse.

"You knew the whole time," I said.

Laughing, you said, "Might as well get used to it:
teachers see everything."



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Phrases of Time - Excerpt G



When winter came,
the reading corner became our secret garden of stories.
On Friday afternoons, we all curled up in a heap to listen—
just like our new litter of mice.

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Phrases of Time - Excerpt H

I practiced hard and you gave me extra help, too.

One day you brought me a special book.

"I met a real author and he autographed it
just for you," you said.

I looked at the cover and sounded out the words.

"Wow! It's about her! That explorer, Mary Kingsley."

You smiled. "Next week, you can share it with the class."



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Phrases of Time - Excerpt I

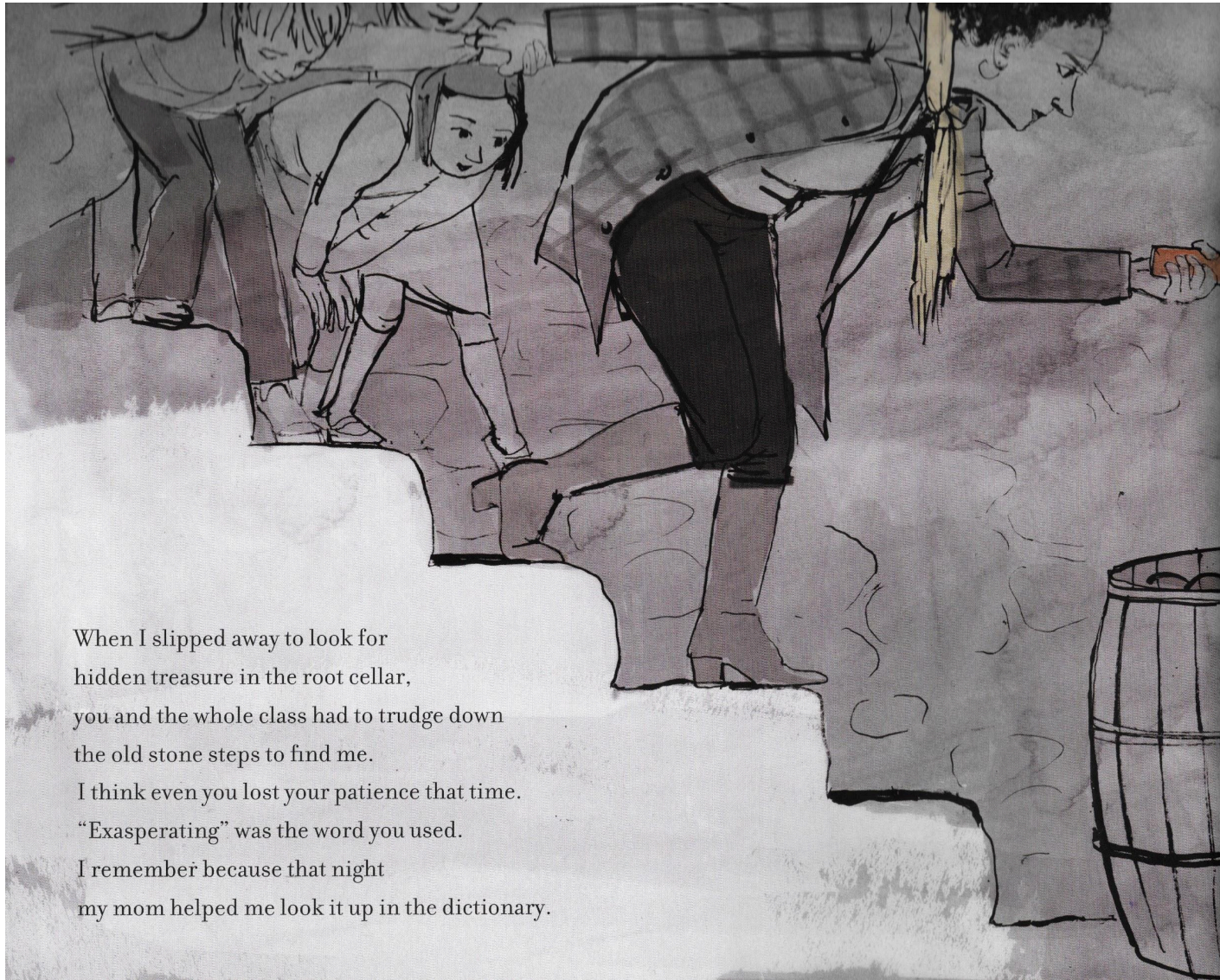


In March we explored our town.
We went on a field trip to an old house.
It was full of history—and secret stairways.

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Phrases of Time - Excerpt J



When I slipped away to look for
hidden treasure in the root cellar,
you and the whole class had to trudge down
the old stone steps to find me.
I think even you lost your patience that time.
“Exasperating” was the word you used.
I remember because that night
my mom helped me look it up in the dictionary.

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Phrases of Time - Excerpt J



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Phrases of Time - Excerpt K

On the Friday before summer vacation,
we wrote out invitations to every class
to come enjoy the salad we'd grown ourselves.
"Splendid spinach," said the principal.
"It's because of the worms," I explained.



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Phrases of Time - Excerpt L



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Phrases of Time - Excerpt L

For a long time now
I've been wanting to write to tell you
that even though I didn't always listen,
and I know I was exasperating,
second grade really was the best year ever.

So I guess you won't be too surprised to hear
that I still like to stomp through creeks,
dig in the garden,
and even read out loud to my cat.

Most of all I want to tell you
that I'm about to start my first job.
And tomorrow morning, when I go to work,
I'll think about everything you helped me explore,
and try my best to be like you.



Writing U1 W3 D1