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Grade 2



Grade 5

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

Readers'
Theater

On the Mayflower



Assignment Photography

©HMCo./Ken Karp.

Background Illustration

Jui Ishida.

On the Mayflower



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

BOSTON

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123456789-STA-15 14 13 12 11 10 09 08 07

Cast of Characters

TV Crew

Jasmine TV director

Ana head of costumes and props

Kobe historian

Mayflower Cast

John Alden cooper and Pilgrim leader

Elizabeth Hopkins mother

Constance Hopkins daughter

Captain Jones the Mayflower's captain

Oceanus Hopkins baby son

All sounds, songs, cheers

Sailors

Place Set for TV show

Time The present

ACT I

Jasmine Okay, everyone. We have two days to tape our TV show, “On the Mayflower.”

John I have a question.

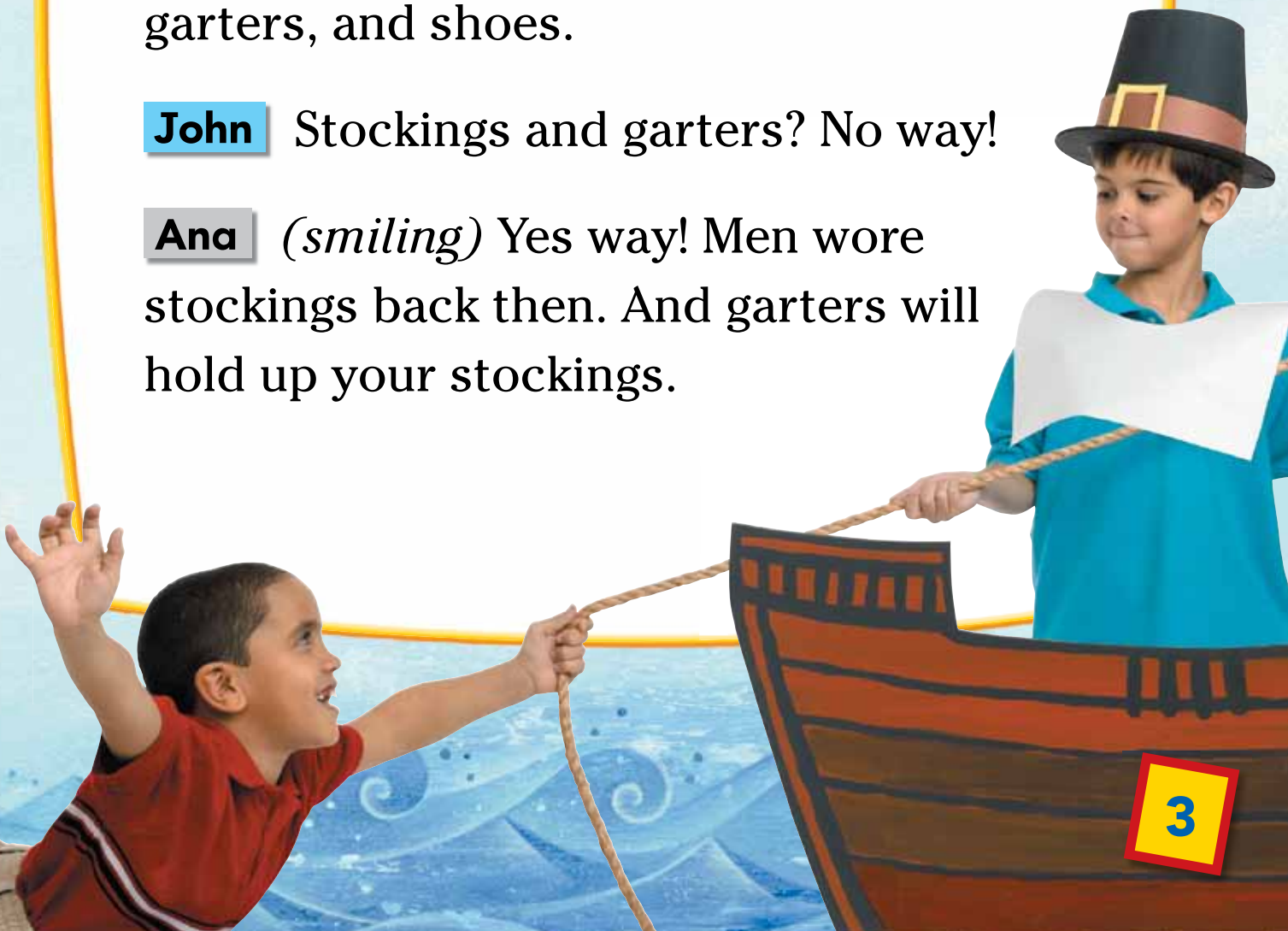
Jasmine Yes, John?

John What am I wearing for this scene?

Ana A cap, shirt, suit, stockings, garters, and shoes.

John Stockings and garters? No way!

Ana *(smiling)* Yes way! Men wore stockings back then. And garters will hold up your stockings.



John (*frowning*) I'll go and change.

Jasmine Are there any other questions?

Elizabeth Yes. What is that box on rockers?

Kobe It's a cradle like the one on the Mayflower.

Ana We built it for your baby in this scene.

Elizabeth Thanks!

Constance I have a question. Why can't I eat an orange in this scene?

Kobe Sorry. There weren't any fresh fruits OR veggies on the Mayflower.

Captain We don't have many props. Is that okay?

Kobe Yes, because the Pilgrims didn't bring much with them. There wasn't room on the ship.

Elizabeth What did they bring?

Kobe Barrels of food and a few chests.

Constance Did they bring books?

Kobe Yes. They also brought tools for cooking and building.

Jasmine More questions? *(looking around)*
No? Let's get started. Places, everyone!

(The actors move into position.)

Jasmine *(pointing the camera at the actors)*
Roll camera...and...ACTION!

All *(cheering)* Hooray! A brand new baby boy. Hooray!

Oceanus WAH! WAH! WAAAHHHHH!

Elizabeth (*rocking the baby in a cradle*)
There, there, little one. Don't cry.

John This is a special day.

All Hear, hear!

Captain This is the first baby born on
our ship.

Oceanus WAH! WAH! WAAAHHHHH!

John (*laughing*) ...and a healthy one
at that!

Captain (*shooing everyone away*) Now let
the baby rest.

Elizabeth Constance, please
get breakfast ready while I care
for the baby.



Constance Cold biscuits and cheese again! I wish we had fruit.

Elizabeth Sorry, daughter. Be thankful for the food we do have.

Constance I will set out the food. Then I will....uh...uh...uh...wash our clothing.

Jasmine CUT!

(All of the actors look at Jasmine.)

Jasmine You were supposed to say: "I will set out the dishes, too."

Constance I forgot my line! Anyway, why can't I say that?

Kobe The Pilgrims didn't wash clothes on the Mayflower. They didn't take baths either!

Constance Why not?

Kobe They had little fresh water.
It was only used for drinking.

Jasmine Constance, please say your line
again. Then this scene is done.

ACT 2

The next day

Ana John? Sailors? Do you have your tools
for the next scene?

John and **Sailors** Yes!

Ana (*to the Hopkins family*) Do you have
your oilcloths?

Constance Oilcloths? What are they?

Ana Blankets, remember? They're made from old sails coated with oil. Wrap one around yourself. Act as if you are cold.

Jasmine Are we ready? Places, everyone!

(The actors move into position.)

Jasmine *(pointing the camera at the actors)*
Roll camera...and...ACTION!

All Whoosh...whoosh....whoosh!

Elizabeth It is so windy and cloudy.

John The waves are high, too.

Constance Brrrr. I am so cold. And the ship is rocking. I feel sick!

Oceanus Wah! Wah! WAHHHHHH!

Elizabeth Come, Constance. Let us go below with the baby. We will try and warm up.

John Good idea! You will be safer and warmer down below.

(A few minutes later)

All Creak....creeeaaaaak....CRASH!

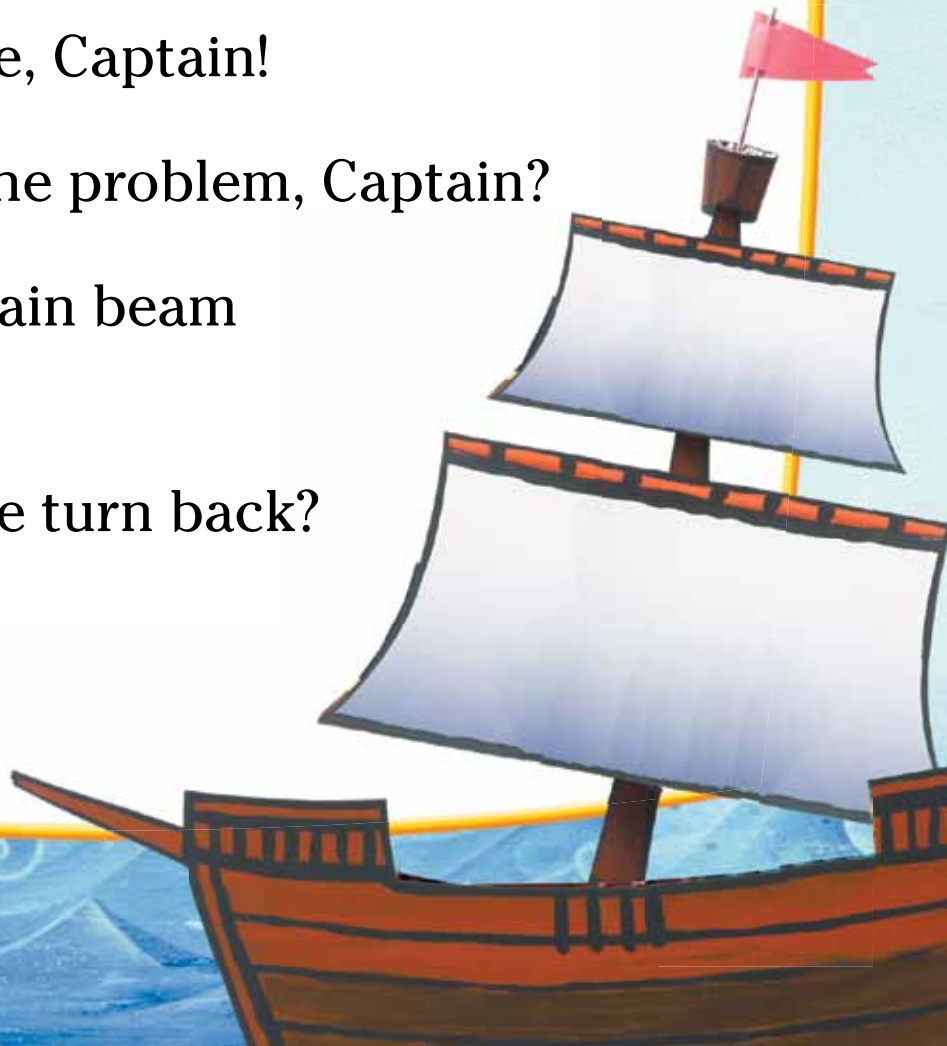
Captain All hands on deck!

Sailors Aye, aye, Captain!

John What is the problem, Captain?

Captain The main beam has cracked!

John Should we turn back?



Captain We have come too far. We cannot turn back!

John Do you think we can fix the beam?

Captain Yes. Men, get your tools. We must fix the beam.

Sailors Aye, aye, Captain!

Captain John, see if the barrels are safe.

John I will. We don't want saltwater getting into our fresh water or our food.

(Ana's cell phone rings.)

All Brrring, brrring!

Jasmine CUT! What now?

Ana Sorry! I'll turn my phone off. The props for the next scene just arrived.

Jasmine That's okay. It's a good time to take a lunch break....

(louder) One hour, everyone!

ACT 3

One hour later

Jasmine Are we ready to tape the last scene? *(looking around)* Places, everyone!

(The actors move into position.)

Jasmine *(pointing the camera at the actors)*
Roll camera...and...ACTION!

(The ship's bell rings.)

All Ding, ding...Ding, ding!

Captain Ahoy! There is land ahead.
Prepare the ship.

Sailors Aye, aye, Captain!

All (*cheering*) Land! Land!

Captain I see a long, curving beach ahead.

Elizabeth This is the first land we've seen in more than two months.

John Soon we will build our new community.

Elizabeth I hope we find fresh water to drink.

Constance I cannot wait to wash my clothing.

Elizabeth We can plant fruits and vegetables.

Constance We can have hot meals.

Oceanus Coo, coo. Gurgle, gurgle.

(Everyone laughs.)

Elizabeth Your baby brother is very happy.
This will be his very first home.

All Hear, hear!

Constance I cannot wait to meet
new friends!

John *(looking around)* Everyone, it is time
to begin our new lives.



All *(to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean")*

Our ship sails along in the ocean.

Our ship sails along in the sea.

Our ship sails along in the ocean.

We'll soon walk on land and be free.

Sailing, sailing. We've traveled so far.

We are free, so free.

Sailing, sailing. We've traveled so far.

We are free!

Jasmine And....CUT! That was terrific!

All (*clapping and cheering*) Hooray!

Jasmine Great! See you at the cast party.



Glossary

captain a person who is in charge of a ship and its sailors

cooper a person who builds and fixes barrels

cradle a small low bed for a baby

garter a band worn around the leg to hold up a stocking

historian a person who studies the past

Mayflower the ship that sailed from England to America carrying the Pilgrims in 1620

Pilgrims a group of people who left England and came to America to be free

Assignment Photography

©HMCo./Ken Karp.

Background Illustration

Jui Ishida.

Bright Lights on Learning!

History
Comparing Past and Present

What was it like to sail
on the Mayflower?
Go behind the scenes
to find out!

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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Readers'
Theater

RIVER TOWN



Photography

15 HMCo./Photodisc.

Assignment Photography

©HMCo./Angela Coppola.

Background Illustration

Steve Patricia.

RIVER TOWN



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

BOSTON

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Narrator

Mr. Sharp storekeeper

Mrs. Hall English traveler

Emma daughter of the Sharps

Mrs. Sharp storekeeper

Rob Emma's brother

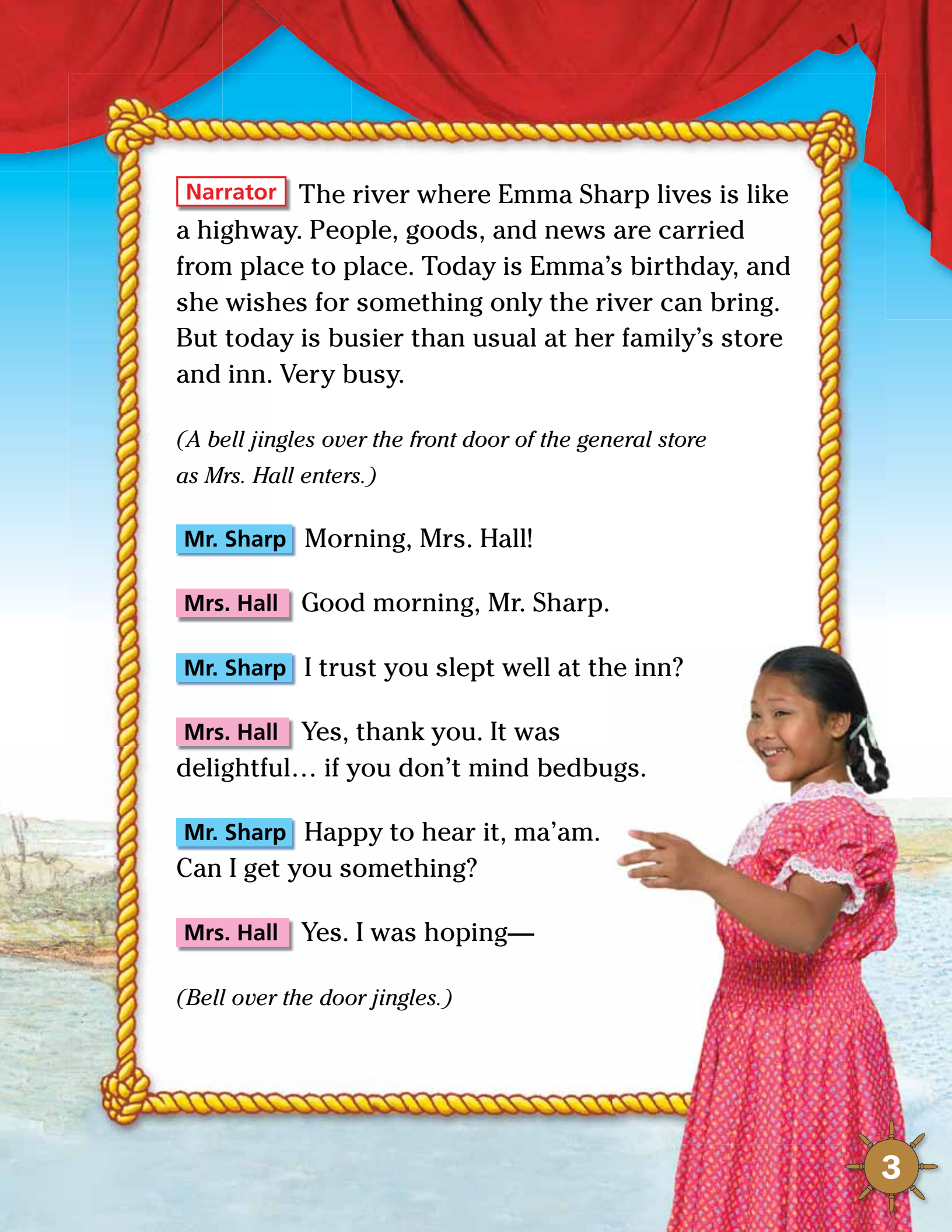
Sam Moore farmer

Boatman flatboat pilot

Captain steamboat captain

And featuring The Bells and Whistles **Band**

Setting General Store in Otters Landing,
Summer day, 1826



Narrator The river where Emma Sharp lives is like a highway. People, goods, and news are carried from place to place. Today is Emma's birthday, and she wishes for something only the river can bring. But today is busier than usual at her family's store and inn. Very busy.

(A bell jingles over the front door of the general store as Mrs. Hall enters.)

Mr. Sharp Morning, Mrs. Hall!

Mrs. Hall Good morning, Mr. Sharp.

Mr. Sharp I trust you slept well at the inn?

Mrs. Hall Yes, thank you. It was delightful... if you don't mind bedbugs.

Mr. Sharp Happy to hear it, ma'am. Can I get you something?

Mrs. Hall Yes. I was hoping—

(Bell over the door jingles.)

Emma *(excited)* Father! A flatboat's coming down the river! It's a big one.

Mrs. Sharp Emma! Mind your manners.

Emma Oh, sorry. *(to Mrs. Hall)* Pardon me, ma'am... Father, may I go watch it dock? I finished with the sweeping.

Rob Can I go too? The wood is all stacked.

Emma Please, Father.

Mr. Sharp Go ahead then, but don't get underfoot.

Mrs. Sharp And come right back. There's still much to do here.

Rob I'll see if anyone needs help, and then we'll be back.

(Jingle of door bell as Rob and Emma leave.)

Mrs. Hall *(clears throat loudly)* As I was saying, I wondered if you have something for—



(Jingle of door bell.)

Sam Moore Good morning! *(nods to Mrs. Hall)*
Ma'am.

Mr. Sharp and **Mrs. Sharp** Hello, Sam.

Sam Moore My list is short today. *(reciting from memory)* Nails, molasses, coffee, a packet of needles, pie pan, pitcher, salt, new comb—Sally stepped on her favorite one, and she's beside herself—stick of licorice if you've got some. Beeswax. Did I say that?

Narrator That's a short list? Well, yes, for Sam. No matter how long it is, Sam always adds in the licorice, and Mr. Sharp always says the same thing.

Mr. Sharp My word, Samuel Moore. Is it your birthday? It's not? Well, then, what have you got to trade?

Sam Moore Corn, butter, eggs... Look in my wagon.

(Jingle of door bell as they go outside.)

Mrs. Hall Now, Mrs. Sharp, if you please, I need something for—

(Door bell jingles as door swings open.)

Mr. Sharp Sam's got feathers. Can we use feathers?

Mrs. Sharp Yes! For that old bed at the inn.

(Bell jingles as door shuts.)

Mrs. Hall *(yells)* —for the bedbugs! Oh, I'm itchy!
(quietly) IF you don't mind.

Mrs. Sharp Of course. Skeeters are pesky this season, too, aren't they? Here is some witch hazel. Made it up myself. Very soothing. Today is Emma's birthday, not Mr. Moore's. That's bit of a joke.
(to herself) Ooo, low on molasses...

Narrator While the Sharps are busy in the store, the flatboat approaches the landing. The men on board use large oars to bring it in, and Rob helps them tie it up.

Boatman Thank you, friend.

Rob Not at all. How was your trip?

Boatman That storm last week made a mess. We hit a big snag below Hillsville. Trees down in the river. Hope it's better between here and the city. We've got corn from up the river to go to market.

Rob Up at the store, my father will have some goods for you.

Boatman We also brought the Hawkins family downriver. Six, all told.

Rob Where are they from?

Boatman East of Hillsville, heading somewhere. Not settling here at Otters Landing. Somewhere south. They'll be on foot, hoping to hitch a ride. Imagine they're worried.

(Rob motions to Emma to join them.)

Rob *(to Emma)* Wasn't that Sam Moore's wagon up at the store?





Emma Yes, I saw it coming in.

Rob *(to the boatman)* He lives out past Roundtop. He might give them a ride.

Emma He'd walk the whole way to help somebody out.

Narrator Rob and Emma watch the activity on the flatboat as the boatman talks to the Hawkins family. A group leaves the dock and heads to the store. Emma doesn't look very happy.

Rob Emma? What's the matter? They'll be fine.

Emma I want to stay here and wait for the steamboat.

Rob But we need you at the store.

Emma It was supposed to come two days ago! And it hasn't come yet.

Rob I know. That's why Mrs. Hall and those other English people are still here.

Emma I love the steamboat whistle. I haven't heard it since I was nine.

Rob I see, and now you're ancient. Ten?

Emma You know I am.

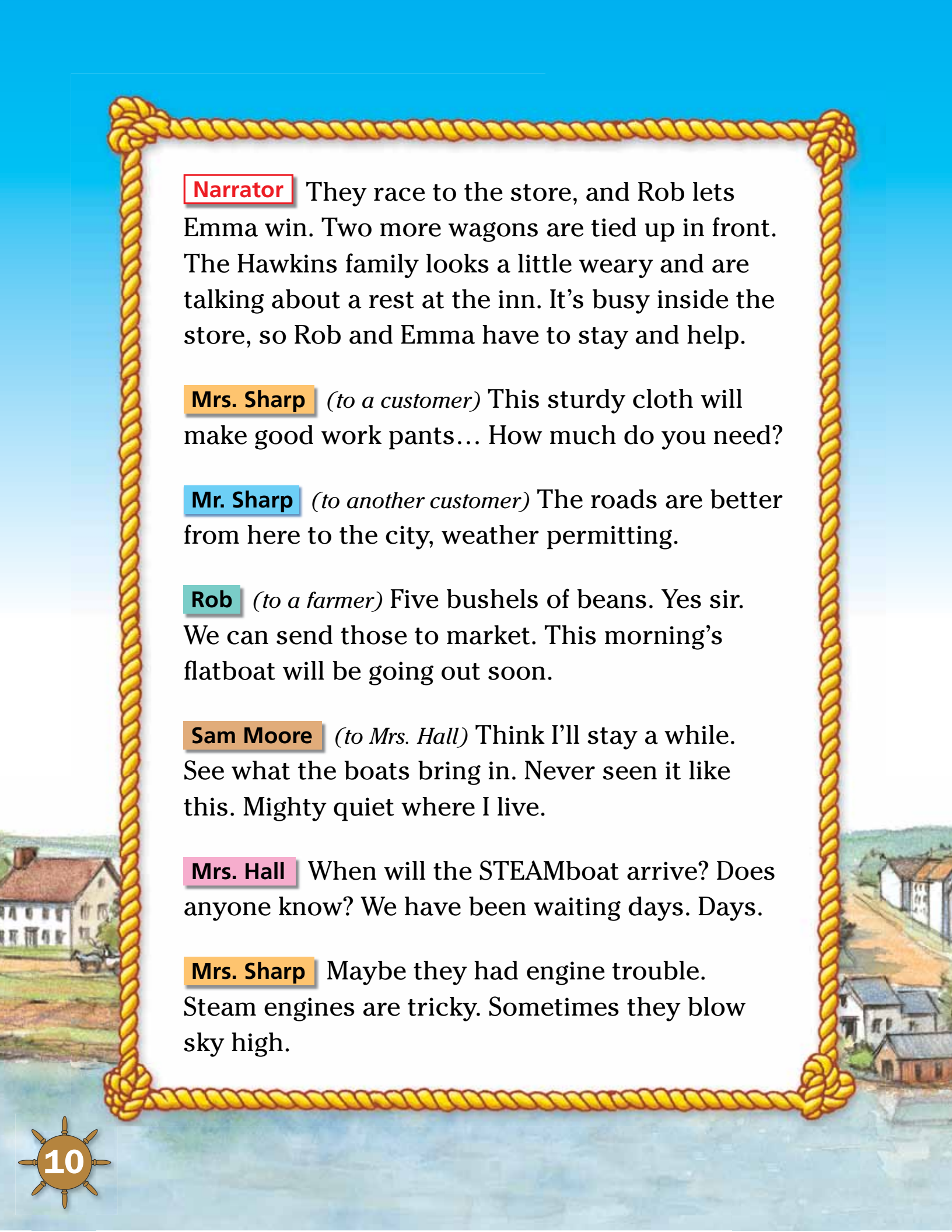
Rob I thought you were worried about that family... Well, you know what Mother says: A watched pot never boils. Let's go back. We have chores to do.

Emma I just like the big sound... the way it bounces off the water. Makes my hair stand up.

Rob Is that what does it? Well, we should— Look! (*points*) A trading boat, coming upriver!

Emma (*pointing in the opposite direction*) Rob! Look over there.

Rob Another flatboat. Let's go tell Father. Maybe we can get back to watch them come in.



Narrator They race to the store, and Rob lets Emma win. Two more wagons are tied up in front. The Hawkins family looks a little weary and are talking about a rest at the inn. It's busy inside the store, so Rob and Emma have to stay and help.

Mrs. Sharp *(to a customer)* This sturdy cloth will make good work pants... How much do you need?

Mr. Sharp *(to another customer)* The roads are better from here to the city, weather permitting.

Rob *(to a farmer)* Five bushels of beans. Yes sir. We can send those to market. This morning's flatboat will be going out soon.

Sam Moore *(to Mrs. Hall)* Think I'll stay a while. See what the boats bring in. Never seen it like this. Mighty quiet where I live.

Mrs. Hall When will the STEAMboat arrive? Does anyone know? We have been waiting days. Days.

Mrs. Sharp Maybe they had engine trouble. Steam engines are tricky. Sometimes they blow sky high.

Sam Moore They say you should sit as far from the engine as possible. Just in case.

Mrs. Hall *(faintly)* Oh dear.

(Jingle of door bell. Boatman enters.)

Boatman I'm ready to start loading.

Mr. Sharp Good. We've got beans, too. Let's step outside. Rob, I'll need your help.

(Jingle of door bell as they leave.)

Narrator It's late in the day. Time has passed quickly for everyone but Emma and Mrs. Hall.

Mrs. Hall This is pure tedium, I say. We must find another way to get to Hillsville. Mr. Sharp, is there a carriage for hire?

Mr. Sharp The stagecoach gallops through with the mail tomorrow. No carriages otherwise, ma'am.

Emma I was so much wishing to hear that whistle today. *(sigh)*

Mrs. Sharp Cheer up, Emma. We'll have a party with the neighbors after supper. I made your favorite jam cakes.

Emma *(sadly)* I know.

(Silence. Then... a whistle starts low and quiet; slowly slides up to a long, loud high note; the high note repeats.)

Band Ooooooooooooooooooooooh!
Ooooooh! Ooooooh!

Emma *(gasps)* It's the steamboat! It's coming!

Mrs. Hall Gracious!

Band Oooooooooooooooooooooh! Ooooooooooh!

Emma *(shouting)* Listen! Listen! The steamboat! Listen!

Mr. Sharp How can we, with you carrying on?

Rob Let's go!



Mrs. Hall Yes. Yes!

Band Jingle, jingle, jingle!

Narrator When the steamboat docks, everyone—all of the Otters Landing townspeople—watch as the gangplank is laid between the riverbank and the boat. Passengers get off. Freight is unloaded. The Sharps talk with the steamboat captain.

Mrs. Sharp Hello, Captain. You have quite a haul.

Captain Yes, indeed. Several families, plus household goods and livestock. Some are settling near here. They'll want supplies.

Mr. Sharp I know just where they can get them.

Mrs. Hall Excuse me, Captain. I'm Mrs. Hall. What has kept you?

Captain Mechanical difficulties, ma'am. We're fine now. Just don't let me go over three miles an hour!

Mrs. Hall Oh no...

Mrs. Sharp *(to the Captain)* When will you be back down this way?

Captain In about a week. I'll have hogs and wheat and whatnot. We'll do business then. *(pauses)* Mrs. Hall, I advise you to get yourself aboard if you're coming.

Emma Captain! Captain!

Captain Hello, Miss Emma. Haven't seen you in a long while.

Emma Guess what day it is. Guess what day.

Captain Thursday, last I heard.

Emma Guess again.

Captain The day the boat was late, once more, because the captain was stumped by the questions of—

Emma It's my birthday.

Captain Is that so? Well, now. What might you want for your birthday? Let me think. It's coming back to me now...

Narrator When the steamboat chugs very slowly away from Otters Landing, Mrs. Hall is safely on board. Oh. She did come to appreciate Mrs. Sharp's itch remedy and she said so, kindly. Look. The Sharps and the townspeople are waving good-bye from the riverbank.

Emma (*signaling the captain*) Now!

Band Ooooooooooooooooooooooh!
Ooooooooooh! Ooooooooooh!





GLOSSARY

downriver the direction a river flows

flatboat a flat-bottom boat for carrying heavy loads on slow-moving waterways

gangplank a board or ramp used as a walkway between a boat and dock

stagecoach horse-drawn carriage that makes short, fast trips

tedium something that is boring

upriver the opposite direction of a river's flow

witch hazel a soothing lotion made from the plant of the same name

Photography
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Assignment Photography
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Background Illustration
Steve Patricia.

Bright Lights on Learning!

**Economics
Geography
Transportation**

The bell over the door rings
whenever someone comes
into the busy store near
the river. Emma longs for
another sound, though.
Will she hear it today?

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