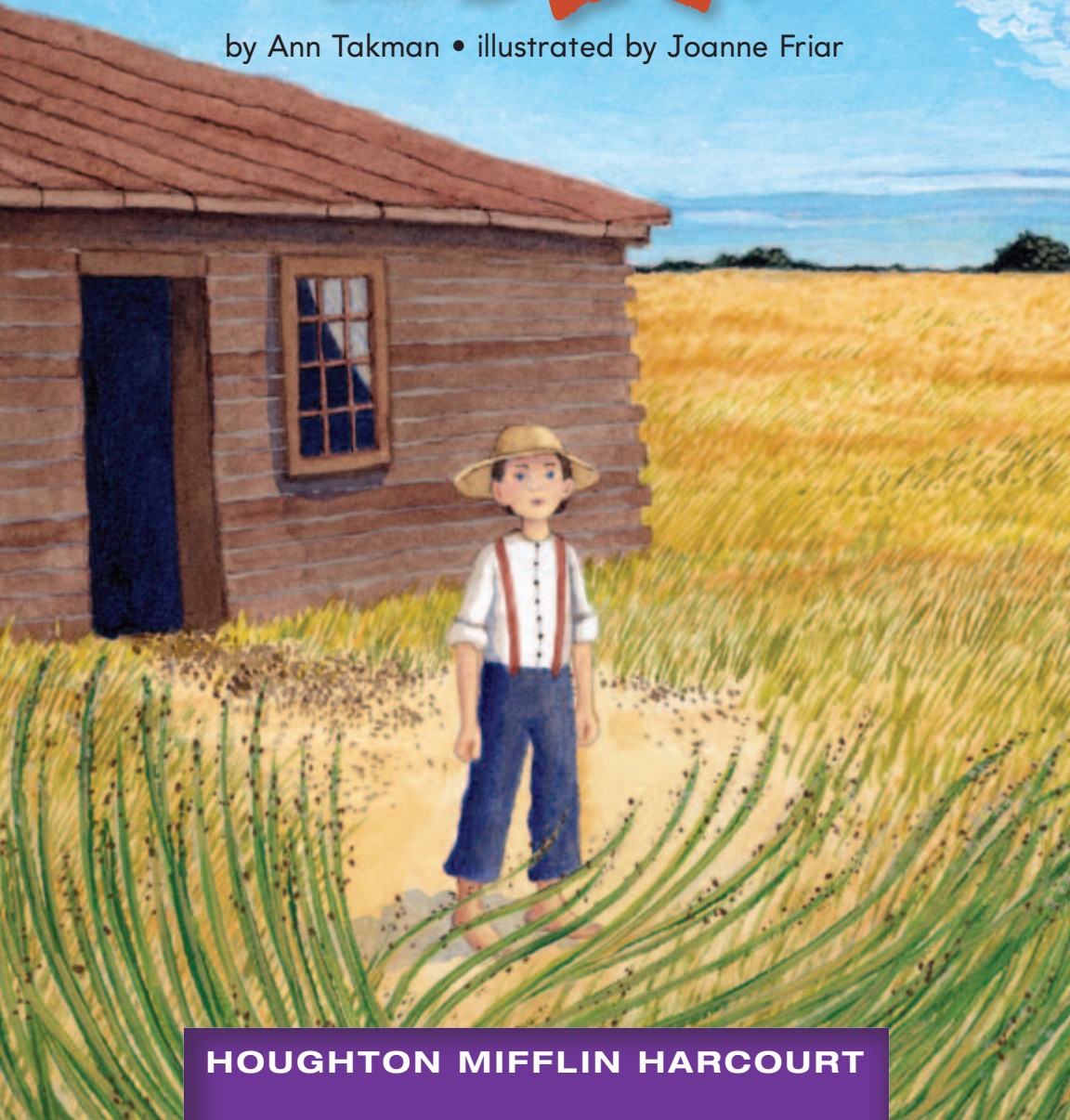




# Lost!

by Ann Takman • illustrated by Joanne Friar



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

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illustrated by Joanne Friar



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🔊 John and his family lived on the prairie. It stretched away as far as John could see. The prairie seemed as big as an ocean!



🔊 The prairie was huge.





tiny, young tree


big, old tree


Yards in towns had big trees, but John's yard on the prairie has only one tiny tree.

John and his family moved to the prairie from a small town. The yards there had big, old trees.

A tiny, young apple tree was the only tree near John's new home. John's mother planted it soon after they arrived. Right now the tree looked like a skinny twig.

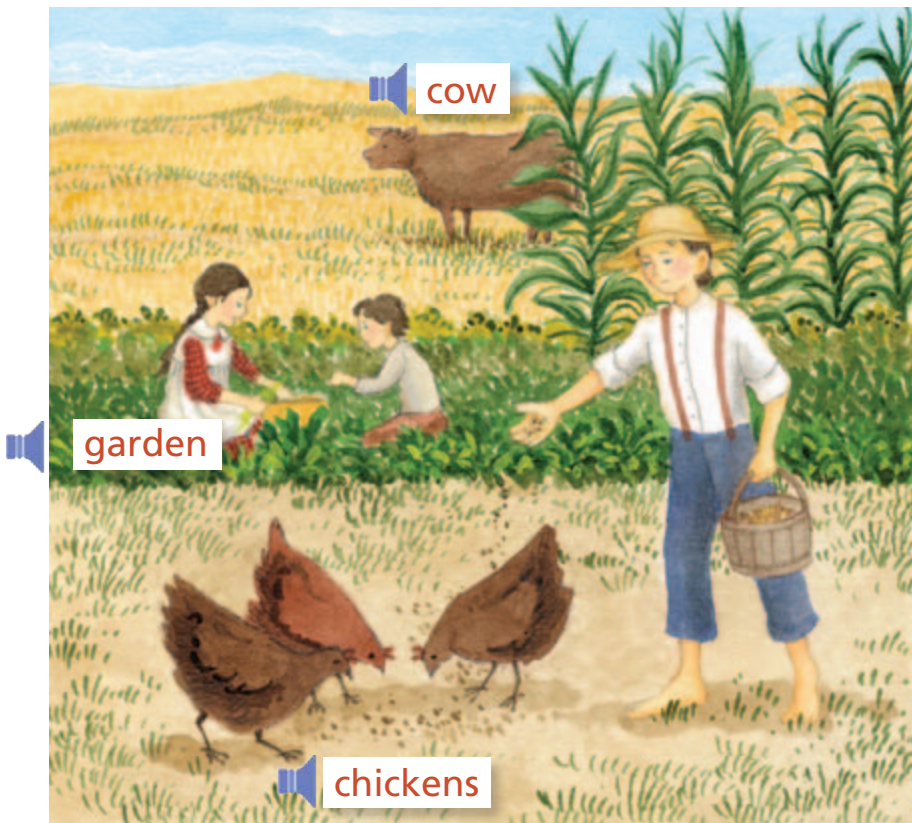


 John missed his old friends.

 Sometimes John felt lonely in his new home. He missed all his old friends. They climbed trees and played tag with him. Now, he had no friends.



Each day, John and his sisters had many chores to do. John fed the chickens, milked the cows, and helped garden. “Sometimes I feel like the chores will never end,” said John to himself.



John and his brother and sister did chores each day.

🔊 Today John finished his chores first. He called his dog, Rex. Then John picked up an old, rough corncob and tossed it into the tall prairie grasses. “Fetch!” yelled John.

Rex quickly found the corncob and carried it back to John. John played with Rex until Cora said, “We’ve finished our chores.”



🔊 John played with his dog.



 The children played hide-and-seek.

 “We can play now!” said James.


“Let’s play hide-and-seek,” said John.


“I’ll count to fifty while you hide,”  
said Cora. She closed her eyes and  
counted.

John hid behind the cornstalks, and  
James hid behind the house. Cora found  
them quickly.





 John saw the grasses move, so he thought someone was hiding among them.

 Next, John counted while his siblings hid. When he opened his eyes, he looked around carefully. “Where can they hide on the prairie?” James said to himself.

Just then he saw the grasses move. “Ah ha!” thought John. “Someone is hiding in the tall grasses.”

🔊 John tiptoed in among the grasses, but he didn't see anyone. The tops of the grasses waved high above his head. He heard the **rustle** of grasses a few feet away. John tiptoed toward the sound, but no one was there.



🔊 John tiptoed into the tall grasses.

🔊 Then John heard a noise. He walked toward the sound. “It’s only flies **buzzing**,” said John.

He turned around and heard another sound. John ran toward the sound. “This time I’ve found you for sure!” he said, but he was wrong again.

🔊 The sound was only flies buzzing.








John didn't know where Cora, James, or home was.




John tried to look between the grasses, but he only saw more grass. He looked up, but he only saw the tops of the grasses waving against the sky.

"Maybe Cora and James aren't hiding here after all," said John. So he turned around to go home. But where was home?



 John was afraid because he was lost in the grasses.

 “I’ll jump up so I can see over the grasses,” said John, but the grasses were too tall.

John began to feel frightened. Which way was home? He grabbed bunches of grass with his hands and pulled them down. All he saw was more grass!


John yelled for help, but no one came.

Just then thunder rumbled in the sky. John looked up and saw dark storm clouds. The wind howled, and the tall grasses waved wildly. John yelled for help again, but no one heard him in the storm.



No one heard John yell for help.




 Suddenly Rex raced toward John.  
“Take me home, Rex,” said John, and  
Rex did. John ran into the house just as  
buckets of rain began to fall.

“You didn’t find us!” shouted James.  
“We hid behind the house.”

“So that’s where you were,” said  
John. “I was sure you were hiding in  
the grass.”



 Rex found John and led him home.

## Responding



### **TARGET SKILL** Story Structure

Copy the story map below. Fill in the main events of the story. Then tell how the problem was solved.

<b>Characters:</b> John, James, Cora	<b>Setting:</b> the prairie
<b>Plot Events:</b> ?	



### **Write About It**

**Text to Text** Think about another story you know about a family. Write a paragraph telling what happens in that story.



### TARGET VOCABULARY

batted

buzzing

clattered

fetch

prairie

rough

rustle

slick

sniff

thumped



### TARGET SKILL

**Story Structure** Name the setting, characters, and plot in a story.



### TARGET STRATEGY

**Monitor/Clarify** As you read, find a way to clear up what doesn't make sense to you.



**GENRE Historical fiction** is a story that takes place in a real period of history.



**Level:** N

**DRA:** 30

**Genre:**

Historical Fiction

**Strategy:**

Monitor/Clarify

**Skill:**

Story Structure

**Word Count:** 587

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