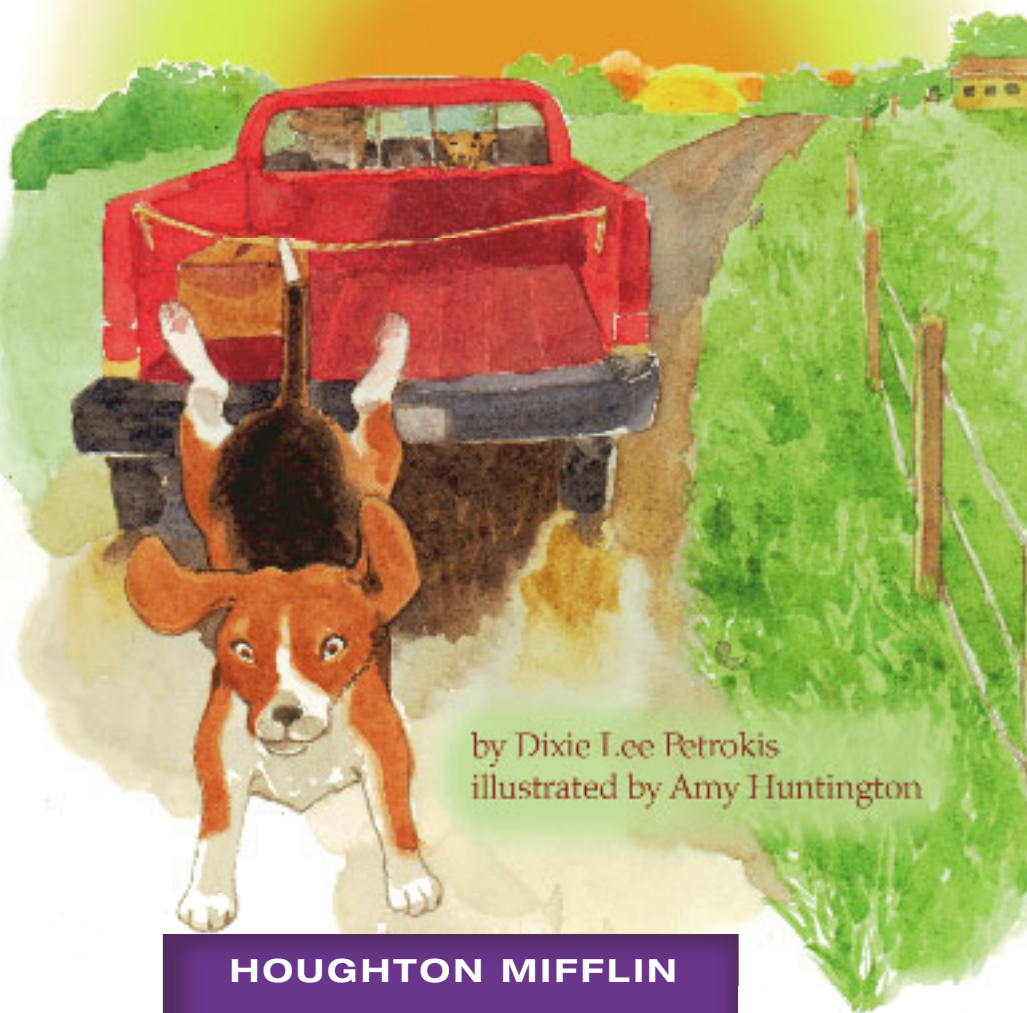




Binxie Gets Lost



by Dixie Lee Petrokis
illustrated by Amy Huntington

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN



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BOSTON

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🔊 My family **loaded** up the van. We were about to start the long trip home to Georgia.

🔊 Dad put me in the back seat. He was about to close the door when Alvin and Trina started having one of their very loud **conversations**. Well, it was a fight. Dad stood there and glared at them.


That's when I saw the bunny.


🔊 My name is Binxie, and I was going home with my family.





 I tried to catch the bunny!

 And that's when I made my BIG mistake. I decided to chase the bunny.

 You see I'm a beagle. And there's nothing a beagle likes better than chasing bunnies. I jumped out of the van just as Dad was about to slam the door.

No one saw me!



🔊 My family left me at the campground!

🔊 I chased that bunny for miles. When I got back to the campground, the van and my family were gone!

🔊 I thought they would notice I was missing and drive back to get me. But they didn't!

I waited all morning before I realized I had to do something.

🔊 That's when I saw the pickup truck. I didn't know what else to do, so I jumped in. Maybe it would be going in the right direction. Maybe I could catch up to my family's van. The driver didn't even notice me in the back of his truck.

But his little friend did.


🔊 I jumped into the back of a pickup truck.



🔊 pickup truck



 I talked to Lulu for hours.

 Her name was Lulu, and she made traveling fun. Lulu gave me all the news of the road. She kept me from worrying about my lost family.

🔊 As the sun started to go down, Lulu let out a yelp.

“We’re home!” she said. “I can’t wait to introduce you to my family!”

🔊 “Sorry, Lulu,” I said. “But I’ve got a family of my own to find. Thanks for the lift!”

And I hopped out.

🔊 I jumped out of the pickup truck.

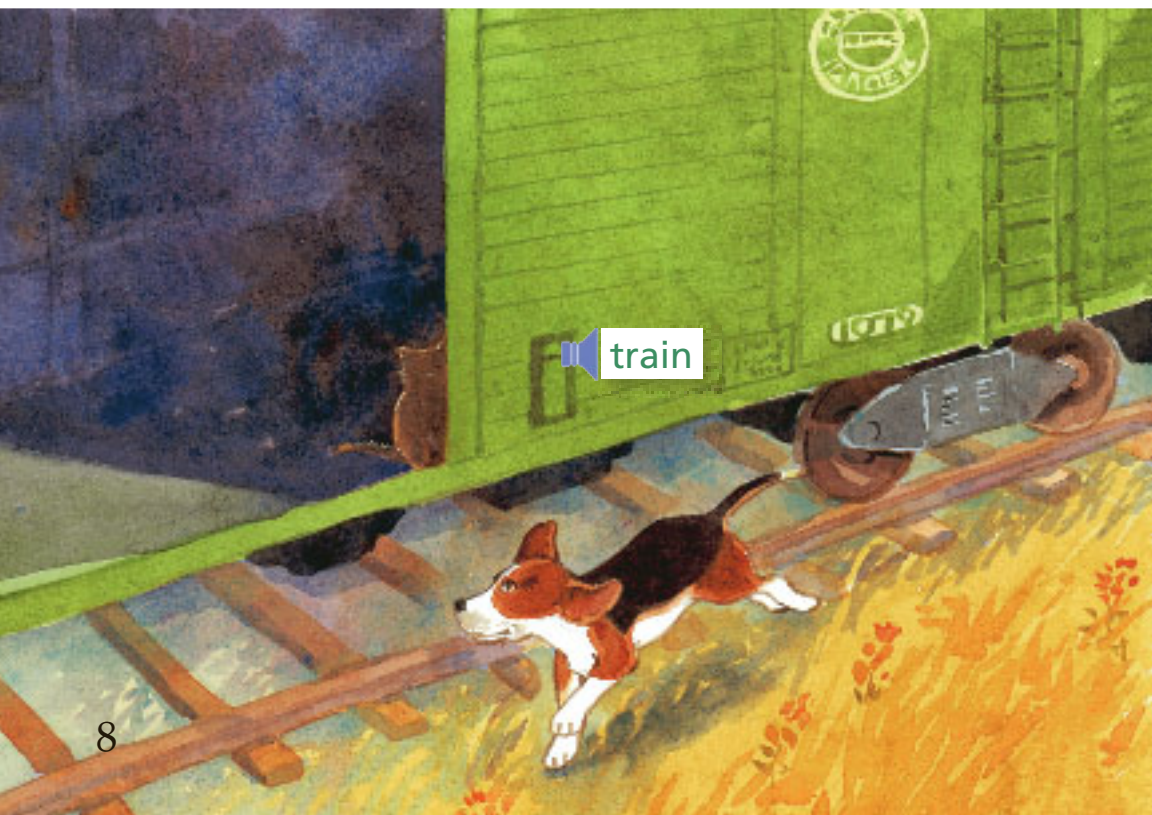


🔊 I was wondering what to do next when I heard a loud rumbling on the other side of some trees. It was a long, slow-moving train headed east.

🔊 A door was open. I jumped inside. It was dark and comfortable.


But I wasn't alone.


🔊 I had to run fast to catch that train.





 Frankie the cat told me his own sad story.

 The cat's name was Frankie. I'm no cat lover, but Frankie turned out to be a real pussycat. He was soon telling me his own sad story. He was heading to New York City in search of his long-lost little sister.

 As the sun came up, I heard a voice yell out, "Welcome to Little Rock!"

"Good luck in the Big Apple!" I said to Frankie. And I hopped out of the train.

There is nothing little or rocky about Little Rock. But it does have great barbeque ribs, and I was starving.

I found a diner and snuck in. Soon I **managed** to dash off with a chunk of meat the size of, well, a bunny.

I ate like a king and dozed off under a bridge.

I ran out of that diner with a big piece of meat!





Parker the pigeon

I told Parker the pigeon about my troubles.

The next morning, I heard the roar of traffic above me. It made me think of my lost family.

“They’ll be home in Georgia soon,” I said to myself.

“Georgia, huh?” I heard a voice above me. I looked up to see a scruffy old pigeon under the bridge.

His name was Parker. I told the bird my problems. His head bobbed up and down as he walked back and forth, listening with **sincere** interest.




 I was surprised by what Parker was saying!

 “Is your family’s van blue?” asked Parker politely.

“Yes!” I said, surprised he was such a good guesser.

“Is there a girl named Trina in the van?” he asked.

“Yes!” I cried.

 “Does she have a brother named Alvin who likes to argue?” asked the bird one more time.

“YES!” I screamed. “How did you know that?”

“Well, I just saw them at a rest stop down the road,” he said.

🔊 I ran faster than any beagle ever ran before. Up ahead, I could see the blue van! My family was there, too. They looked sad.

🔊 I jumped into Trina's arms.
"BINXIE!" she shouted.



🔊 Trina was happy to see me!

🔊 The rest of the family gathered around me. What a **reunion** it was!

“How did you get here?” they all asked at once.

🔊 I tried to tell them, but people don’t really understand dogs. Not in the same way another dog might—or a cat or even a pigeon.

But it didn’t matter. I was heading home with my family.

🔊 Trina hugged me all the way home!

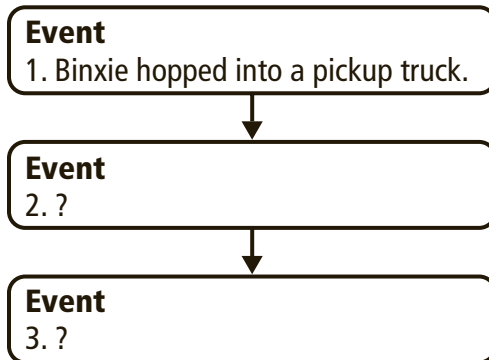


Responding



TARGET SKILL Sequence of Events

Binxie travels a long way and meets new characters. Copy the chart below. Write in more events in the correct order to show what happened to Binxie. Add more boxes if you need to.



Write About It

Text to Text Think of another story character who solves a problem by traveling. Tell about the character's problem, and explain how the problem is solved.



TARGET VOCABULARY

conversations

currently

inspired

loaded

loveliest

managed

pleasure

reunion

sincere

terror



TARGET SKILL

Sequence of Events Tell the time order in which events happen.



TARGET STRATEGY

Analyze/Evaluate Think about what you read. Then form an opinion about it.



GENRE A **fantasy** is a story that could not happen in real life.

Level: L

DRA: 24

Genre:

Fantasy

Strategy:

Analyze/Evaluate

Skill:

Sequence of Events

Word Count: 819

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