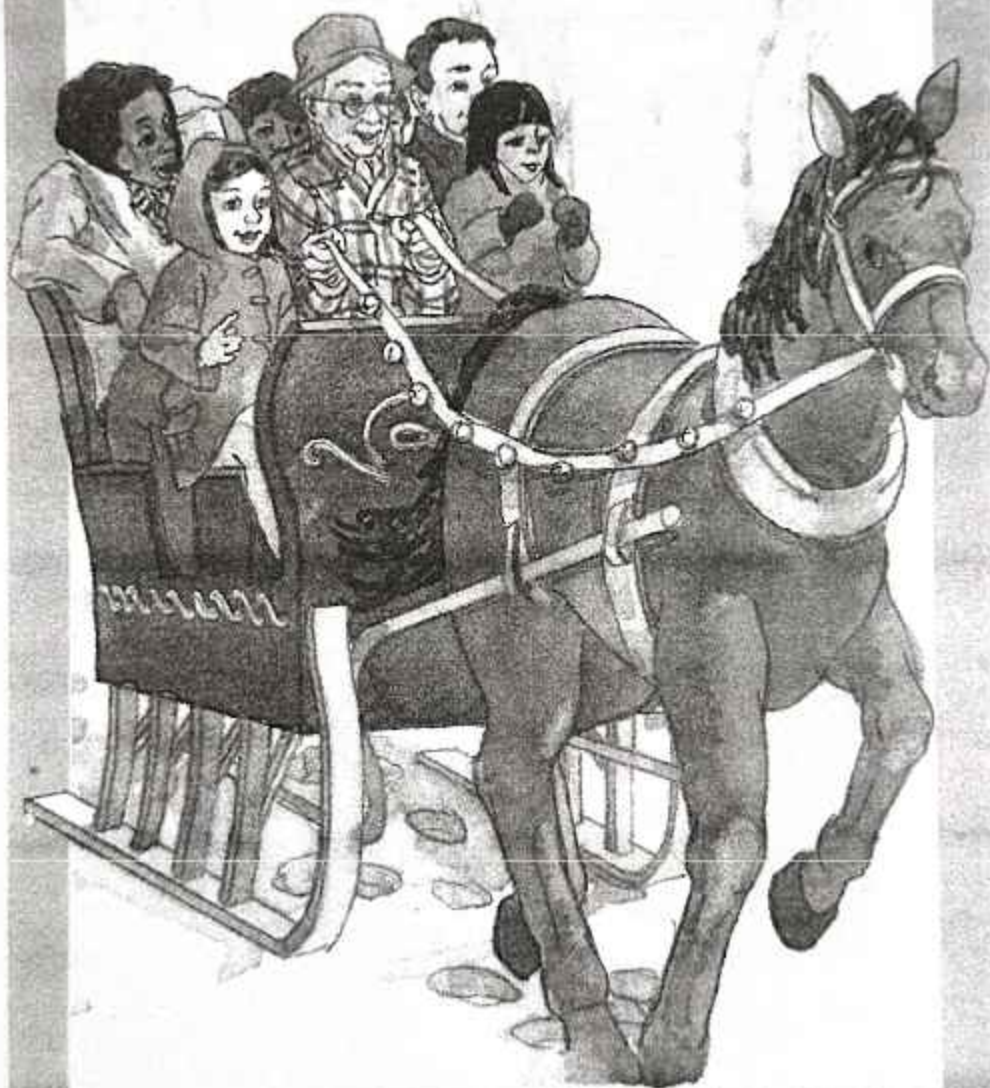
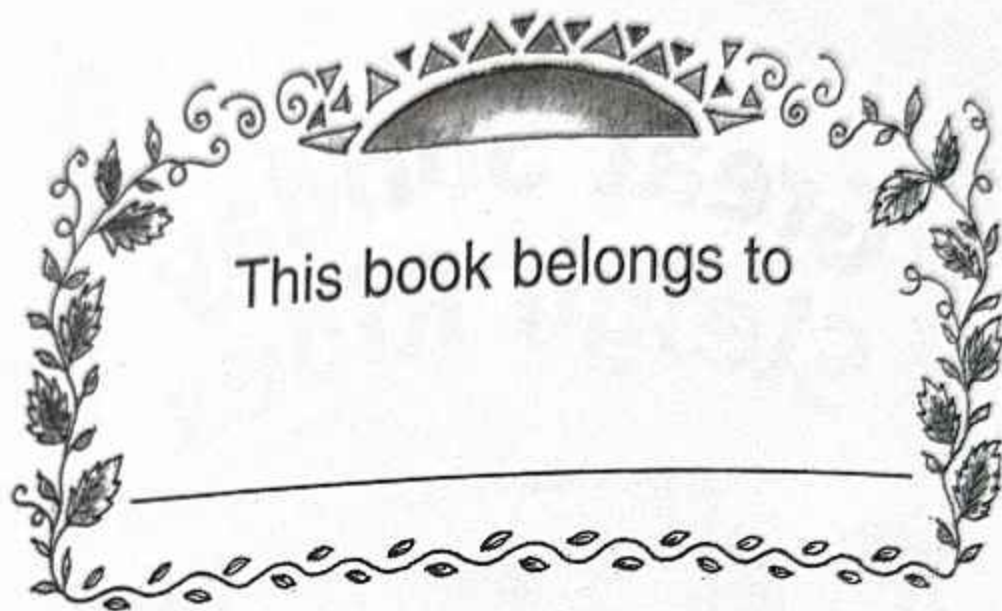


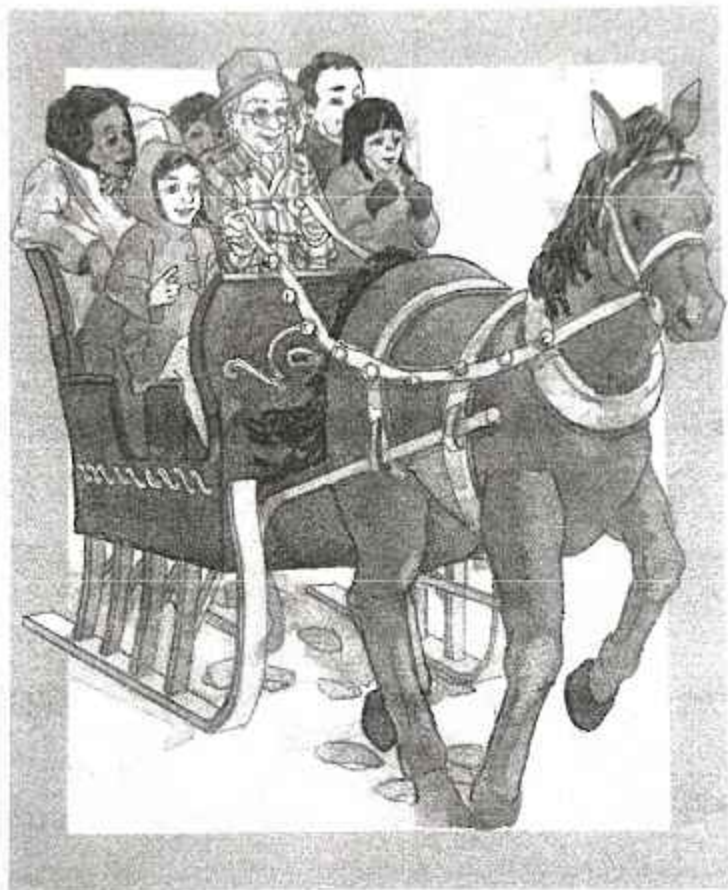
Great Sunday Sleigh Rides



by Sydnie Meltzer Kleinhenz
illustrated by Lauren Klementz-Harte



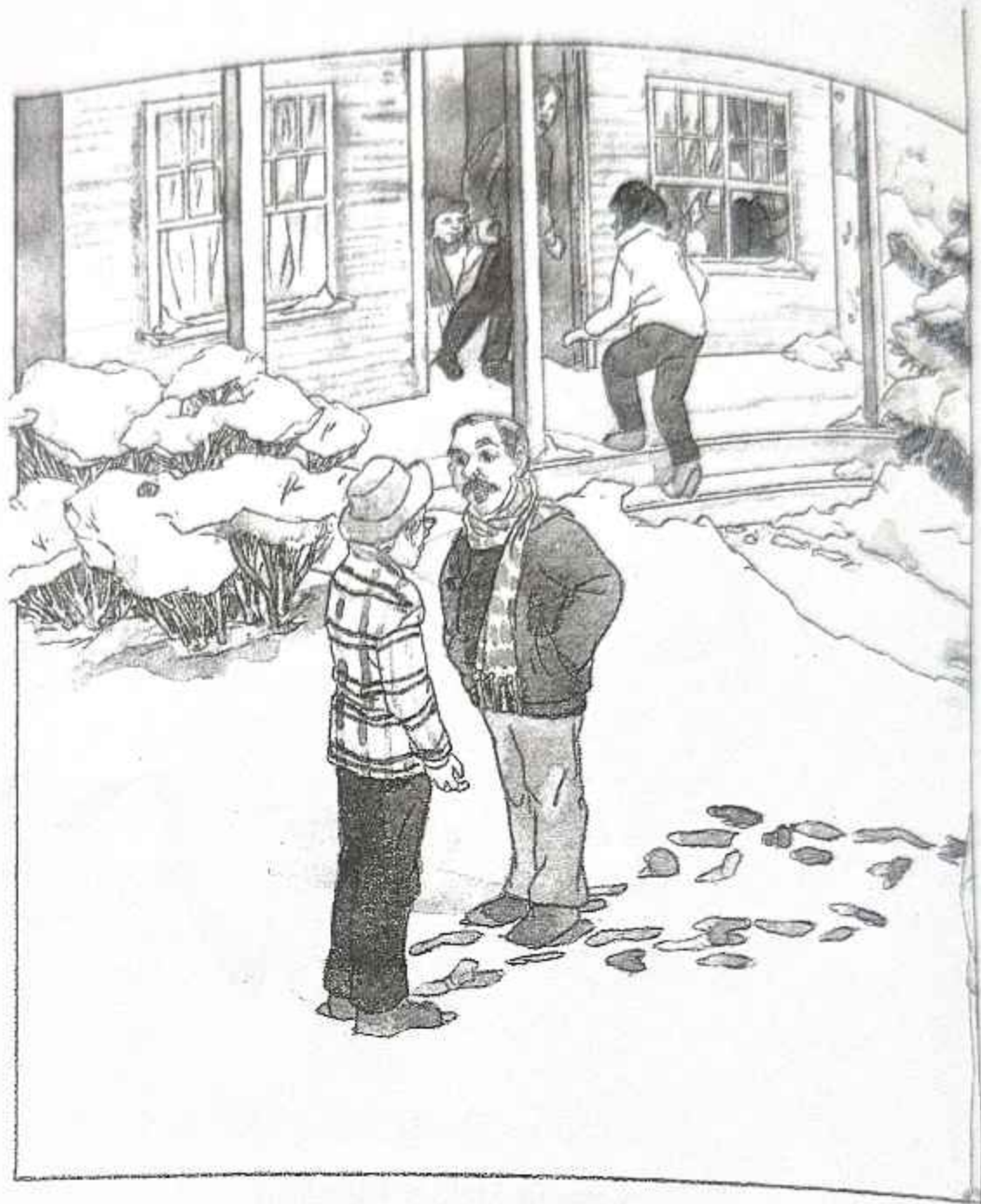
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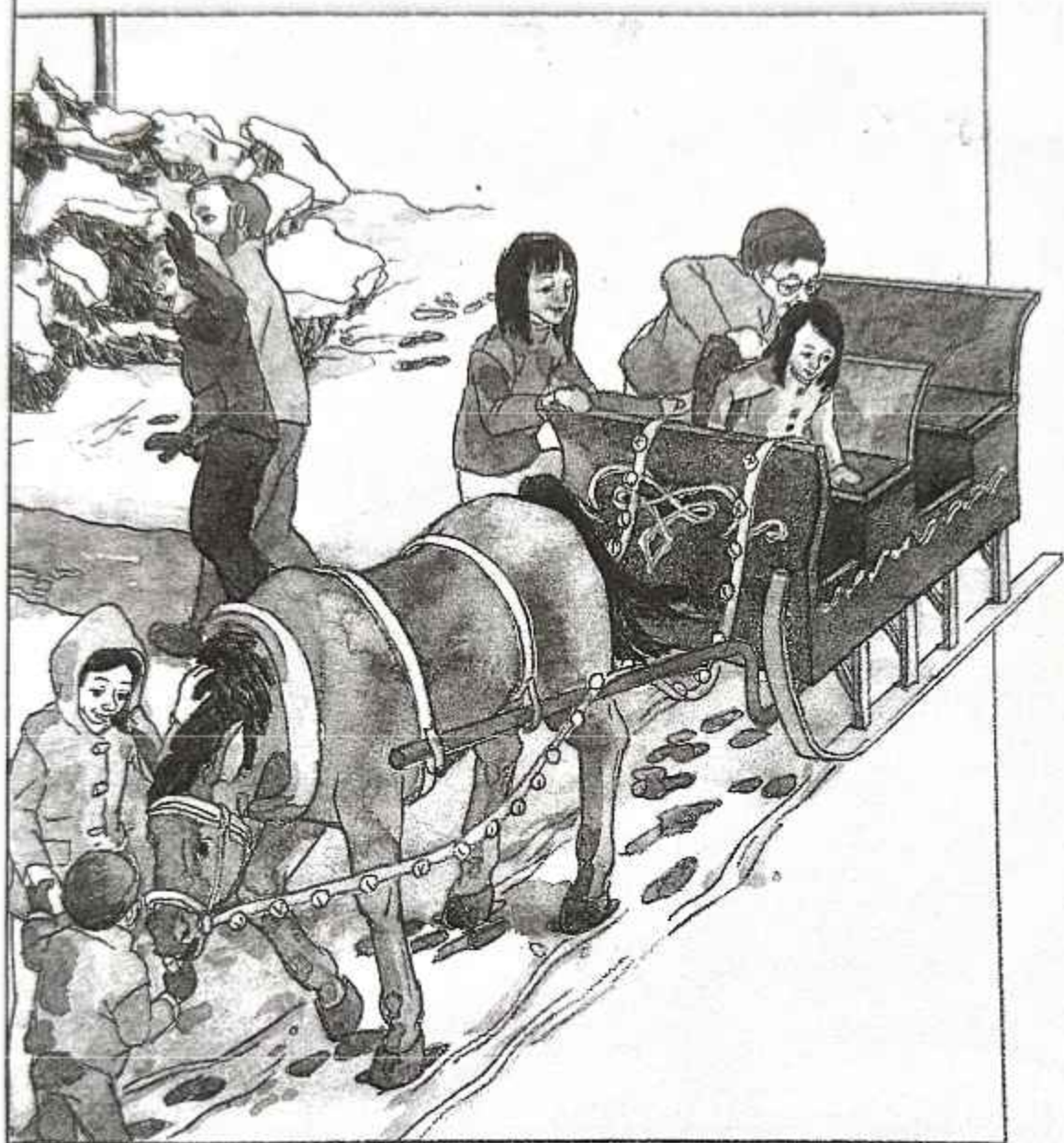
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Scott Foresman

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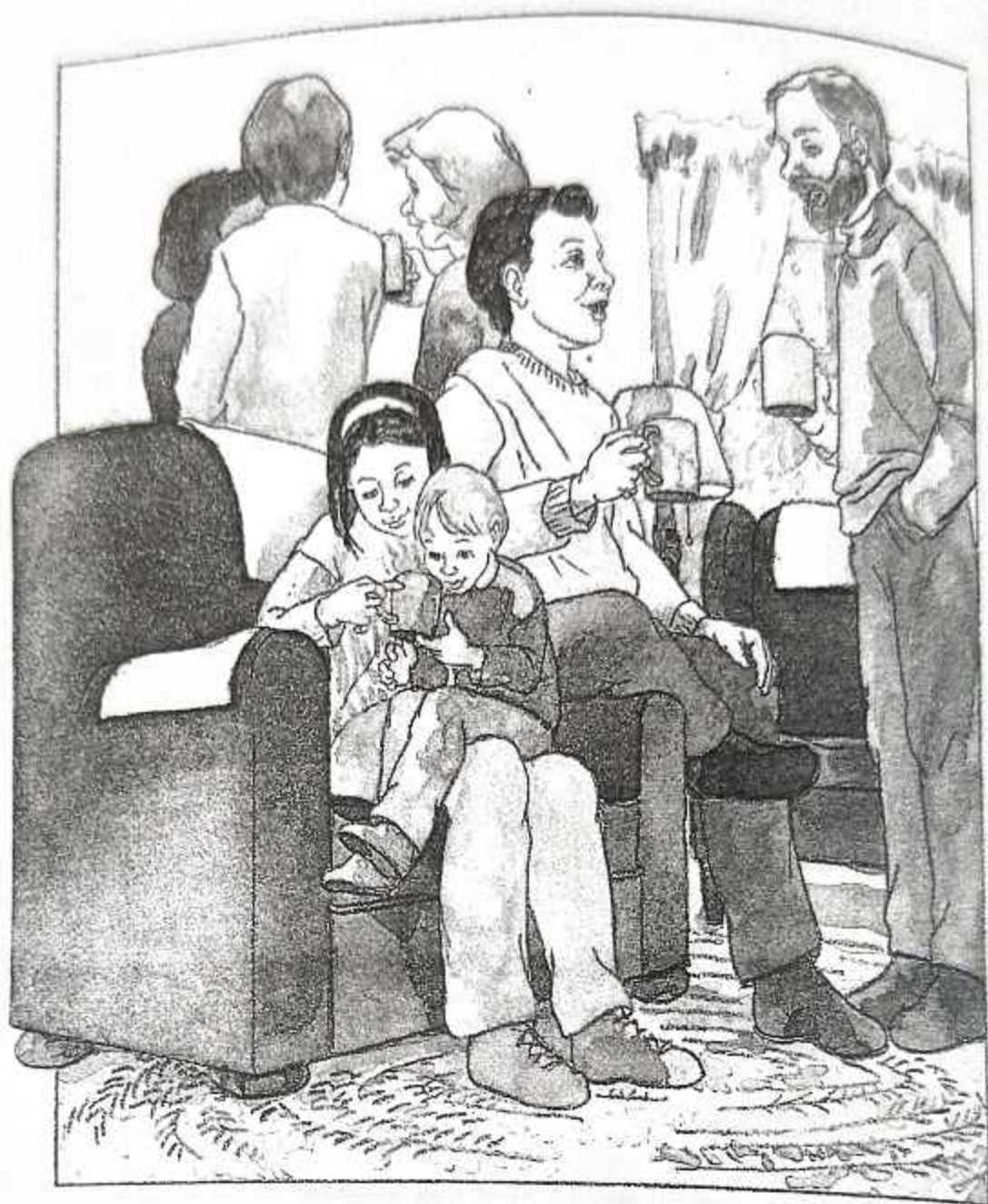
“Thanks for another great sleigh ride,” the mayor said. Friends and neighbors shouted thanks to Norm. Then they headed to the house for a hot drink. Everyone was cold!



Leila helped her little brother give Mac a carrot. "Keep your hand open," Leila said.

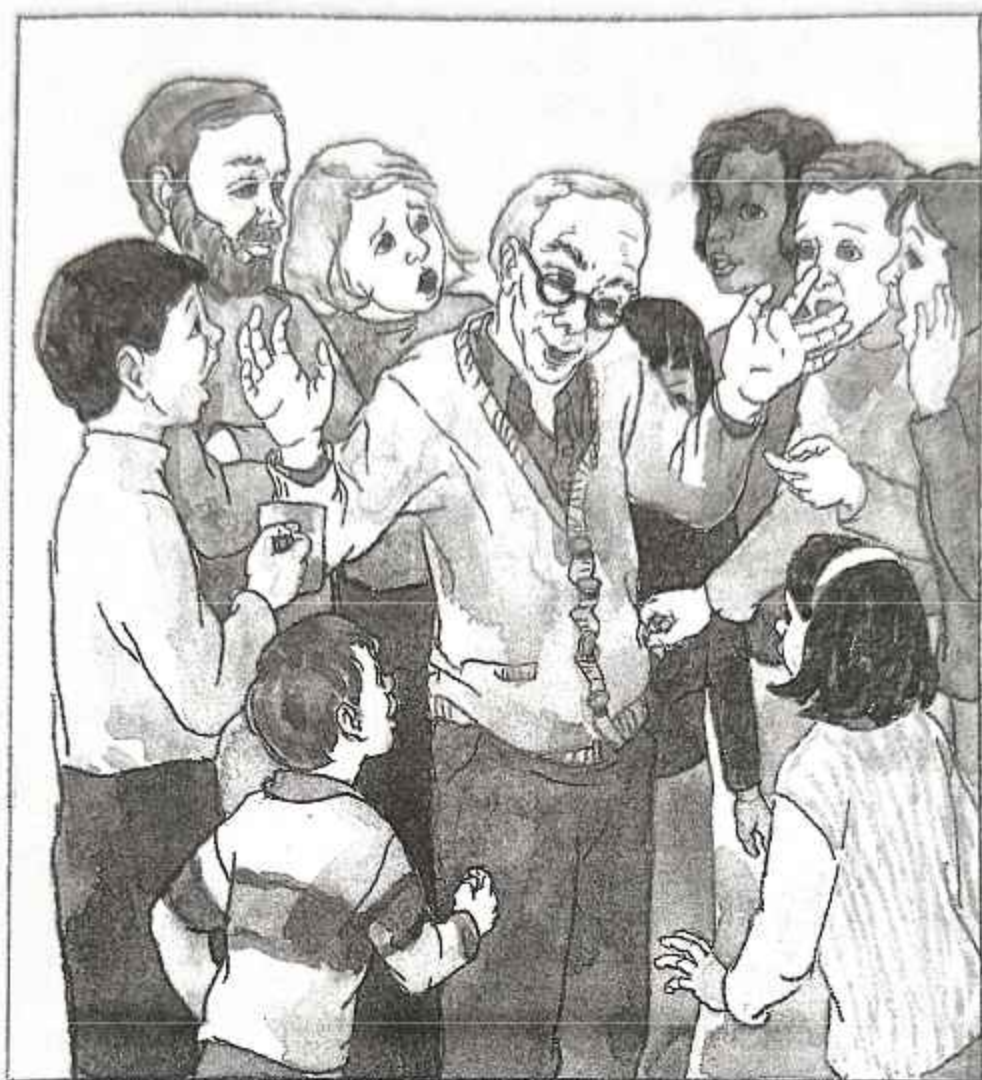
Mac neighed. Sam giggled at the bells on the reins.





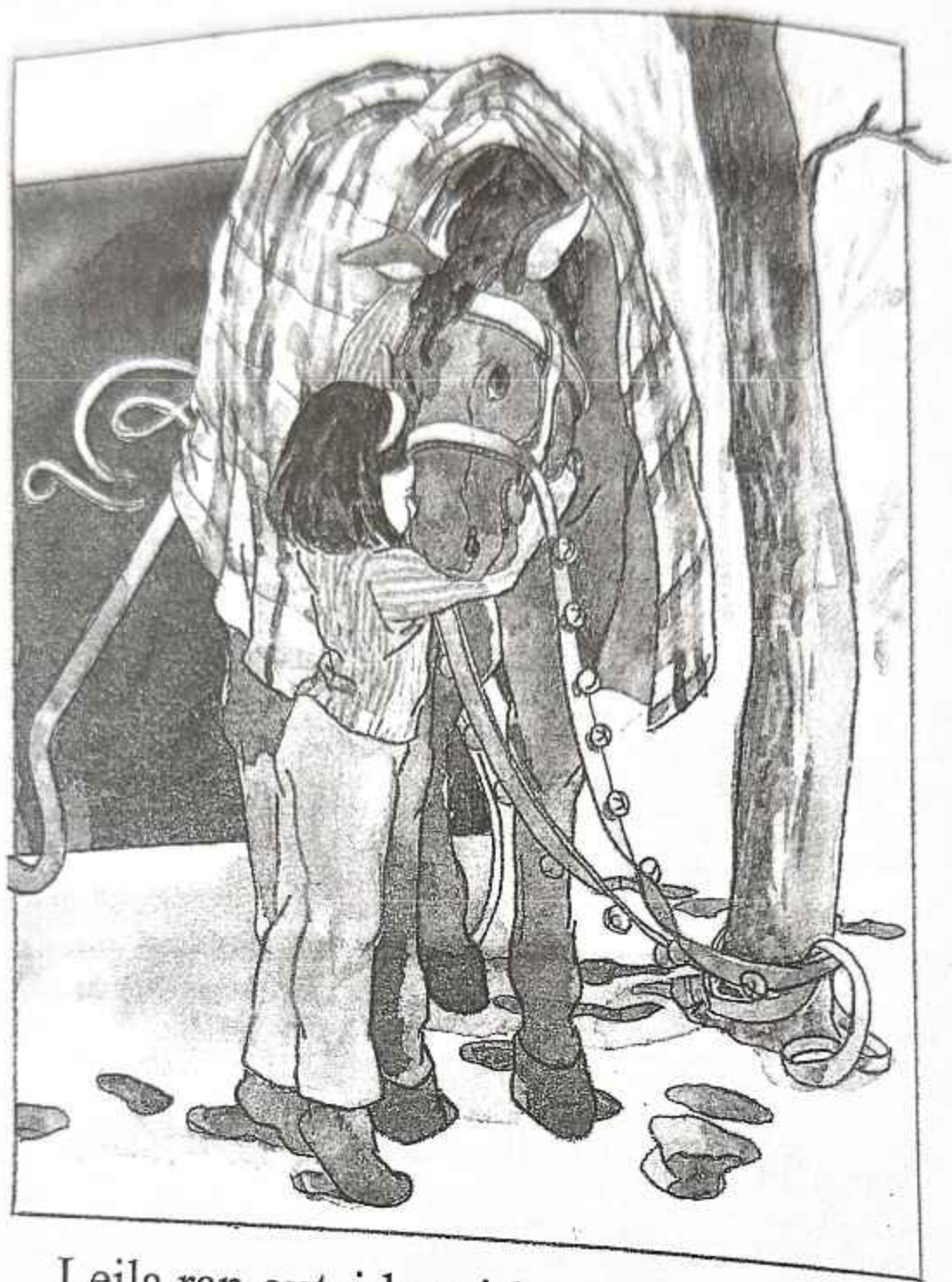
Leila and Sam joined the other people in Norm's house. Everyone was talking happily. They were talking about how much they liked the sleigh rides. Leila said, "I can't wait until my next ride!"





Norm joined his neighbors and friends. People cheered. He smiled sadly and put up his hands.

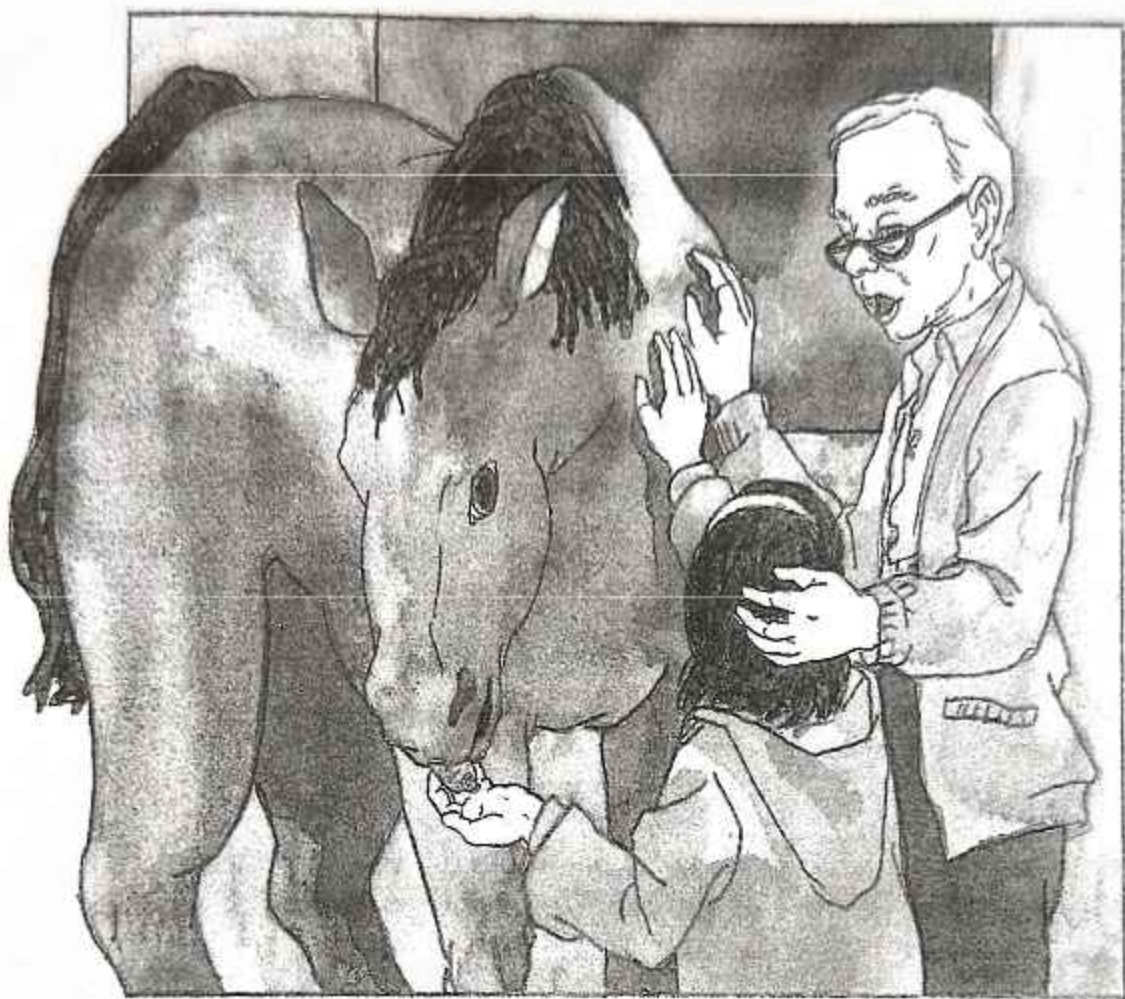
“Neighbors,” he said, “tonight ends forty-eight years of sleigh rides. I am moving. I am going to move near my daughter.”



Leila ran outside with tears running down her cheeks. She put her arms around Mac. He nuzzled her.

"I'll miss you," Leila said.





Early Monday morning, Leila went to see Mac. He neighed and she patted his side. "I wish you were mine," Leila said.

Just then Norm came in. He put his hand on Leila's head. "I know you love Mac. I would like you to have him, if you can think of a way to keep him," he said.

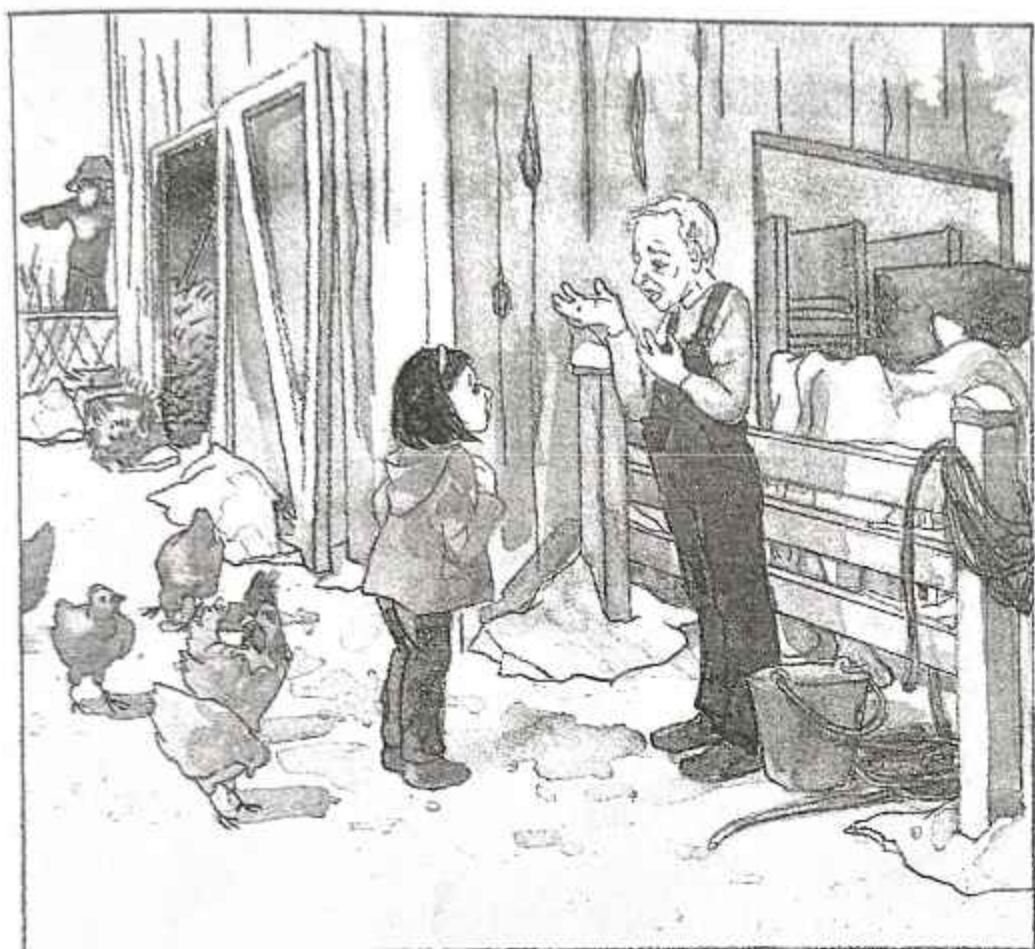


That night, Leila asked Dad about keeping Mac. "Can we keep him in the backyard? I would care for him and you could give the sleigh rides."

"I would love to give sleigh rides," Dad said. "But the sleigh needs a shed and Mac needs a bigger space."

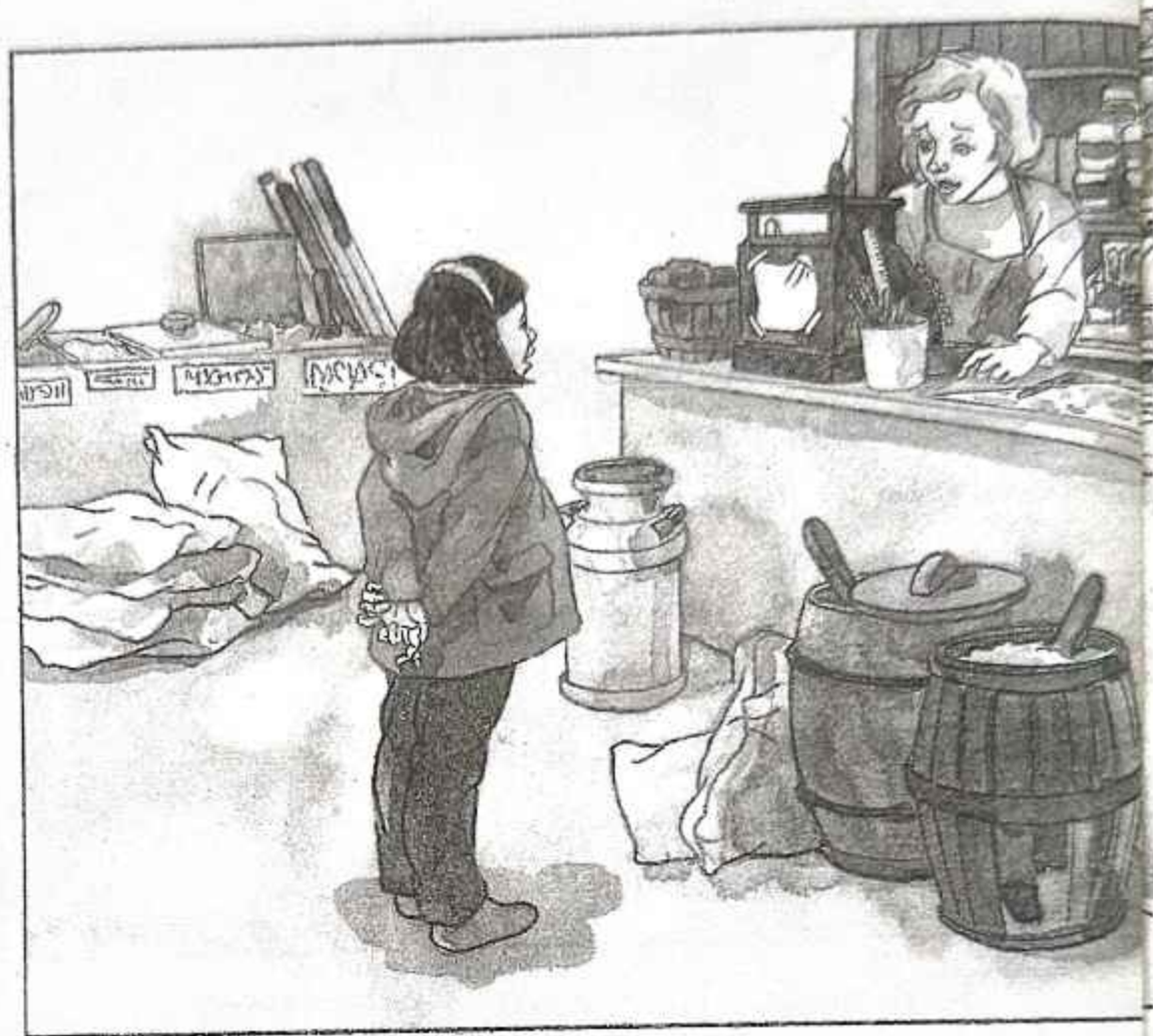
Leila frowned. "I have to think of a way to keep him," she said.





The next afternoon, Leila went to Grandpop's farm. "Grandpop," she said. "Can you help me? Norm said I can keep Mac, but our yard is too little. Can he stay on your farm? Can you keep him and his sleigh in your barn?"

Grandpop rubbed his chin and said, "I would love to give Mac a home, but I can't pay for all his feed."



Leila walked slowly into the Perkinses' feed store. She saw Peg weighing a bag. Ross was stacking boxes.

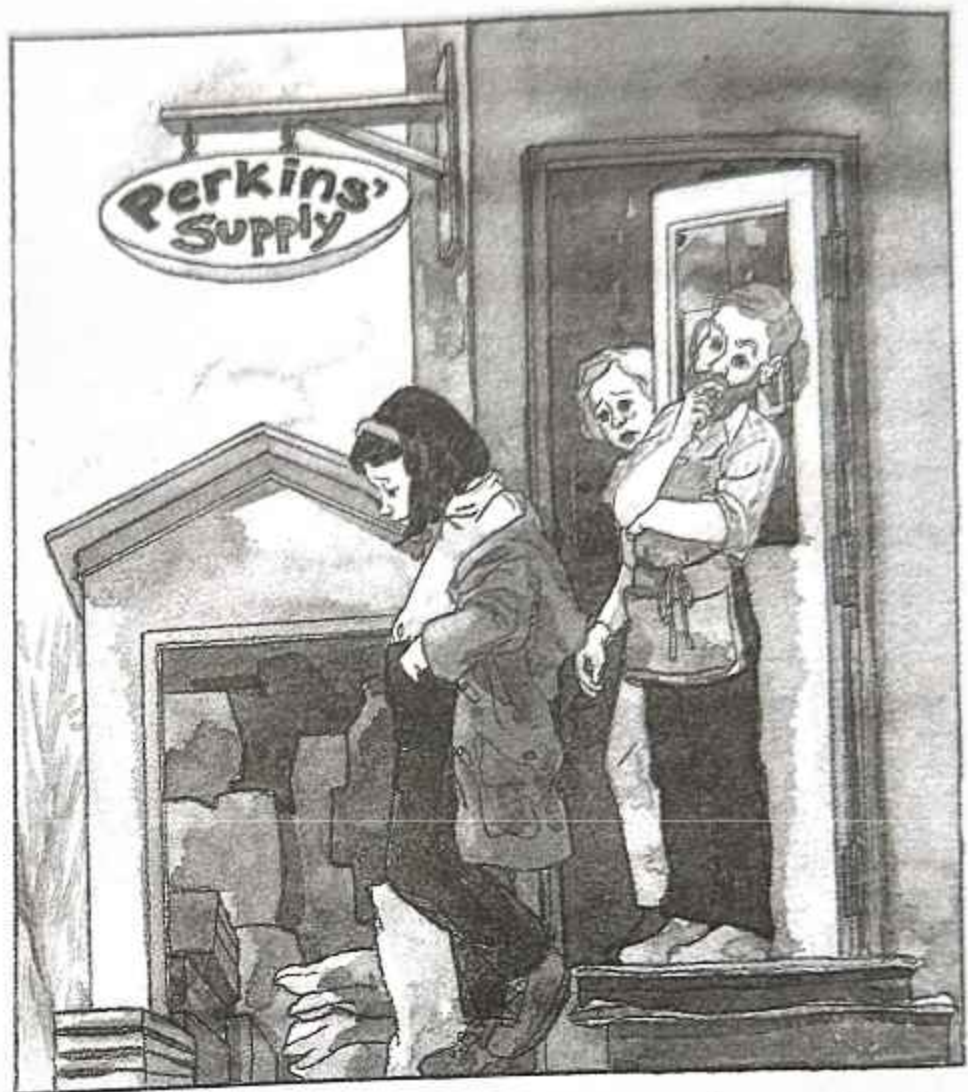
Peg looked up. "Hi, Leila. You look really sad. Can I help you?" she asked.

Leila cleared her throat. "Will you please help me keep Mac in town?" She crossed her fingers hopefully.



“How can I help?” asked Peg.

“I need a place to keep him and a way to feed him. Could he and the sleigh stay out back?” Leila asked. “I would care for him every morning, and work every afternoon to pay for his feed.”



"I would love to keep Mac in town," said Peg. "Ross and I could give him free feed. But we don't have a place for a horse and sleigh. We store things in the shed."

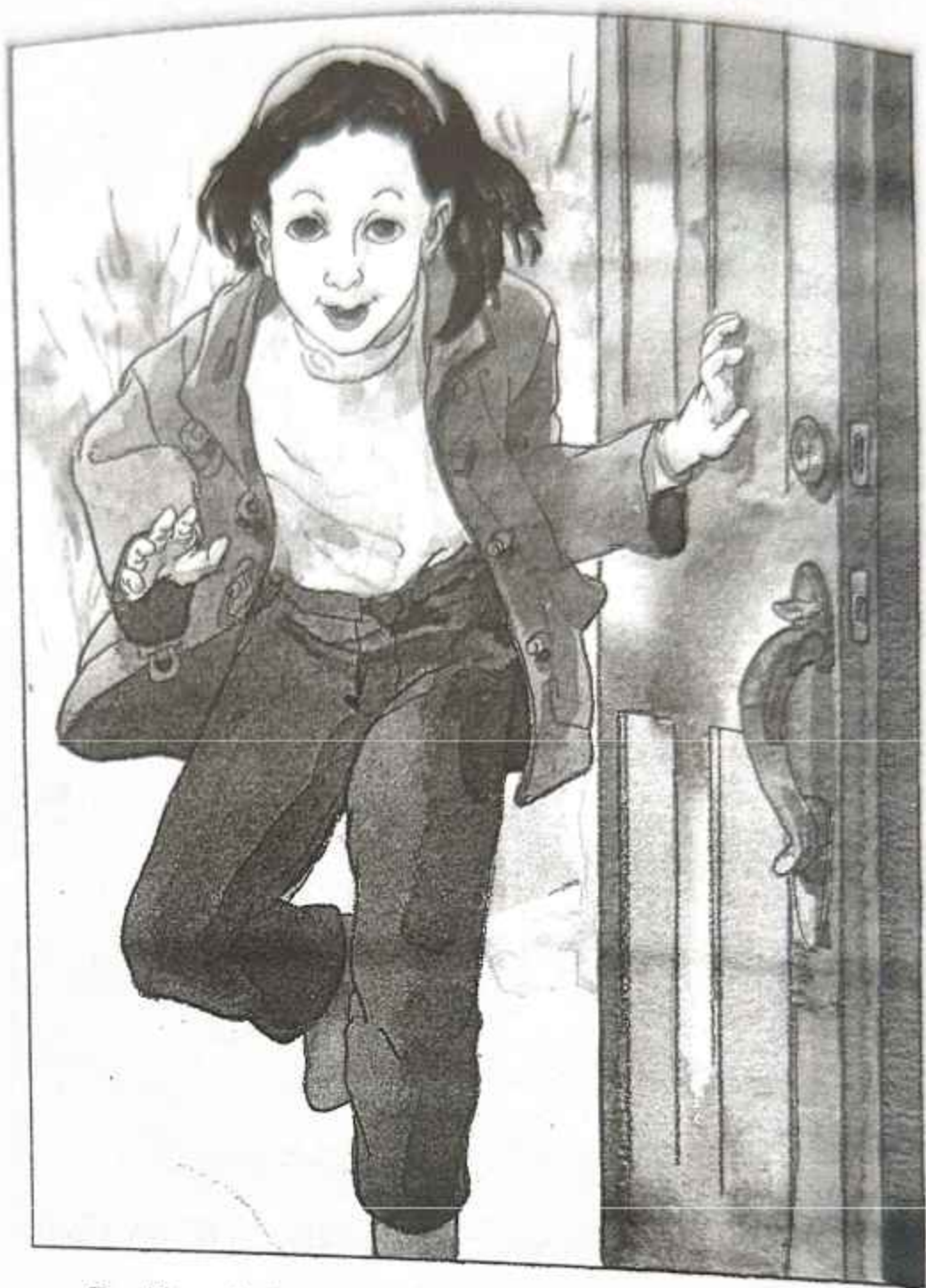
Leila was upset. She could hardly see through her tears.



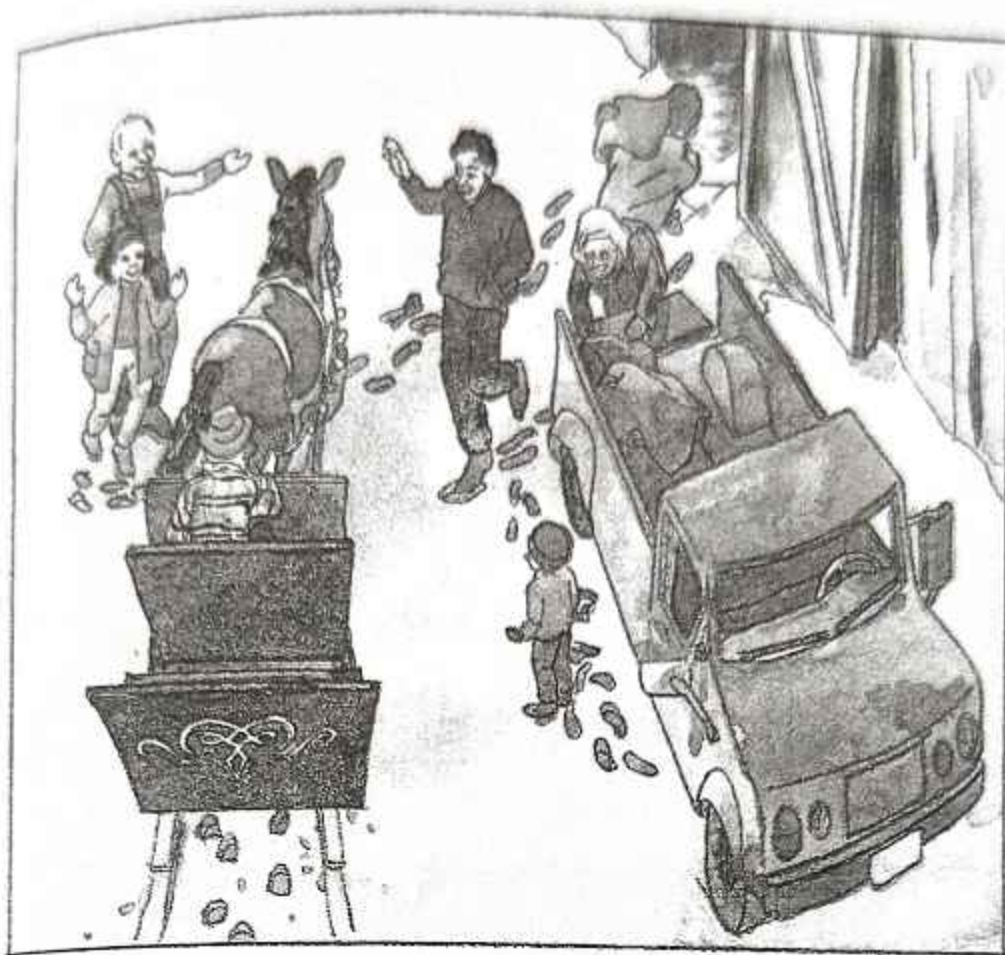


When Leila got home, she sat on the porch. She didn't mind the cold evening air. She just thought about Mac. She thought about how much she wanted to keep him. It all seemed hopeless now.





Leila sighed. Grandpop had a home for Mac, but no feed. The Perkinses had feed, but no home. Suddenly, it all fit together!



The next day, Mac and the sleigh came to Grandpop's. The Perkinses brought a load of feed.

"We asked the mayor to help," Ross said. "He invited everyone to his house after the sleigh rides." Leila danced around thanking everyone.

Then she took the reins and led Mac to his new home.



Phonics for Families: In this book, your child will practice reading words with long *a* spelled *ei*, as in *sleigh*; words with more than one syllable that have endings and suffixes, as in *invited* and *suddenly*; and the high-frequency words *move*, *near*, *cold*, and *grow*. Read the story together. Then talk about how Leila had to fit the pieces of the puzzle together to find a solution.

Phonics Skills: Long *a* spelled *ei*; Multisyllabic words (words with endings and suffixes)

High-Frequency Words: *move*, *near*, *cold*, *grow*



Grade 2
Phonics Reader 24

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Sleigh Rides**
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Phonics Skills:

- Long *a* spelled *ei*
- Multisyllabic words
(words with endings
and suffixes)



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