The White Owl



By Elizabeth Anderson Lopez
Illustrated by Linda Silvestri

TCM Teacher Created Materials

Table of Contents

Chapter One:
S Is for Summer. 4

Chapter Two:
M Is for Mystery 12

Chapter Three:
D Is for Danger 18

Chapter Four:
F Is for Friends and Foes 26

Chapter Five:
A Is for Adventure 30

About Us 32

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Chapter One

S Is for Summer

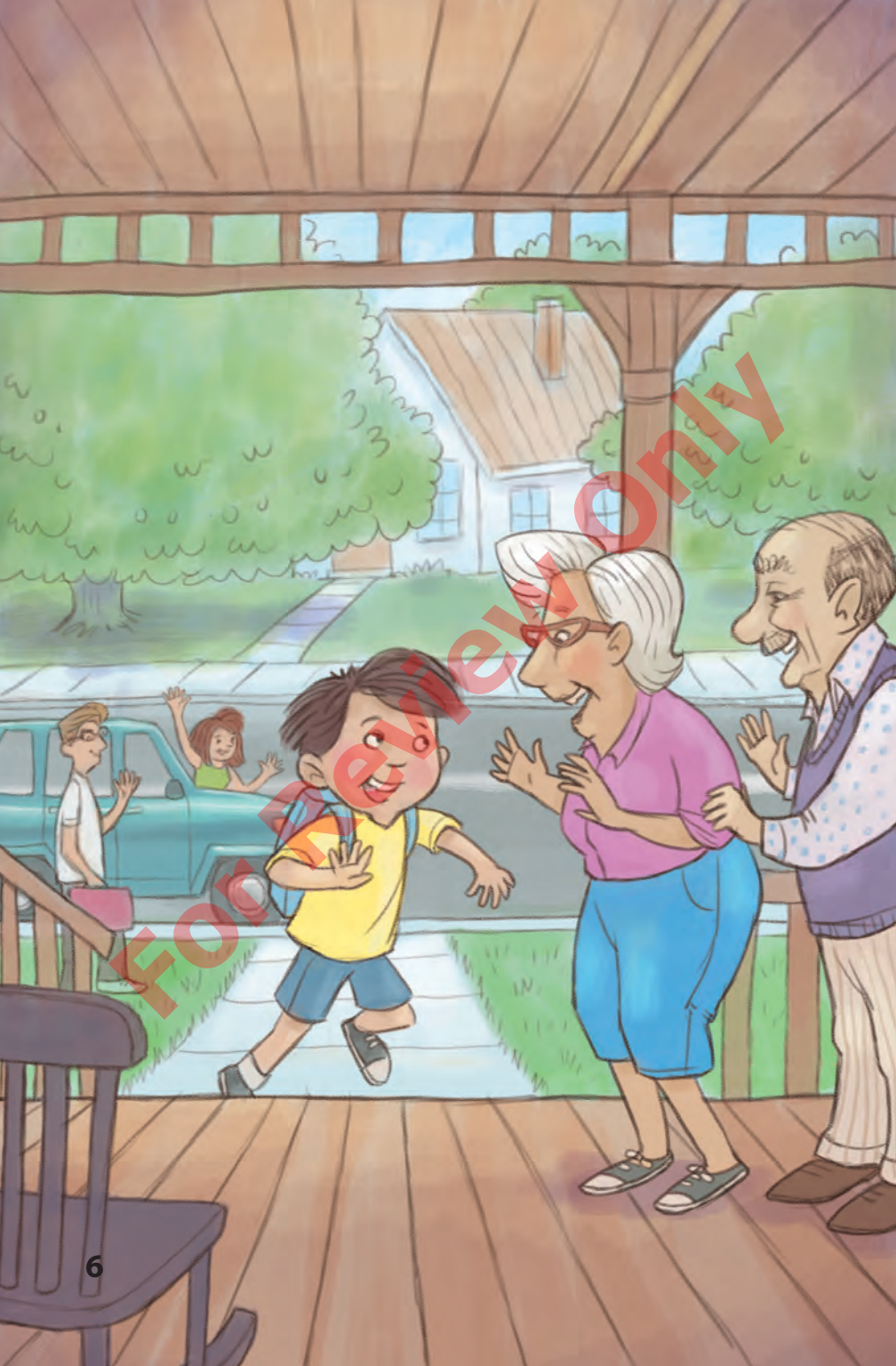
Owen sat in the back of his parents' car as they traveled down the highway. He was going from his home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to his grandparents' house. They lived in Ridgeley. That was a whole state away, in Maryland. They were halfway there. That meant there was another hour and a half to go.

He and his parents played the alphabet game to pass the time. They looked for words on buildings, street signs, and even cars. Owen was most proud to be the first one to find *Q* on a Pizza Qwik-time van.

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Owen was going to stay with his grandparents for a month. He knew money was tight at home lately. That meant he couldn't go to his usual summer camp. Normally, his grandparents came to visit them in the fall. They would all go to a Steelers game.

"Owen, are you looking forward to spending time at Grandma and Grandpa's house?" his mom asked.

"Yes, and I'm interested in seeing Grandma's artwork," Owen said.

"Grandma likes to go bird-watching, too," Mom added. "Maybe she'll take you with her."

Owen's parents dropped him off just in time for dinner. Grandma gave him a big hug. Owen liked that she smelled like stuffing. It meant she had made his favorite dinner. Grandpa shook Owen's hand warmly.

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After everyone had finished pork chops and stuffing, Grandpa went to the garage. That was next to Grandma's art studio. She and Owen headed there.

"One of your chores while you're here is to help with my animal skeletons," Grandma said. Owen's eyes widened in surprise.



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Grandma laughed and explained, "All my felted animals start with a wire skeleton first. Then, I use a felting needle to turn wool into felt. That makes it look like fur or feathers. I mostly make birds. Then, I sell them to the gift shop at the Adkins Arboretum. We're going there tomorrow."



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Owen is spending his summer with his grandparents. His grandma loves bird-watching and tells him about a special white owl. After Owen overhears someone else talking about the owl, it becomes a race to protect this rare bird.

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Reading Levels
Guided Reading: O
DRA Level: 30
Lexile® Level: 590L

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