Sharing Our Stories



by Jeff O'Kelley • illustrated by George Ulrich

Benchmark EDUCATION

Level 18 J Word Count: 474*

Summary

Allie and Chanya may live far apart, but their lives are very much alike.

Skills at a Glance

Monitor-Reading
- Retell what you've read

Comprehension
- Compare and contrast

Phonics
- Contractions (we're, we've, we'll)

Word Study
- Suffixes: -less, -ful (rainless, hopeful, wonderful, colorful)

Fluency
- Read using prosody

Fiction Genre
- Realistic fiction

* Numerals, vocabulary words on pages 2 and 3, and words in photo captions, labels, diagrams, and charts are not included in the word count for this book.

How are Allie and Chanya alike?

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Meet the Characters

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Allie



Miss White

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Chanya



Miss Guyo

Pen Pals

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"We've joined a pen pal club. We'll write to children in Kenya. Kenya is a country in Africa," Miss White told her class.

Allie read the name of her pen pal. The name was Chanya.

"*Chanya* is a funny name," said Allie.



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"We've joined a pen pal club. We'll write to children in Texas. Texas is a state in the United States. The United States is a country in North America," Miss Guyo told her class. Chanya would write to a girl named Allie.

"*Allie* is a funny name," said Chanya.

Could girls from different nations become friends?



Hello!

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Allie wrote her first letter to Chanya.



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DEAR CHANYA,

MY NAME IS ALLIE. MY FAMILY LIVES ON A RANCH IN EL PASO, TEXAS. WE RAISE COWS ON OUR RANCH.

THIS PART OF TEXAS IS HOT AND DRY. MY DAD SAYS WE'RE HAVING A DROUGHT THIS YEAR. I HOPE IT RAINS SOON.

YOUR PEN PAL,
ALLIE

Then Chanya wrote to Allie.

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Dear Allie,

Hello from Meru, Kenya! I was happy to read your letter. My family lives on a farm. We raise animals, too! We raise goats.

We've had many rainless days, too. But we're hopeful that it will rain someday soon.

I play with jacks while I wait for the rain. How do you have fun?

Your pen pal,
Chanya