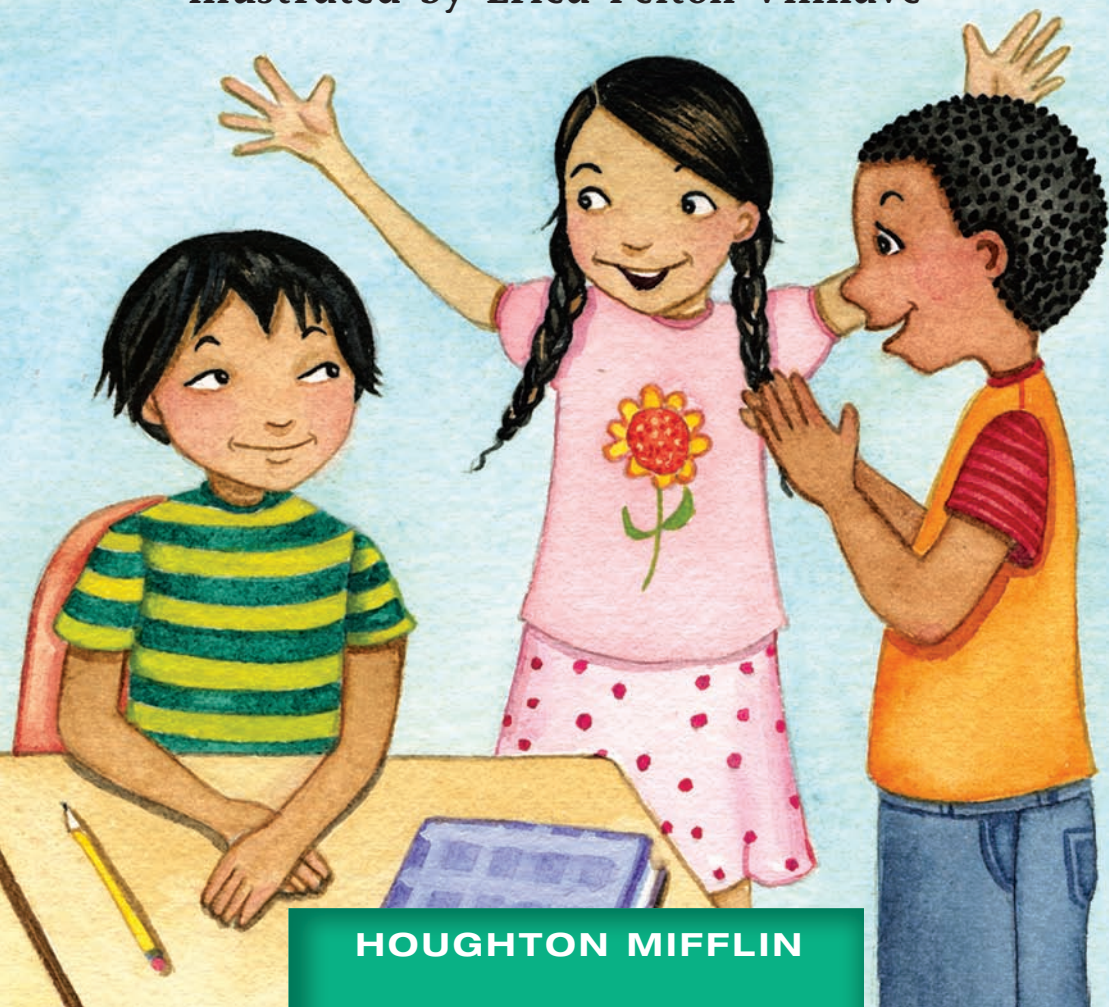




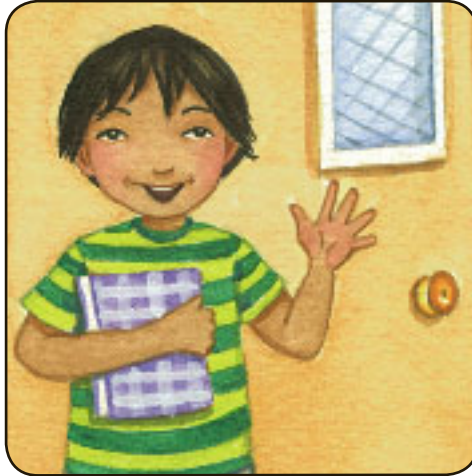
A Surprise for Ms. Green

by James Brissette
illustrated by Erica Pelton Villnave



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT
School Publishers

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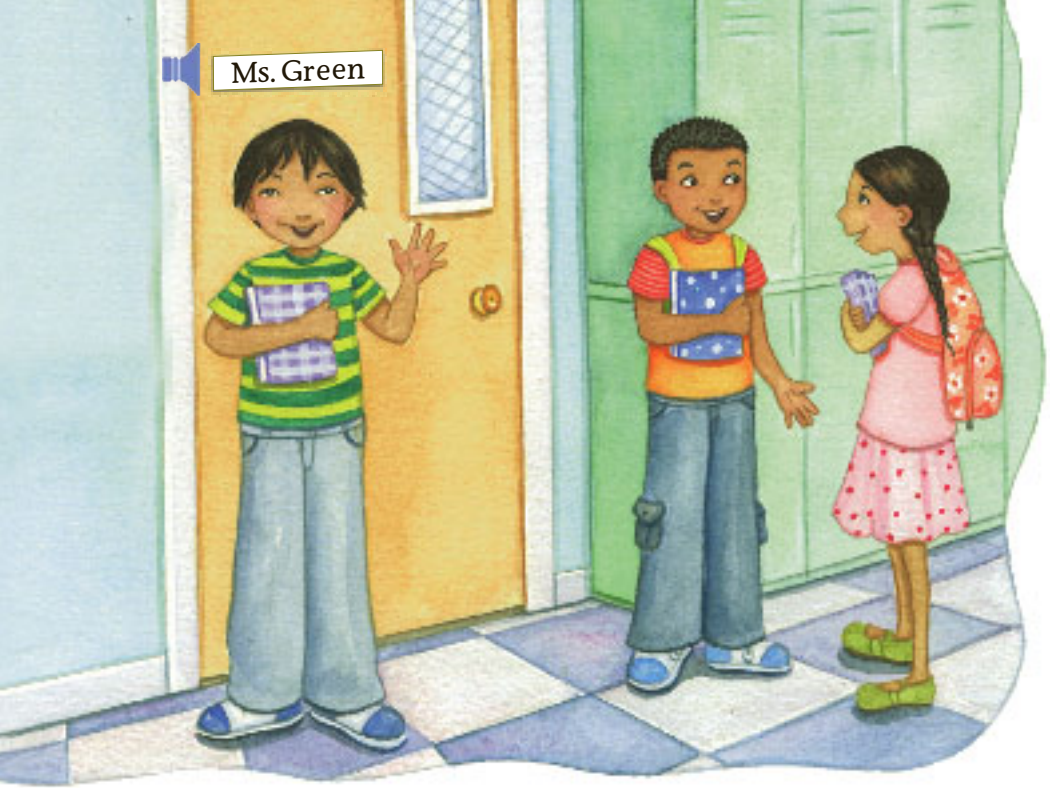
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Ms. Green



🔊 My teacher is the best.

That's the first thing you should know. Her name is Ms. Green.

Oh, and my name is Tran.

Hi.

Maybe I should have said that first...



🔊 But Ms. Green isn't here today. We have Mr. Perez instead. He's nice, but he's not Ms. Green.

🔊 "Don't worry, class," said Mr. Perez. "Ms. Green just has the flu. She'll be back soon."

🔊 "Ms. Green has the flu?" Tessa gasped. "When I had the flu, I couldn't come to school for a week!"



🔊 “It’s hard to be sick,” said Jamal. “And coming back to school can be **even** harder.”

🔊 “We should do something nice for Ms. Green,” said Katie.

🔊 “Yeah, to cheer her up!” Tessa cried. “And to thank her for being a great teacher!”



🔊 “She loves my dancing,”
said Katie. “So I’ll dance for her.”

🔊 I couldn’t dance for Ms. Green.
I slumped down in my chair.

🔊 “She likes this **bear** that I
drew,” said Jamal. “So I’ll draw
her a picture.”



🔊 I studied the neat drawing Jamal held above his head. My pictures always looked messy. I couldn't draw for Ms. Green. I slumped even lower.

🔊 "What are you going to do, Tran?" asked Mr. Perez.



🔊 I gulped and **pushed** myself up. “Well, I’m not good at dancing or drawing,” I said.

🔊 “You wrote a great report about tigers,” said Jamal.

🔊 “Ms. Green knows enough about tigers,” I said. “But thanks.”



🔊 “Don’t write about tigers,” said Katie. “Write about Ms. Green!”

🔊 “Yeah!” Tessa yelled. “You can write the words. Then the rest of us will perform what you write!”

🔊 So we practiced. We were ready when Ms. Green came back.



🔊 We all stood at the front of the room. Ms. Green looked very surprised. My heart pounded.

“You are a great teacher,” I read.

🔊 I read and read. Jamal showed his pictures. Katie danced. Tessa and some other kids sang a song.



🔊 When we were done, Ms. Green clapped and walked **toward** us. “Thank you for all the effort you put into this wonderful show,” she said. “I’m so touched. But why did you decide to do this?”

🔊 “Well, Ms. Green,” I began. “You’re the best. That’s the first thing you should know....”

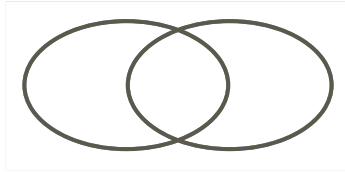
Responding



TARGET SKILL

Compare and

Contrast How is Tran different from Jamal? How is he the same? Make a diagram.



Write About It

Text to Self Who is your favorite teacher? Write a sentence to tell who it is. Then write a sentence to explain why that teacher is your favorite.



WORDS TO KNOW

above

pushed

teacher

bear

studied

toward

even

surprised



LEARN MORE WORDS

decide

effort

perform



TARGET SKILL

Compare and

Contrast Tell how two things are alike or not.



TARGET STRATEGY

Monitor/Clarify

Find ways to figure out what doesn't make sense.



GENRE Realistic fiction is a story that could happen in real life.

Level: J

DRA: 18

Genre:

Realistic Fiction

Strategy:

Monitor/Clarify

Skill:

Compare and Contrast

Word Count: 393

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