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The Story in Brief

It's winter in North Dakota. And like the rest of the country, people are feeling the effects of the Great Depression.

Ike is upset when he learns that his father has lost his job and the family must move. There is only one place to go—Ike's uncle's farm. Father tries to explain the importance of families sticking together. But Ike is thinking of his dreadful cousins, Harald and Krista.

Upon the family's arrival at the farm, the cousins are as spiteful as ever. They even turn some of the other schoolchildren against Ike and his sister Anna. Ike is learning to control his temper, but it's hard since Harald is always taunting him.

To make matters worse, Harald reminds Ike that if there is any trouble between the boys, his mother will make Ike's family leave. Ike decides that the best way to handle Harald is to ignore his teasing.

Then Harald makes a big mistake. As he and Ike leave the kitchen, Harald whispers a rude comment to Ike about his father. But Harald's father also overhears. He immediately demands that Harald repeat his remark and apologize to his uncle. Harald is taken to the summer kitchen where he is given a whipping to teach him "the importance of family." Harald vows to get even with Ike.

One night, Ike overhears his aunt saying that she will be glad when the family leaves

so there will be more money to buy things for Harald and Krista. Uncle Jens reminds her that Ike's family would take them in if the situation was reversed. She reluctantly agrees. Family is more important than money.

Ike continues to be on guard against Harald. Then one morning, the children arrive at school and find that the girls' outhouse has been knocked over. When no one comes forward, Ike figures that Harald did it and will try to blame Ike.

One of Harald's friends, Rolf, tells the teacher that Harald knocked over the outhouse. Harald quickly denies it and blames Rolf. The teacher doesn't know whom to believe and tells the boys to solve the problem before recess is over.

Harald begs Ike to help him. Ike confronts Rolf, and the scared boy admits that he pushed the outhouse over himself. The experience has taught both Harald and Ike something about family.

Later that night, Ike's father announces that he has a new job and the family will be moving back to town. But Uncle Jens and Aunt Mary are so thankful for the extra help around the farm that they invite the family to stay. They offer to help build a new house for Ike's family nearby. Everyone smiles and agrees that families must stick together.



Name _____

NOTHING IS FOR FREE

Chapter 1

Using Long Vowels

Read the words in the word box. Each word contains a long vowel sound. Say the words to yourself and listen for the long vowel sounds. Then read each sentence. Choose a word from the word box to complete each sentence. Write your answer on the blank line.

behind	tiny	pleadingly
replied	beat	exclaimed
believe	crying	teachers
squeezed	smile	

Example: Ike could not believe that his father had just lost his job.

1. The family had gathered in the _____ kitchen.
2. The _____ would have to clean their own rooms.
3. "They can't fire you!" Ike _____ to his father.
4. Ike's heart seemed to _____ faster as he waited for the answer.
5. Anna looked at her mother and father _____.
6. Ike stood _____ Anna.
7. Father _____ to the children's questions.
8. Mother held her _____ daughter in her arms.
9. Mother _____ Anna's shoulders to show she understood Anna's feelings.
10. A _____ crossed Anna's face when she realized that she would go to school with Ike.



Name _____

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Chapter 1

Finding Base Words

Each word below has been made by adding an ending such as *-ly*, *-ed*, or *-ing* to a base word. On the blank beside each word, write the base word.

Example: stared _____ *stare*

1. muddy _____

11. shoulders _____

2. slowly _____

12. interested _____

3. happening _____

13. staying _____

4. stirring _____

14. straightened _____

5. heavily _____

15. worker _____

6. dropped _____

16. finally _____

7. harder _____

17. grinned _____

8. cousins _____

18. angry _____

9. threatened _____

19. famous _____

10. worried _____

20. hopefully _____