



Fall 2012

There is much activity at the school house now at the end of summer as the children will soon be returning to class after a long summer vacation. The teacher, Miss Eckleston, has opened all the windows to let fresh air in, dusted off the desks and bookshelves, and is readying her lesson plan book for this year's teachings.

Abigail is busy as well as summer draws to a close- she knows she must start gathering food to store under the floor to carry her through the long winter. Abigail loves the Fall –she anticipates not only the school room being filled with the sounds of children again, but also of the coming seasonal changes. She loves the beautiful colors of the oak and maple trees on the school grounds and of course, all those luscious acorns! The air will be crisp and tickle her whiskers with the first hint of frost in the early mornings.

Across the street to the east, the farmer is cutting the hay field and making up bales both to sell and as food and bedding for his livestock. Abigail takes a risk crossing the dirt road this time of year to help herself to some hay to keep her warm in the winter in her nest under the floor. If she ventures to the farm to the north of the school house, she helps herself to a special treat from the hen house – an egg! She knows that after all the other eggs in a clutch have hatched, any remaining are duds. Oh what a sight to see Abigail rolling a wobbly egg back across the dirt road to her house!

Sometimes Abigail gets a little too daring as she ventures out on these excursions. With the approach of Fall, many vegetables are now ripe in the fields. Abigail can't resist the lure of fresh squash and tomatoes. But on this particular day, Abigail gets a little too far from the school house as she went into the field behind the tree line west of the school. She didn't even notice how deeply she went into the pumpkin patch and now it was beginning to get dark. Abigail got all turned around and began to panic. She dropped the pumpkin flowers that she was so looking forward to eating that night and began to run this way and that. Poor Abigail!!! Join us for the upcoming Winter newsletter for the next adventures of Abigail. Sneak peek: Abigail hops onto a wagon of a family headed to church and winds up in the bell tower! Oh my again!

Now she was getting quite tired and sad as she feared there was no hope of finding her way back to the school house before she might be discovered and eaten by a red fox. Just then, she heard a small rustling sound nearby. Abigail couldn't bear to look and pulled her white apron up over her head. She thought her end was near and waited but nothing happened. She waited a few seconds more and then peeked her nose out. To her great relief, there standing before her was her older brother Fenwick. He knew just where to go searching for Abigail as he remembered her passion for pumpkin flowers. Abigail was overjoyed and the two siblings headed back to the Pine Grove School House as Fenwick knew how to navigate by the stars at night. Soon they were back safely under the floorboards sharing that coveted egg!