



Summer 2013

Summertime had come to Avon and the children at the Pine Grove School House went home for summer to help their families on the farm. Abigail missed the company of the children who were learning above her as she watched them from beneath the floorboards of the little one-room schoolhouse.

So Abigail decided to go on a summer adventure! She puzzled and puzzled until she came up with a most marvelous idea. She thought, wouldn't it be grand to take a ride on the Farmington River! Oh what fun that sounded like and she began to plan her trip. First, she would need a way to reach the river. She decided to catch a wagon headed to Farmington to sell goods by way of the Old Red Bridge. The bridge went over the river and connected Farmington to Avon. She hopped off the wagon and waited for a boat passing under the bridge to hop on to. Abigail had packed a lunch in her little basket and she brought some catnip just in case she encountered a cat to distract it so she could make her escape. And just as she had planned, not very long after Abigail was on the bridge, a small boat with two fishermen came by paddling down the river. Perfect! Abigail being very clever, threw a small rock KERPLOP! in to the river near the boat to distract the fishermen's attention as she dropped from the bridge into the boat. Off she sailed, peeking out from under some coiled rope, down the river. How fun! The fishermen were headed toward Unionville Dam where the fishing was known to be good. Abigail hadn't thought much about how she would return to Avon. She was just having so much fun sailing along on the river. When the fishermen arrived at their fishing spot, they threw the anchor overboard and sat for hours fishing.

By now Abigail was getting very bored and wanted to go home. But how? She was in the middle of the river and could not swim. But Abigail must have been born under a lucky star for a painter turtle was swimming by just then. Abigail climbed over the side of the boat on the anchor's rope and waved her arms at the turtle. The turtle came closer and Abigail asked if she could ride on his back to shore. The turtle agreed as Abigail had promised him a piece of the cake she had in her basket. The turtle, of course, had never tasted cake so was anxious to sample this sweet-sounding delight. So off Abigail went on the turtle's back safely to shore. Now what? How was she to get home as it was getting near dusk? She saw a little house near the edge of the river with the glow of candlelight already ablaze through the windows. Abigail warily approached the house and hoped to hitch a ride back to Avon in the morning. Most farmers needed to take their grain to a gristmill to be ground into meal every few days or to bring their produce to town to sell. So Abigail hoped the farmer would be headed for Avon the next morning. Abigail found a secluded nook in the woodshed to rest overnight. But as she settled in, she felt as though she was being watched. She heard nothing. Suddenly she picked up the scent of a cat! Oh my! The cat had its eyes fixed on Abigail and flushed her out of her hiding spot. Abigail scurried across the woodshed floor as fast as lightening and scooted right out of the space under the door throwing the catnip she brought behind her. Luckily the cat could not resist the aroma of the catnip and gave up the chase. Phew! Abigail paused at the base of a big old tree to catch her breath. From above her she heard....'whooooooooooooo is there?'

Abigail looked up to see a screech owl in the tree hollow above. Now owls are usually predators of mice but this owl was different as this species preys on insects. So the owl agreed to fly Abigail back to Avon on his back as Abigail told him that the bugs in Avon were way bigger and

juicier than the Unionville ones....talk about a fish story! Anyway, Abigail got back to her den under the floorboards of the Pine Grove School House and settled in for a nice cup of tea and scones before bedtime. She would sleep well after her exciting adventure sailing on the Farmington River!