



Summer 2014

Hooray! It is summertime, Abigail's favorite season of the year. You know that Abigail is a small brown field mouse that lives under the floorboards of the Pine Grove Schoolhouse in Avon in the late 1800s. Today is a bright, sunny day and first on Abigail's to-do list is to go out to the farm field and find a nice ripe red strawberry. Abigail loves strawberries even though they stain her paws and whiskers pink when she eats them! Of course she must keep a watchful eye on the sky for predators like hawks and falcons.

Abigail grabs her little wicker basket, puts on her sun bonnet, and heads out to the field across the street at Cold Spring Farm. On her way she passes the hen house and says hello to Gladys, Prudence, and Hester who are sitting on their nests full of eggs. She arrives at the vegetable patch and finds the strawberry bushes. Being so small, she can't bring home a very big strawberry and must find a small one to fit in her basket. She is in luck and finds a luscious berry just ready for picking. Now she heads back home to enjoy her treat along with some cookies.

After her breakfast, she wondered what to do for some summertime fun? Then she got an idea....Frog Rodeo! Just up the road was Tasker's Pond and in the summer the woodland creatures and amphibious creatures get together to play games. For the frog rodeo, whoever could stay on the frog's back the longest when he jumped from lily pad to lily pad, won. Abigail climbed on to the back of a big old bullfrog known as Vrooop, because that is the sound he made when he croaked. She hung on to his ears (yes frogs have ears) and off they went leaping and leaping competing against the other bullfrogs and their riders. Other animal spectators on the shore were cheering them on. All of a sudden, while in mid-jump, Vrooop got distracted by a passing dragonfly, and dumped Abigail into the pond. Oh my!

Abigail was not a good swimmer and started to sink down into the water and was in a panic. Luckily a snapping turtle was nearby and swam to her rescue and brought a very wet field mouse with her droopy bonnet back to the shore. She was safe and after everyone realized she was okay, they all started to laugh at her funny appearance. Abigail laughed too! All in all it had been an eventful day and Abigail was now tired. She bid her friends goodbye and headed back home to her nest under the floorboards. She washed her fur in the wash basin, dried off, and changed into her night gown for bedtime. Tomorrow would be another day of adventure for Abigail in the summer sunshine.