



## A SPRINGTIME ADVENTURE OF AN ABIGAIL FIELDMOUSE FAMILY MEMBER



After a long winter of being cooped up inside the one-room Pine Grove School House in Avon, Connecticut, the children of Abigail Fieldmouse and Seamus Graymouse were SO happy to go outside and play in the warm Spring sunshine! The air smelled especially sweet with the scent of hay from across the road at the Sunrise Farm. Around the school house the big oak tree leaves were a bright spring green color and wildflowers such as bluebells and buttercups were adding color to the landscape.

The children-Celestial, Moonglow, Stardust and Galaxy played in the school yard on the first weekend of Spring as by Monday, the local farm children would be coming back to school. In those early days, just after the Civil War, children walked a long distance to school or were dropped off by wagon. Abigail's children had to stay out of sight, under the floor boards of the school when school was in session and they learned lessons from the teacher right along with the human children.

Of course, Galaxy, the only boy, had little patience for sitting still for his studies. So sometimes he would sneak away to go exploring. Galaxy was born with a deformity-a club foot-but that didn't stop him from getting where he wanted to go! On this fine Spring day, he was dying to go see what critters and treasures might be found at the water spring behind the farm to the north of the school house, known as Cold Spring Farm. So off he went, while his sisters stayed home to learn their lessons. He snuck out between the boards of the siding on the school house and made his way across the dirt road and down to the water spring. He was instantly rewarded by discovering pollywogs (baby frogs) swimming in the water. Then a big dragonfly came and landed on a nearby twig. Galaxy was bemused by this insect's strange, multi-faceted eyes. Then off it flew out of sight in a moment! Galaxy spied a painted turtle sunning itself on a rock on the edge of the water. He wanted to get a closer look at the turtle as he thought it would be awesome if he could climb on its back and go for a ride. But with his eyes on the turtle, and not where he was walking, suddenly Galaxy found himself stuck in the soft mud near the waterline. He tried very hard to pull his legs out, but he couldn't. He got very frightened and cried out for help.

A passing ruby-throated hummingbird heard Galaxy's cries and stopped in mid-air, as those incredible birds that fly like modern-day drones can, then went down closer to see what the problem was. The hummingbird saw that she could not help him herself and Galaxy pointed excitedly to the school house across the road. The hummingbird flew to the school in the blink of an eye as they are amazingly fast-flying birds. She saw the mouse boy's dad, Seamus, outside in the school yard and hovered over him with her wings beating frantically. Seamus knew something was wrong and followed the hummer across to the water spring where he found Galaxy stuck in the mud! His dad was a strong mouse and was able to pull Galaxy out. Seamus told Galaxy that it was dangerous to go exploring without telling him, but then he gave him a big daddy hug. It turned out to be a lovely Spring day after all!