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Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy
Realistic fiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Character• Sequence• Visualize

Scott Foresman Reading Street 3.2.2



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Sarah's Choice

by Ellen Chapman



illustrated by Freddie Levin





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It was a warm summer day, and the sky was clear and blue. Sarah thought it was a perfect day to ask her new friend, Julia, to play. Julia had just moved in down the street.



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Illustrations by Freddie Levin

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Sarah ran to Julia's house and rang the doorbell. Julia came to the door, and Sarah motioned for her to come outside. "Would you like to run through my sprinkler today?" Sarah asked.

Julia smiled with excitement. "If my mom says it's OK, I'll be right over!"



A few minutes later, Sarah's screen door slammed shut. Julia had arrived!

"Girls, play outside awhile," said Sarah's mom. "I have to call the gardener about the new bushes. There is lemonade for you when you come in. Later, we'll bake a special treat!"





Sarah and Julia dashed outside. At last they were running through the cold spray! After playing awhile, the girls shivered and grabbed their towels. They ran inside. "Let's have our lemonade," Sarah said.



The two friends sat on the porch and talked about their summer plans. Suddenly Sarah asked, "Are you hungry, Julia? I am! Let's change and get something to eat."





In the kitchen Julia was shocked to see her friend take a carton of blueberries from the refrigerator. “Shouldn’t we ask your mom first?” Julia asked.

But Sarah chose not to ask her mom. She washed the berries and put them in a bowl.



“Try some,” Sarah said, as she took a handful of berries. “Blueberries are good for you. And they’re yummy!”

Julia took a handful. Within a few minutes the girls had eaten every berry in the bowl.





Sarah's mom came into the kitchen as they were washing the bowl. "Girls, are you ready to make a blueberry cake? It's Sarah's favorite dessert."

"Oh, no!" Sarah cried, with sadness in her voice. "We ate all the blueberries! I wish I had asked you first, Mom! I'm sorry."



"I'm sorry, too, Sarah," said her mom. "I was looking forward to baking with you and Julia. I hope you have learned an important lesson today. If you have, that's something to be happy about after all. We'll make a blueberry cake the next time that Julia visits!"

"Thanks, Mom," Sarah said, happily.





A Harvest Celebration

Every year in late August a small town in the state of Maine celebrates. Can you guess what this celebration is about? It's about blueberries!

Maine is famous for sweet-tasting, low-bush blueberries. The berries grow wild on vines that are close to the ground. Each August, men, women, and teenagers harvest the berries by raking them. They use a scoop-shaped rake that catches and holds the berries until it is full.

The citizens of Machias, Maine, hold their two-day blueberry festival when the harvest is finished. There is a fish fry supper with blueberry pie for dessert, a children's parade, a blueberry pancake breakfast, a road race, and a craft fair. The townspeople also perform in a special play that's all about blueberries!

Blueberries are an important crop and a special tradition in the state of Maine!



Reader Response

1. What can you tell about Sarah from her choice to eat the blueberries without asking her mom?
2. Reread page 6 of this story. Close your eyes and make a picture in your mind about what this event might look like.
3. The word *shocked* on page 8 has more than one meaning. Use a dictionary to find more meanings. Then write a complete sentence for two of them.
4. Have you ever wished you had acted differently in a situation? Use a chart similar to the one below to help you write about how you could have acted differently.

Beginning
↓
Middle
↓
End

