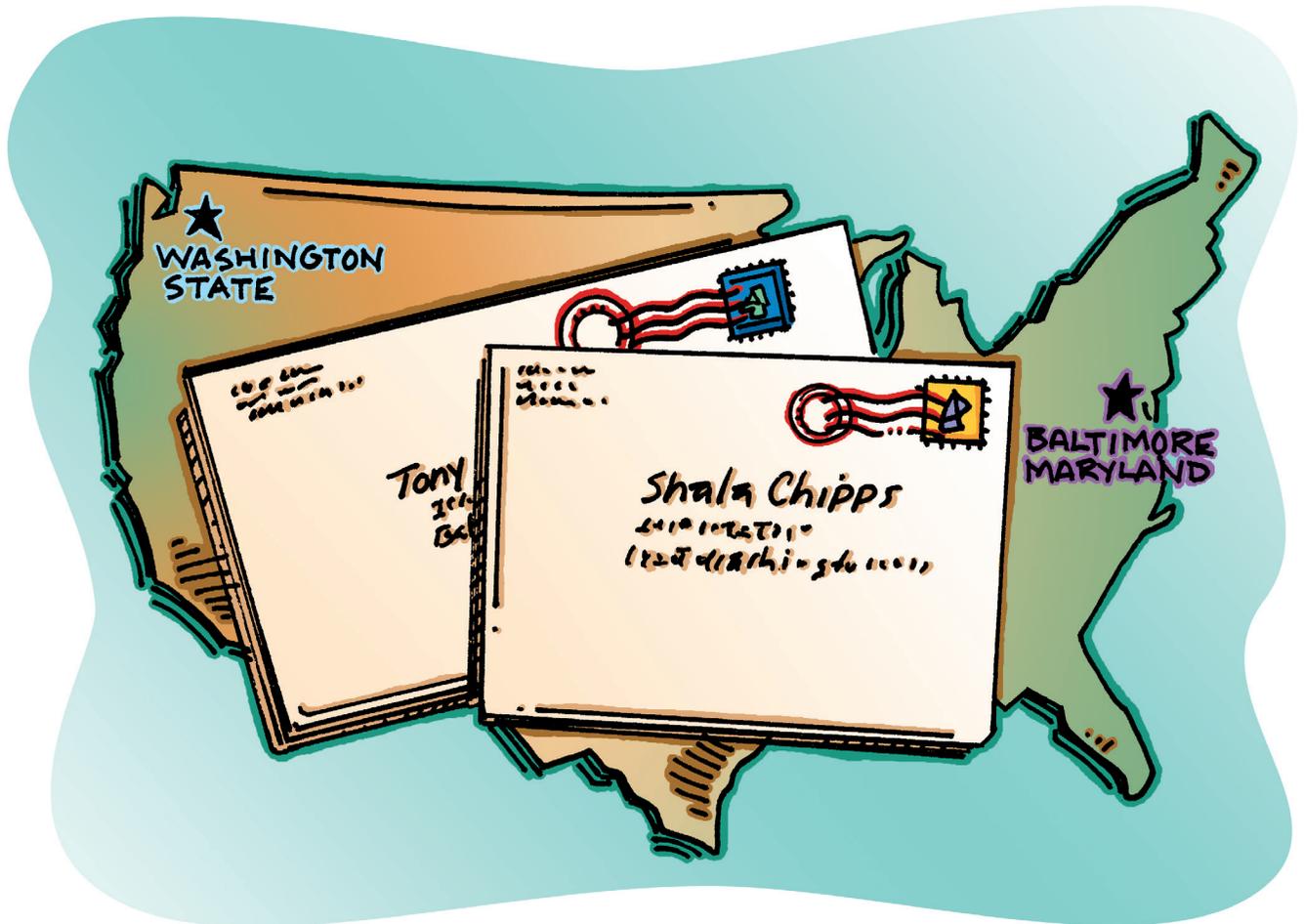


Pen Pals in the U.S.A.



Story by Wendie Old and Laura Burton Rice
Illustrations by Scott Mattern

Green Words and *Challenge Words:

1

miles *apartment *never *harbor
wooden state sails

2

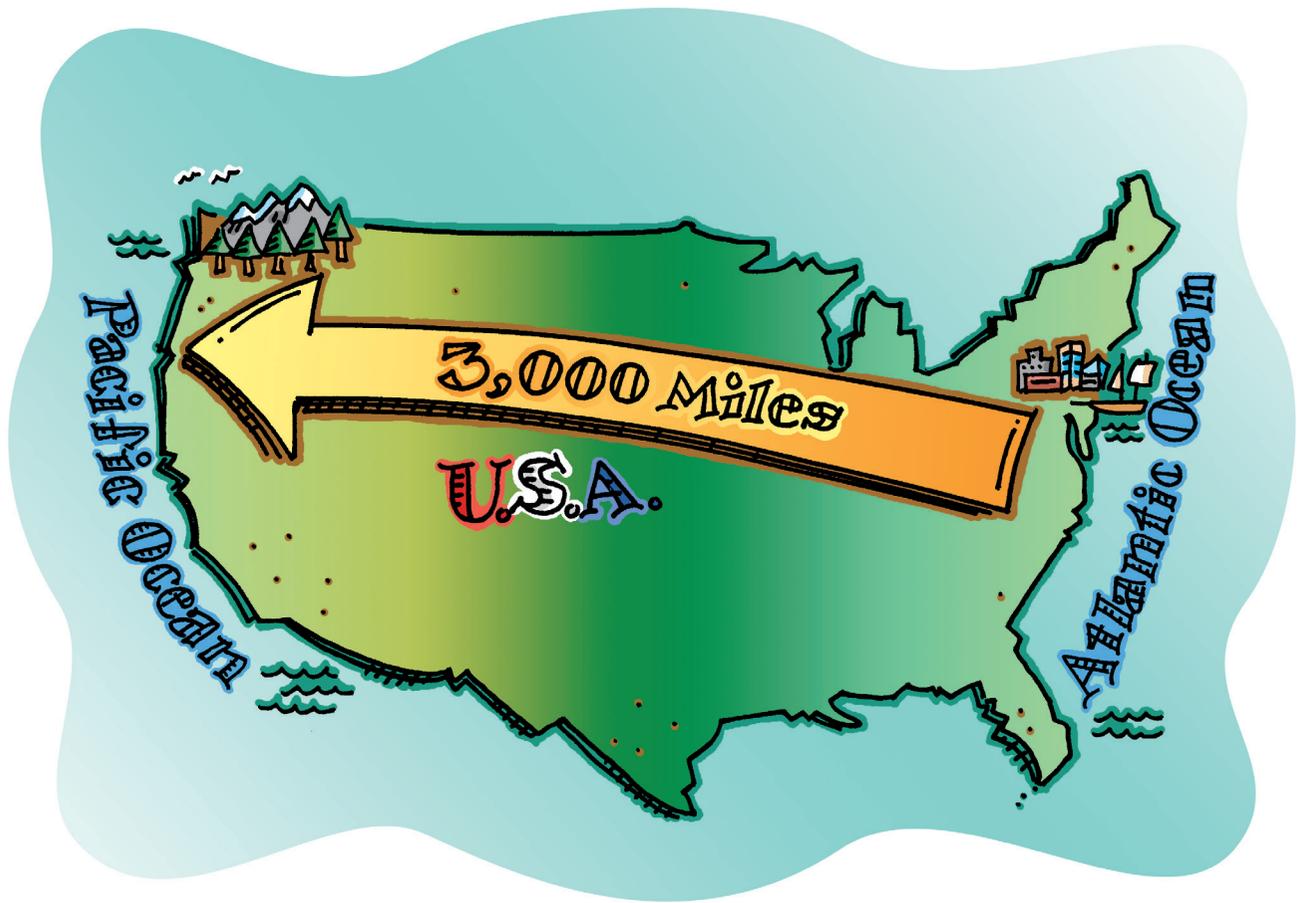
hoof beach hook shook
*ponies whales flippers teased

3

*ahead *something *doctor grows
plains *medicine *secret

Red Words to practice every day:

oceans many lion world
friends wild



The U.S.A. is a BIG place. It is so big that it has two oceans. The East Coast is on the Atlantic Ocean. The West Coast is on the Pacific Ocean, 3,000 miles away.



Tony Rush lives on the East Coast. He lives in an apartment in Baltimore, Maryland. Tony has a Native American friend named Shala Chipps. She lives in a wooden house in Washington state.

Tony and Shala are good friends. But they have never seen each other! They are pen pals.



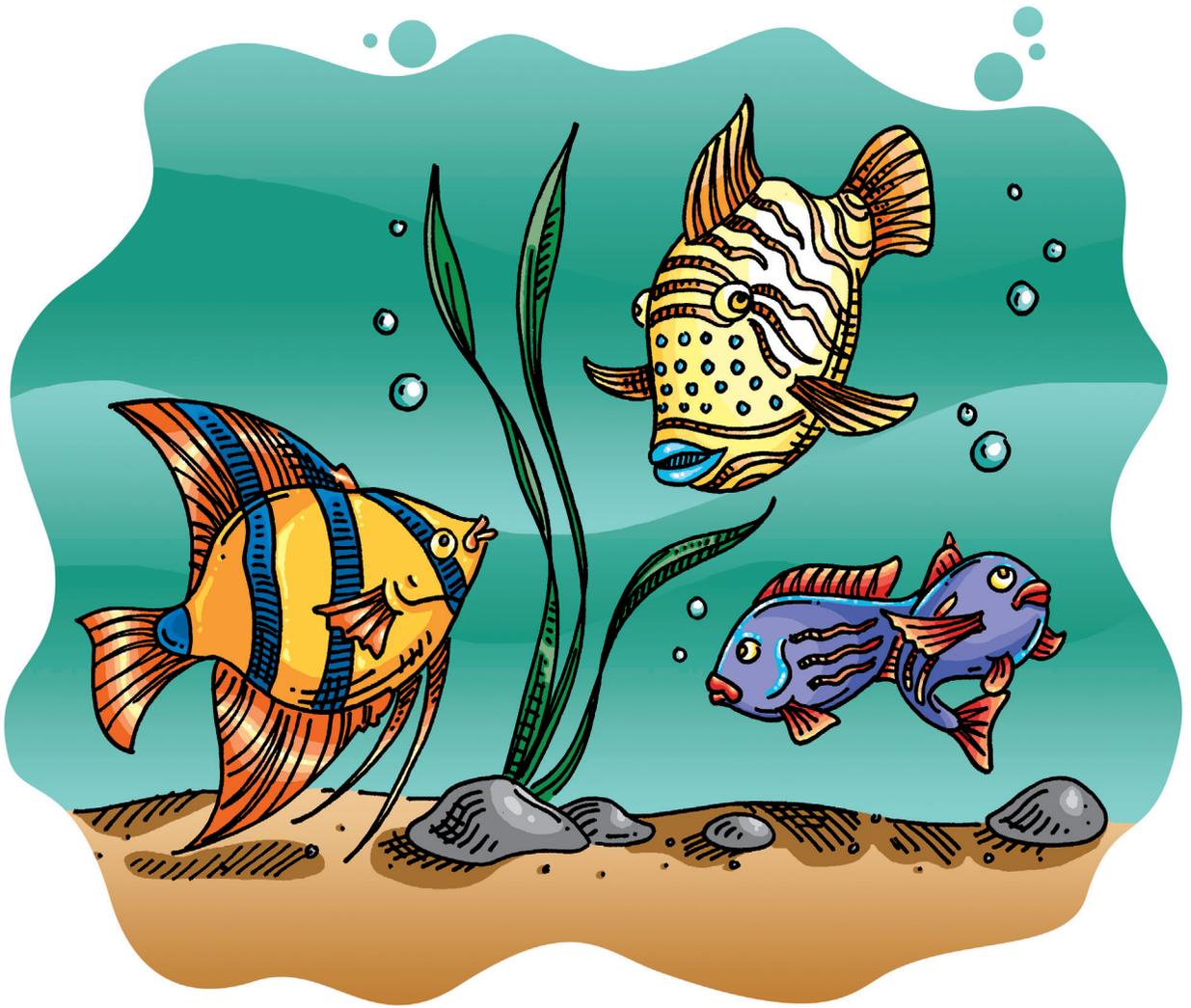
Tony wrote a letter to Shala. The letter said:
Dear Shala,

Thanks for the good book you sent! I liked it a lot.
Here is a book for you. It is about fish. This is how I got
the book.

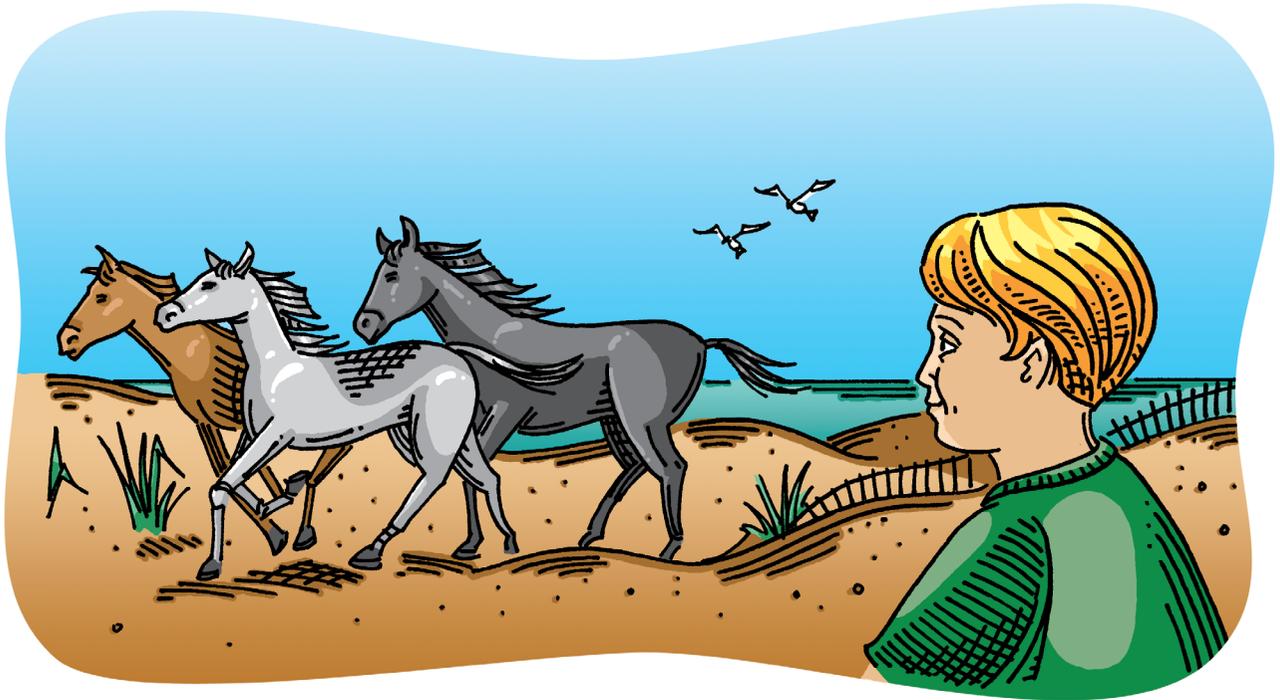


My mom and I rode the bus to visit the Baltimore harbor. Many shops and ships are there. Some ships are tall. They have big masts and sails. They are called clipper ships. I looked at them all.





Then Mom took me to visit the aquarium. It has lots of neat fish! I got this book in the aquarium shop. I hope you will like it.



This summer, I will see lots of fish at the beach. I am going to visit Assateague Island on the Atlantic coast. I will swim in the sea. I like to ride the waves. I will see the wild ponies. Mom says they are not too wild. But it is best just to look at them. I do not want a pony's hoof to hit me!

Please write and tell me what you will do this summer.

Your pal,
Tony



Shala read Tony's letter. Then she sat down to write to him. Her letter said:

Dear Tony,

Thanks for the book! I like fish too. Dad and I fish from a boat in the Pacific Ocean. Sometimes whales pass by the boat. They are bigger than the boat!

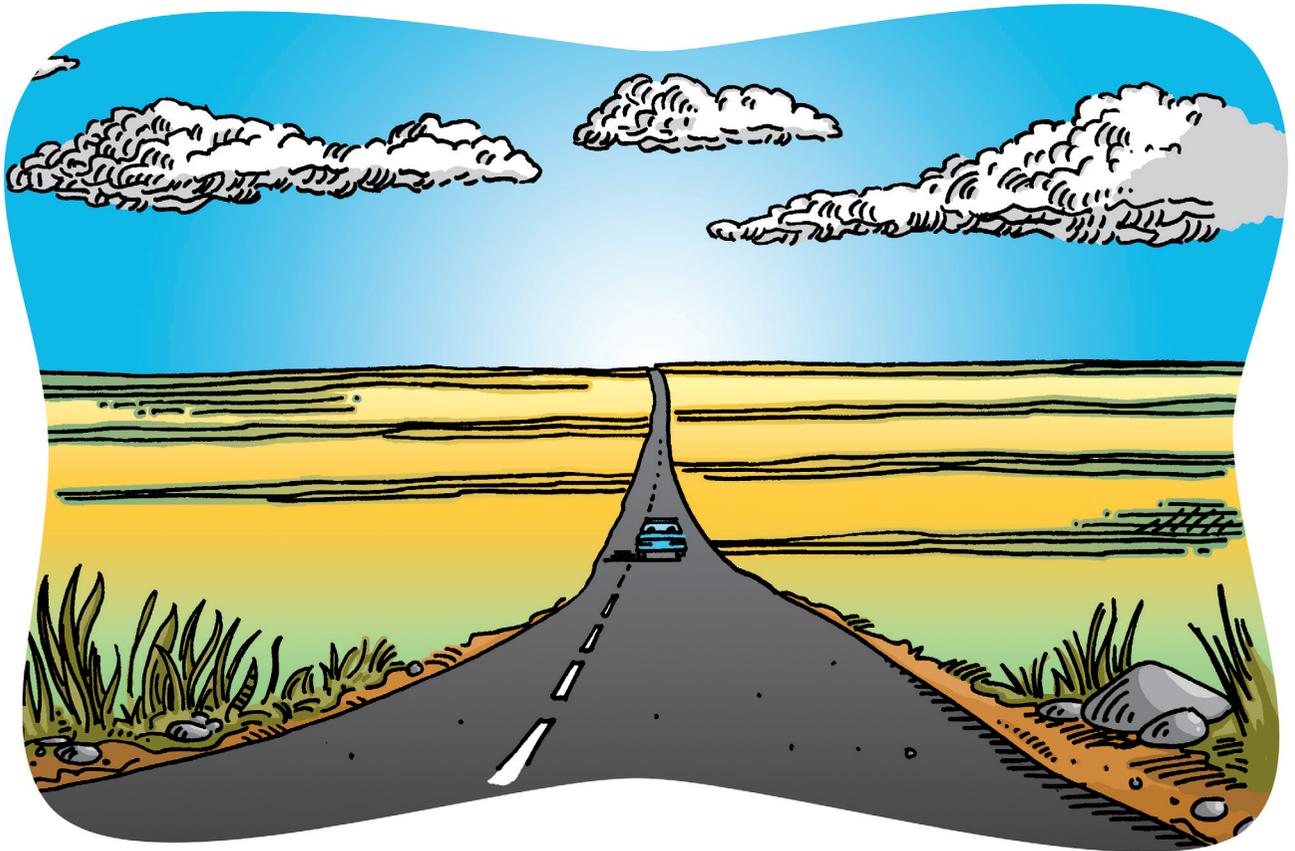


A sea lion teased me one day when Dad and I were fishing. It took my hook. It took my fish. Then it popped up by the boat. It shook its flippers. It seemed to grin at us. What a joke!

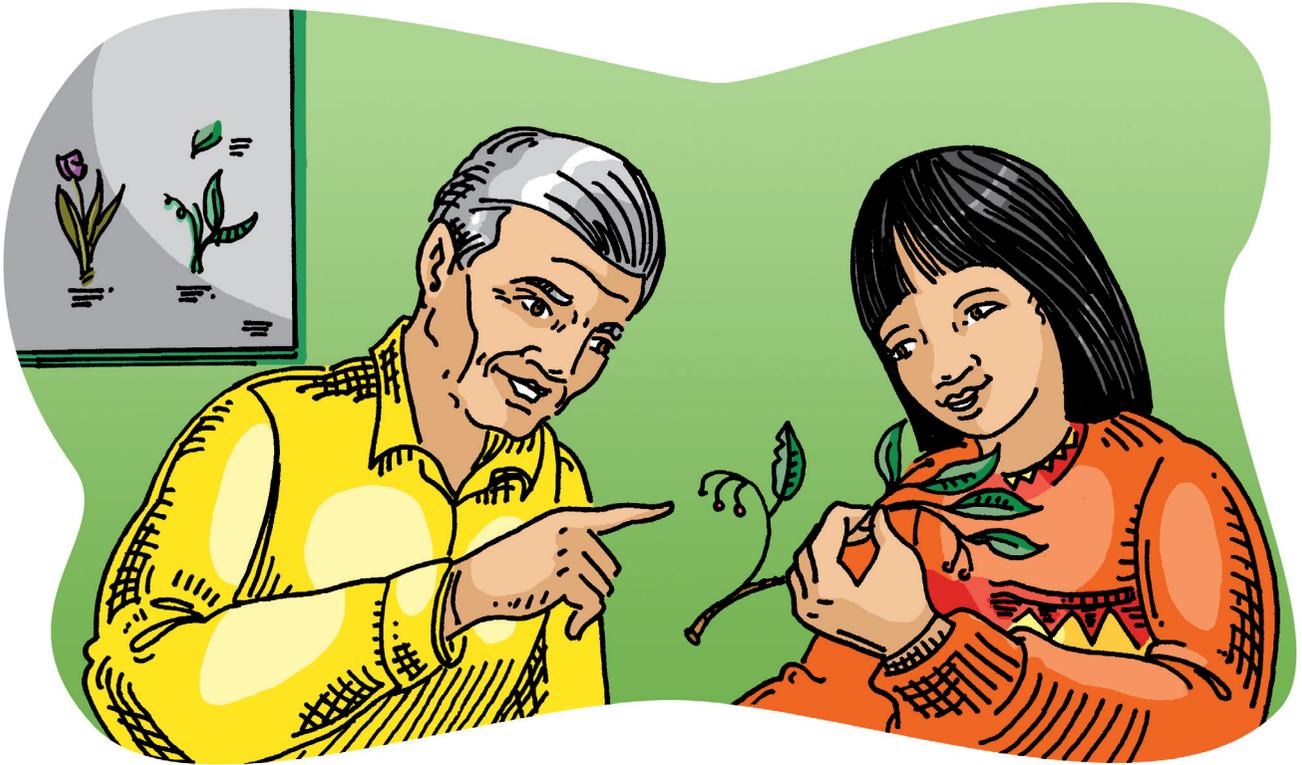




This summer, we will take a trip down the coast to see the biggest trees in the world—the sequoia trees. They are over a hundred feet tall!



Then we will visit the Plains states. They are not like the Olympic Mountains near where I live. The plains are so flat. Mom says when you look ahead you see something that looks close. Yet you drive all day to get there!



I have a secret to tell you. I asked my granddad what my name means. He says it means “medicine person.” So I am learning about the plants that help sick people get well. I want to be a doctor when I get big.

Write and tell me what your name means. And tell me what you will do when you grow up!

Your pal,
Shala



Shala mailed her letter to Tony. He read it and sat down to write to her about what he hopes to do when he grows up.

1. How can Tony and Shala be friends when they have never met?

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

In the story, Washington is a _____.

A. state

B. part

C. mountain

1. What animals swim in the Pacific Ocean?

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

A sea lion made fun of Shala. It _____ her.

A. helped

B. teased

C. shook

1. Tell something about the Plains states.

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

Shala lives near the Pacific Ocean. She lives on the West _____.

A. Mountain

B. Coast

C. Plains

Reading Roots, Level 4
Pen Pals in the U.S.A.

“OO” as in book



Reading Roots Shared Stories were developed under the direction of Robert E. Slavin and Nancy A. Madden, codirectors of the Success for All Foundation Family of Programs.

Success for All Foundation is a nonprofit education reform organization that develops and disseminates research-based reading and math programs for students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary and middle schools. These programs were originally developed at Johns Hopkins University.

Illustrations for this book were colored digitally by Jason Lego.

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A Nonprofit Education Reform Organization

300 E. Joppa Road, Suite 500, Baltimore, MD 21286

PHONE: (800) 548-4998; FAX: (410) 324-4444

E-MAIL: sfainfo@successforall.org

WEBSITE: www.successforall.org