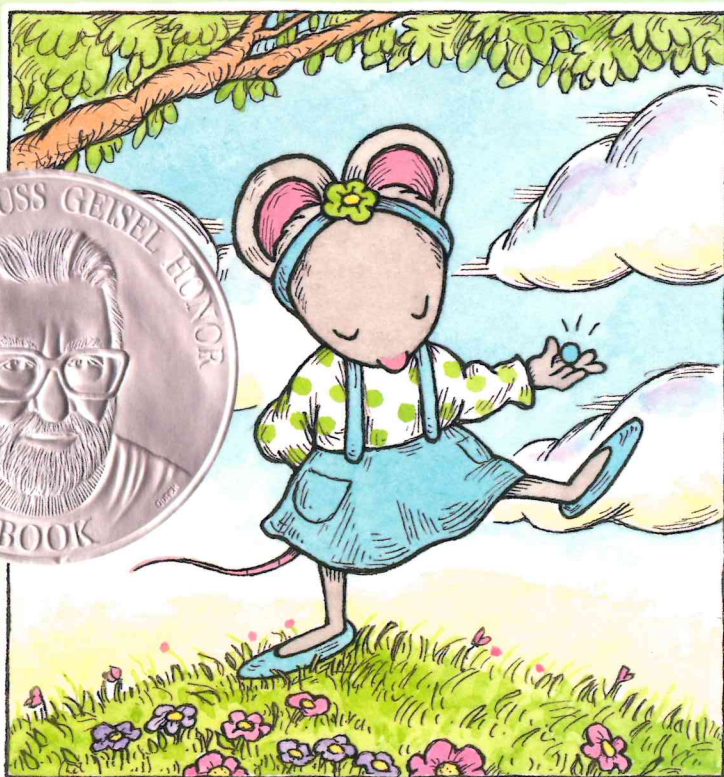
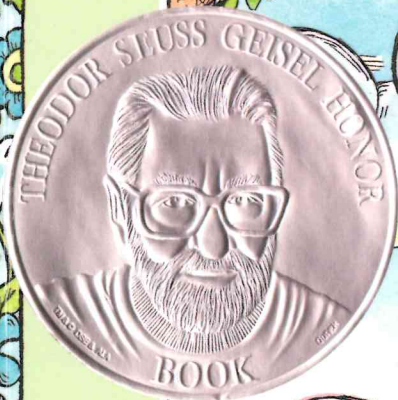


I Can Read!™

BEGINNING
1
READING

Penny

AND HER MARBLE



KEVIN HENKES

Watercolor paints and a black pen were used to prepare the full-color art.
The text type is 17-point Century Schoolbook.

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Penny and Her Marble

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Summary: Penny feels guilty after taking a beautiful blue marble that she sees in
Mrs. Goodwin's grass, but gets a pleasant surprise when she goes to return it the next day.

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First Edition



GREENWILLOW BOOKS

To Penny and Ford





Chapter 1

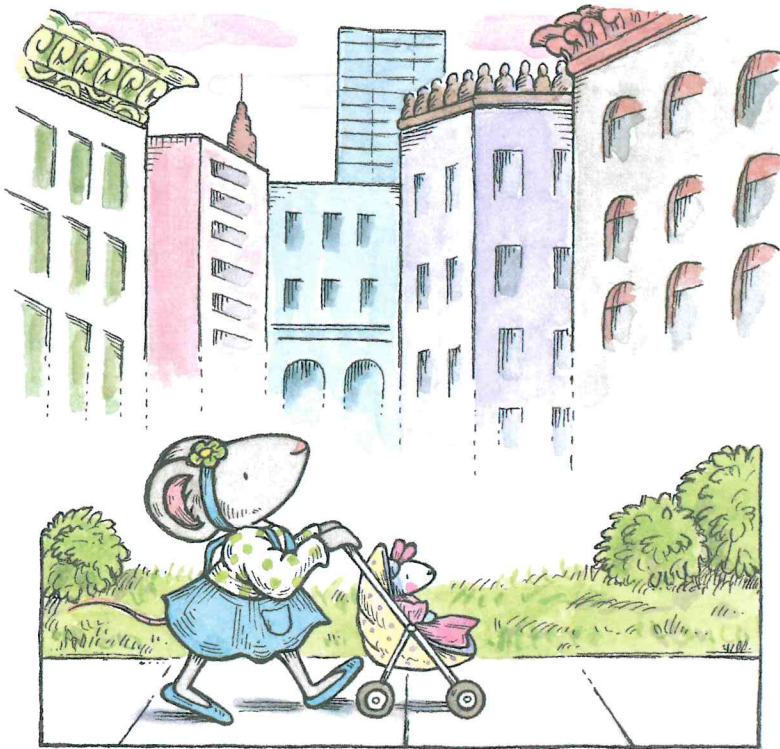
Penny was pushing her doll, Rose, in her stroller.

They went back and forth on the front sidewalk.

“Only go as far as Mrs. Goodwin’s house,” called Mama.

Penny pretended they were
in a big city.

“Look at the tall buildings, Rose,”
said Penny.



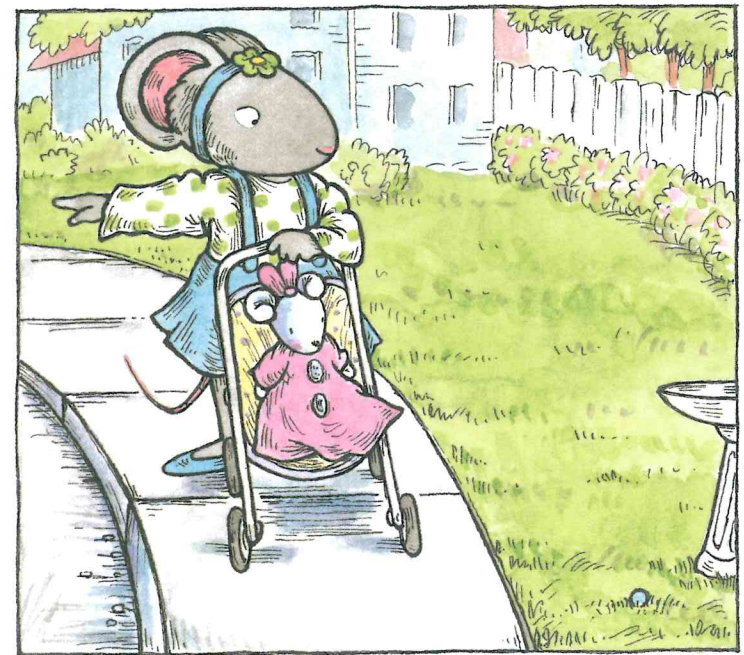
When they got
to Mrs. Goodwin's house,
they turned around.
Then Penny pretended
they were in a forest.
“I hope we don't get lost
in the trees, Rose,” she said.

They went back and forth
again and again.



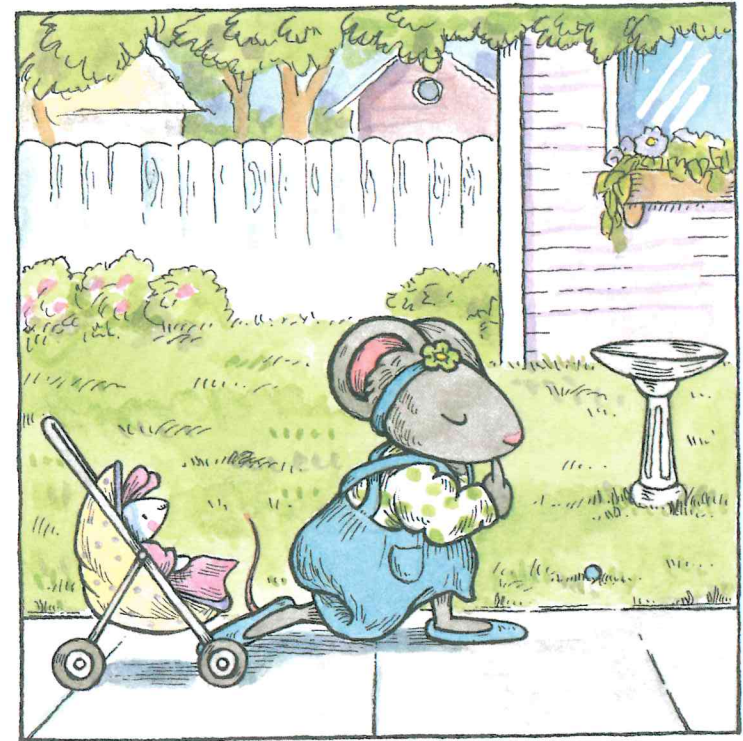
Now Penny pretended
they were flying in a plane.
“Everything looks so tiny
from up here,” said Penny.

Just then Penny saw something
on Mrs. Goodwin’s lawn.
It glinted in the sun.
It was a marble.
A big, shiny blue marble.





It can't be Mrs. Goodwin's,
thought Penny.
She is too old to play
with a marble.



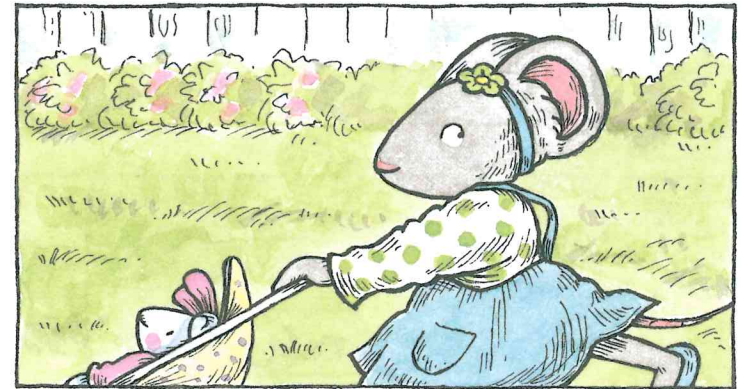
Penny bent down
to get a better look.
The marble seemed to say,
"Take me home."

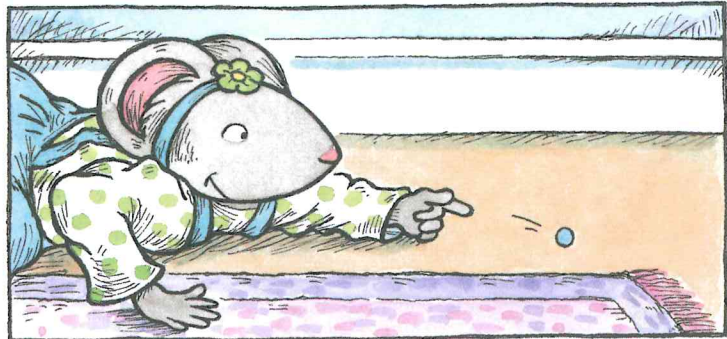


Penny looked around.
No one was watching.
Penny picked up the marble.
She put the marble
in her pocket.



Then Penny raced home
with Rose.





Chapter 2

Penny took the marble
to her room.

She shut the door.

Penny rolled the marble
between her fingers.

The marble was smooth.

Penny rolled the marble
across the floor.

The marble was fast.

Penny showed the marble to Rose.
“Isn’t it pretty, Rose?”
said Penny.



The marble was so blue
it looked like a piece
of the sky.



Penny went to the window
and held up the marble.
She was right.
The marble *was*
like a piece of the sky.



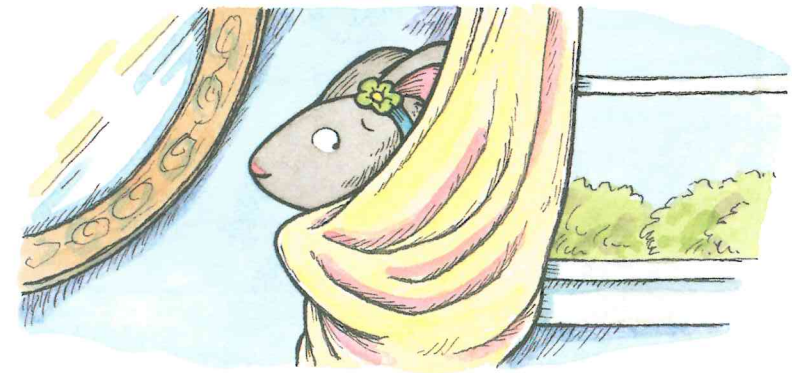
Penny saw Mrs. Goodwin
out the window.

Mrs. Goodwin was in
her yard.

Mrs. Goodwin was exactly
where Penny had found
the marble.



Penny hid
behind the curtain.
Was Mrs. Goodwin
looking for the marble?



Penny left the window.
She hid the marble
in her dresser.



Penny stayed by Mama
and the babies all afternoon.



She could not stop thinking
about the marble.



Chapter 3

“Do you want to bake cookies?”
asked Mama.

Penny shrugged.

“We could make your favorites,”
said Mama. “Sugar cookies.”

“I’ll watch you,” said Penny.



"Are you feeling okay?"
asked Mama.

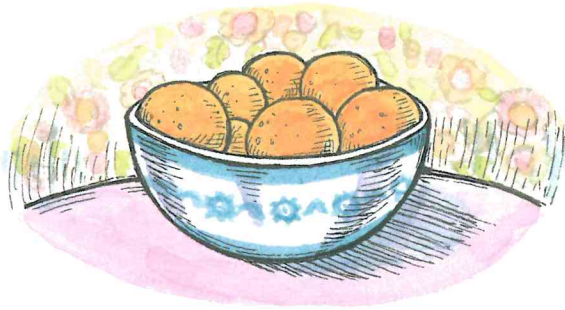
"My stomach hurts a little,"
said Penny.

Mama felt Penny's forehead.

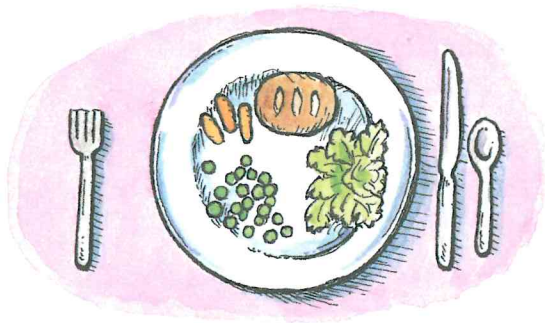
"No fever," said Mama.

Penny watched Mama
bake cookies.
Penny helped a little.





At dinner,
Penny did not eat much.
The oranges in the bowl
looked like big orange marbles.
The peas on her plate
looked like little green marbles.



Penny pushed the peas
around her plate.
“I am not hungry,”
she said.
Penny did not want
a sugar cookie for dessert.

At bedtime, Mama said,
“You still do not have a fever.”
Papa said, “You will feel better
in the morning.”
“It’s probably just a bug,”
said Penny.



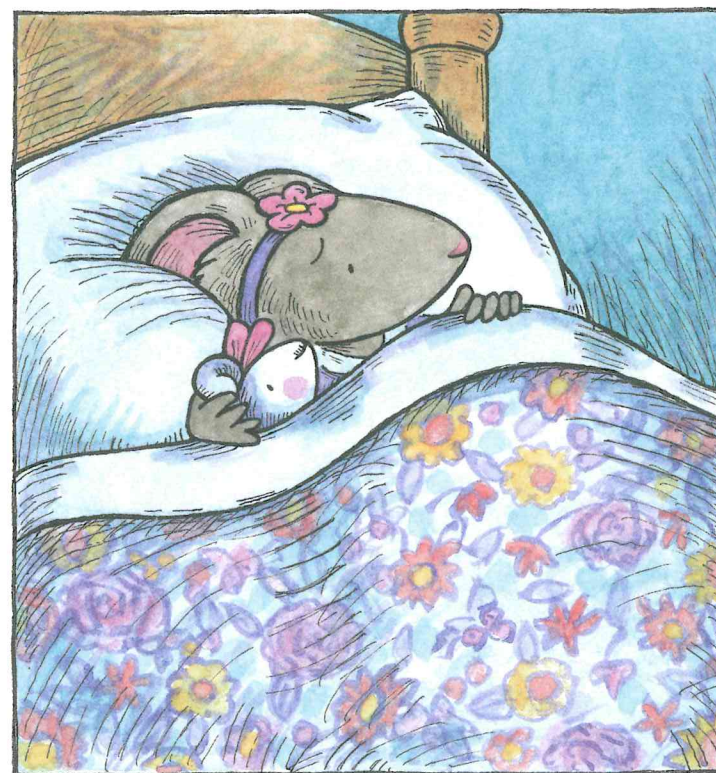
“Are you worried about something?”
asked Mama.
“No,” said Penny.
“Are you sure?” asked Papa.
Penny nodded.



After Mama and Papa
left her room,
Penny looked at the marble.
It was still so blue
and so smooth
and so shiny.
Penny put the marble
back in her dresser.



Penny could not sleep.



She kept thinking
about the marble.



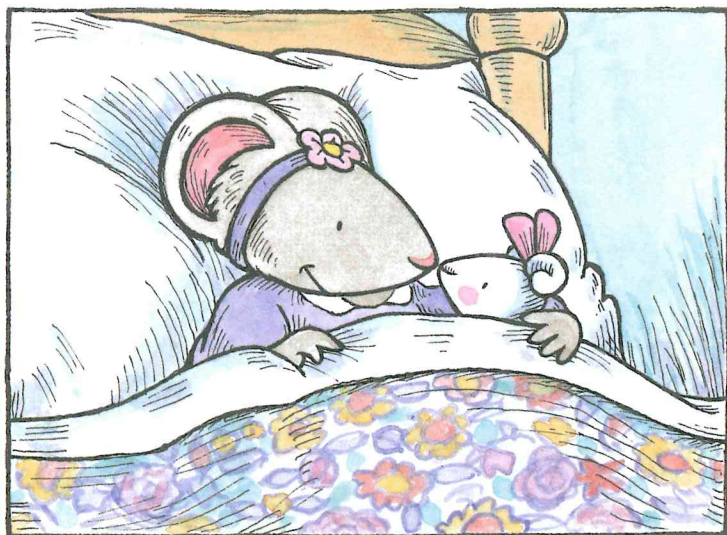
When Penny did fall asleep,
she dreamed.
She dreamed that Mrs. Goodwin
was knocking on the door,
yelling, “Where is my marble?”
Then Penny dreamed
that the marble grew so big
it broke her dresser to bits.



Finally Penny stopped dreaming.



She slept deeply until morning.



Chapter 4

When Penny woke up,
she had forgotten
about the marble.
All of a sudden,
she remembered.

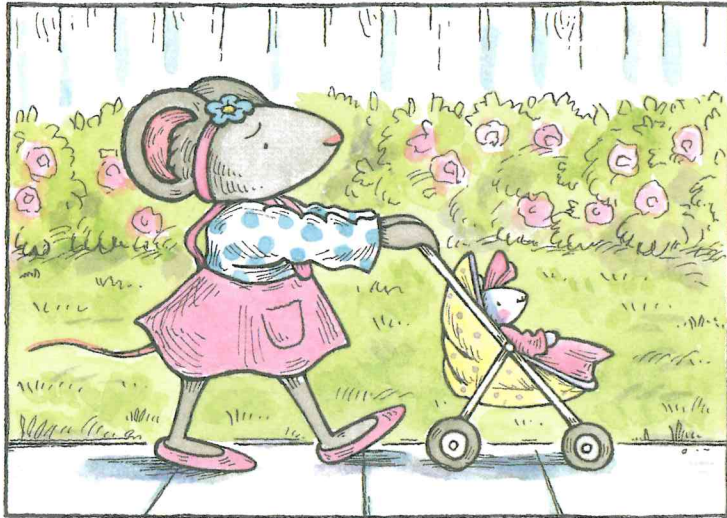


Penny got dressed quickly.
She got the marble
and put it in her pocket.
Penny looked for Mama.

“Mama?” said Penny. “May I take Rose
for a walk before breakfast?”
“Are you feeling better today?”
asked Mama.
Penny nodded.
“Okay,” said Mama. “Just to
Mrs. Goodwin’s and back.”



Penny pushed Rose
to Mrs. Goodwin's yard.



Penny could feel the marble
in her pocket.
It felt as heavy
as a rock.



Penny bent down.
She put the marble
back where she had found it.
“Let’s go home, Rose,”
said Penny. “Hurry.”





“Wait!” called Mrs. Goodwin.
Penny’s heart pounded.
“Oh, Penny, don’t you want
that pretty blue marble?”



Penny looked up
at Mrs. Goodwin.
Penny’s cheeks were hot.
She could not speak.



Mrs. Goodwin said, "I found
the marble yesterday.
It was in the back
of my kitchen drawer.
I thought someone
would love it.
That is why I put it
on the grass
by the sidewalk."

"I hoped someone would
walk by and see it," she said.



"I did see it," said Penny.
"But I thought
it was yours,
so I put it back."



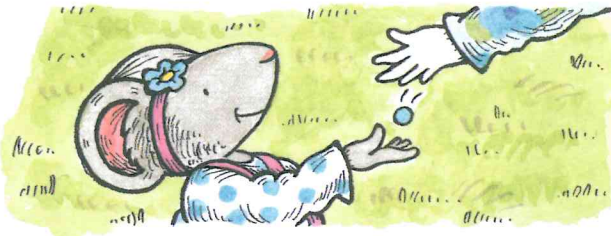
Mrs. Goodwin picked up
the marble.

She put the marble
in Penny's hand.

"And now it is *yours*,"
said Mrs. Goodwin.

"Thank you!" said Penny.

"Thank you very much!"



Penny rolled the marble
between her fingers.

It seemed even more shiny
and smooth
and blue than before.

"Have a good day,"
said Mrs. Goodwin.

"I will," said Penny. "I will."

Penny pushed Rose home.
Penny pretended they were
in a boat on the sea.
“The sea is the same color
as my marble,” said Penny.

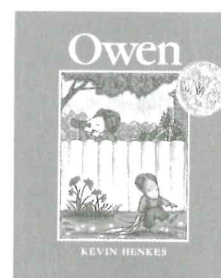
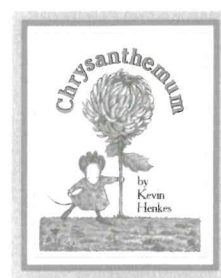
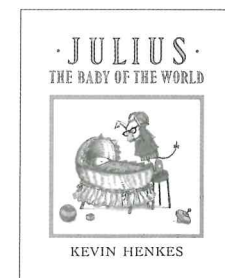
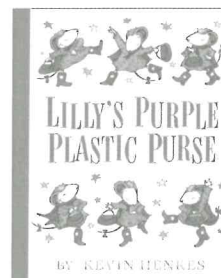
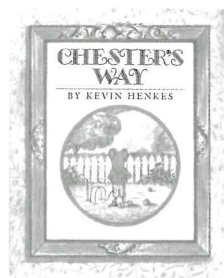
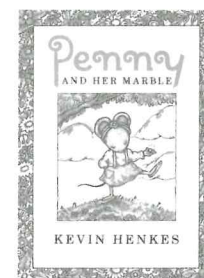
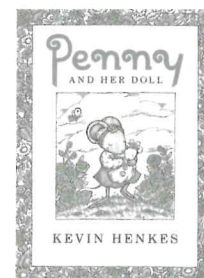
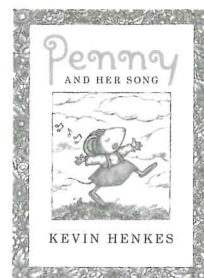


Penny pushed faster.
“This boat ride is making me
hungry, Rose,” said Penny.
“Let’s go inside and have
the biggest and best
breakfast ever.”



And they did.

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