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## Chapter 1

Far away from town, through the woods, and over some golden hills sat Little Glass Lake.

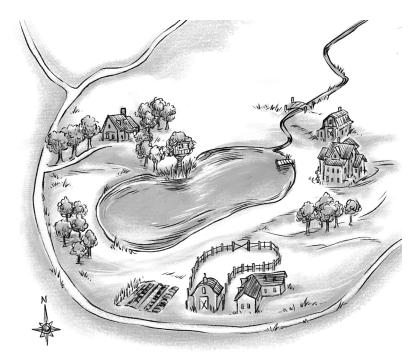
Three children lived around Little Glass Lake, and the lake loved all three of the children. For you see, the children loved the lake. The lake knew the

children well because they spent a lot of time there.

Holly and her brother lived with their mom and dad in a white house on the north side of the lake.

Gabe lived in a big blue house on the east side of the lake.

And only a little mouse lived in the yellow house shaped like an L.



The yellow house had a wide porch, three happy bedrooms, and a cheerful kitchen.

Was the house too big for just one little mouse?

Yes! So why didn't people live there? Well, it had been for sale for a long time, but it wouldn't be empty forever . . .

Now, back to the lake.

Little Glass Lake was a really small lake. And a small lake is quite a great place to live.

Holly loved the way it sparkled. She loved its

soft, grassy banks, and she really, really liked the birds and little animals that made their home on, in, and around the water.

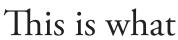
Holly was allowed to go to the very edge of her yard by herself. And the edge of her yard was quite close to the lake. However, she couldn't go past her yard without her mom or dad or her older brother, Henry.

This was because Holly was eight years old and needed to be safe.

Often, Holly sat on the edge of the lawn and looked at the lake, being careful not to lean forward and let her nose go out of bounds. As you can tell, Holly liked to follow rules. Holly also had a tree house right at the end of her yard. The tree reached over a marshy spot by the lake with grass and cattails. Cattails look like this.



They don't look like the tail of Holly's cat, Daisy.



Daisy looked like.

Since this story is all about Holly, you should meet her.

Holly had blonde hair that was almost always braided.



Not only did she wear ribbons *on* her braids but she also wore ribbons *in* her braids. Every morning, she asked her mom to weave blue ribbons into her braids.

The ribbons couldn't be pink or yellow. No. She always very nicely asked for blue ribbons because blue was her favorite color.

Each day Holly skipped around with her long braids swinging and her brown eyes sparkling. She always felt like an explorer.

Each day she found out new things in books.
And Little Glass Lake was always teaching her things too.

Now it's time to meet

Henry, Holly's brother.

Can you guess how old he



He was fourteen.

It's a good thing Henry loved Little Glass Lake, too, for Holly wanted to

## ittle Glass Lake

eet Holly, a fun girl with braids that are always bouncing. She lives in one of three cheerful homes that sit around Little Glass Lake. Holly's favorite place is the tree house at the edge of her yard, where she loves to read about and observe nature. When Holly spots an unfamiliar rowboat and a new type of duck on the lake, she can only imagine the wonderful adventures and lessons about honesty and friendship that are about to unfold along the banks of Little Glass Lake.



