

PEYTON'S PAGES
OF POSSIBILITY
THE GREAT
APPLE ORCHARD
CHALLENGE

By Jennifer Lee Quattrucci

Peyton's Pages of Possibility
The Great Apple Orchard Challenge



Jennifer Lee Quattrucci

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Dedication

For every child who has ever
ever looked at a difficult problem
and wondered, 'Can I really do this?'
Remember, you don't have to know the
answer away. Sometimes you just need
Sometimes you just try, change your plan,
plan, and try again.
And sometimes the greatest possibilities are
waiting just beyond the first attempt.

A Message from Peyton

Hi, friends!

Guess what?

I'm a third grader now!

I thought being a third grader would feel completely different. Some things do feel different. My work is harder. My teacher expects us to think more deeply. And sometimes I have to solve problems without someone telling me exactly what to do.

But I've learned something important.

Being a third grader doesn't mean you have to know everything.

It means you're ready to **keep learning**.

And you're ready to try again when

something doesn't work.

My first two weeks of third grade taught me that lesson in a very unexpected place—

The Rocky Ridge Apple Orchard!

There were apples.

There were baskets.

There were teams.

And there was one very big challenge.

I hope you'll come along with me.

Remember:

Every page can hold a possibility.

Love,

Peyton



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Chapter 1

Third Grade Begins



Peyton Carter stood in front of the mirror and straightened her new third-grade shirt.

She looked at herself.

Then she looked at Chance.

Chance was sitting on the bathroom floor staring up at her.

“You're not helping,” Peyton told him.

Chance meowed.

Peyton smiled.

“Okay. Maybe you are.”

Chance was Peyton's orange-and-white cat. He had come into her life during her summer of second chances, and somehow he had become part of almost everything.

Peyton picked up her backpack.

It felt heavier than it had last year.

“Third grade,” she whispered.

She wasn't sure how she felt about that.

Excited?

Definitely.

Nervous?

A little.

Ready?

She hoped so.

At school, Peyton walked into her new classroom.

There were new desks.

New books.

New pencils.

And lots of familiar faces.

“Peyton!” called Mateo.

Peyton smiled.

“Hi!”

Her classmates were talking about their summers.

Someone had visited their grandparents.

Someone had gone camping.

Someone had learned to swim.

Peyton thought about Chance.

She thought about her family's summer adventures.

And she thought about how quickly second grade had passed.

Her teacher smiled at the class.

"Welcome to third grade!"

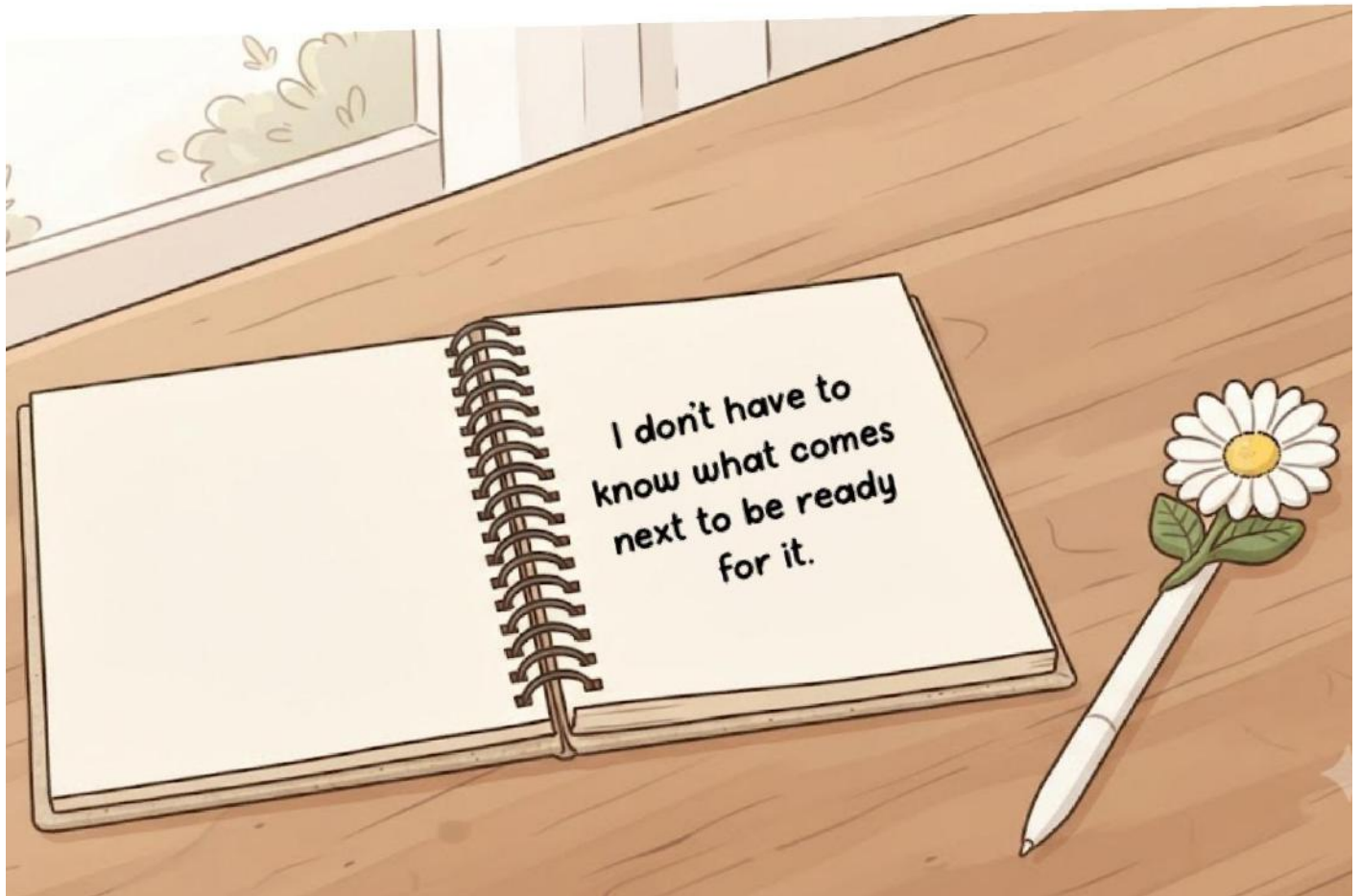
Peyton sat up straight.

She was ready.

Or at least she was ready to try.

Peyton's Journal

Today was my first day of third grade.
I was excited, but I was nervous too. I guess you can
feel both things at the same time!
Third grade feels like a new adventure. I don't know
everything that will happen yet, but maybe that's
part of the fun.
I think I'm ready to find out what this year has
waiting for me.



Chapter 2

A New Kind of Challenge



By the second day of school, Peyton had already discovered something.

Third grade was going to require a lot of thinking.

Her teacher handed out a math problem.

Peyton stared at it.

She tried one strategy.

It didn't work.

She tried another.

Still no answer.

Peyton sighed.

"I can't do this."

Her teacher walked over.

"What have you tried?"

Peyton explained.

"And what could you try next?"

Peyton looked at the problem again.

She thought about something her family often reminded her.

You don't have to solve a problem perfectly on your first try.

She picked up her pencil.

"Maybe I can try a different way."

Her teacher smiled.

"That's what problem-solvers do."

Peyton worked again.

This time, she got closer.

She wasn't finished yet.

But she was moving forward.

At recess, Peyton told Mateo about it.

"Third grade is harder."

Mateo laughed.

"Definitely."

Peyton grinned.

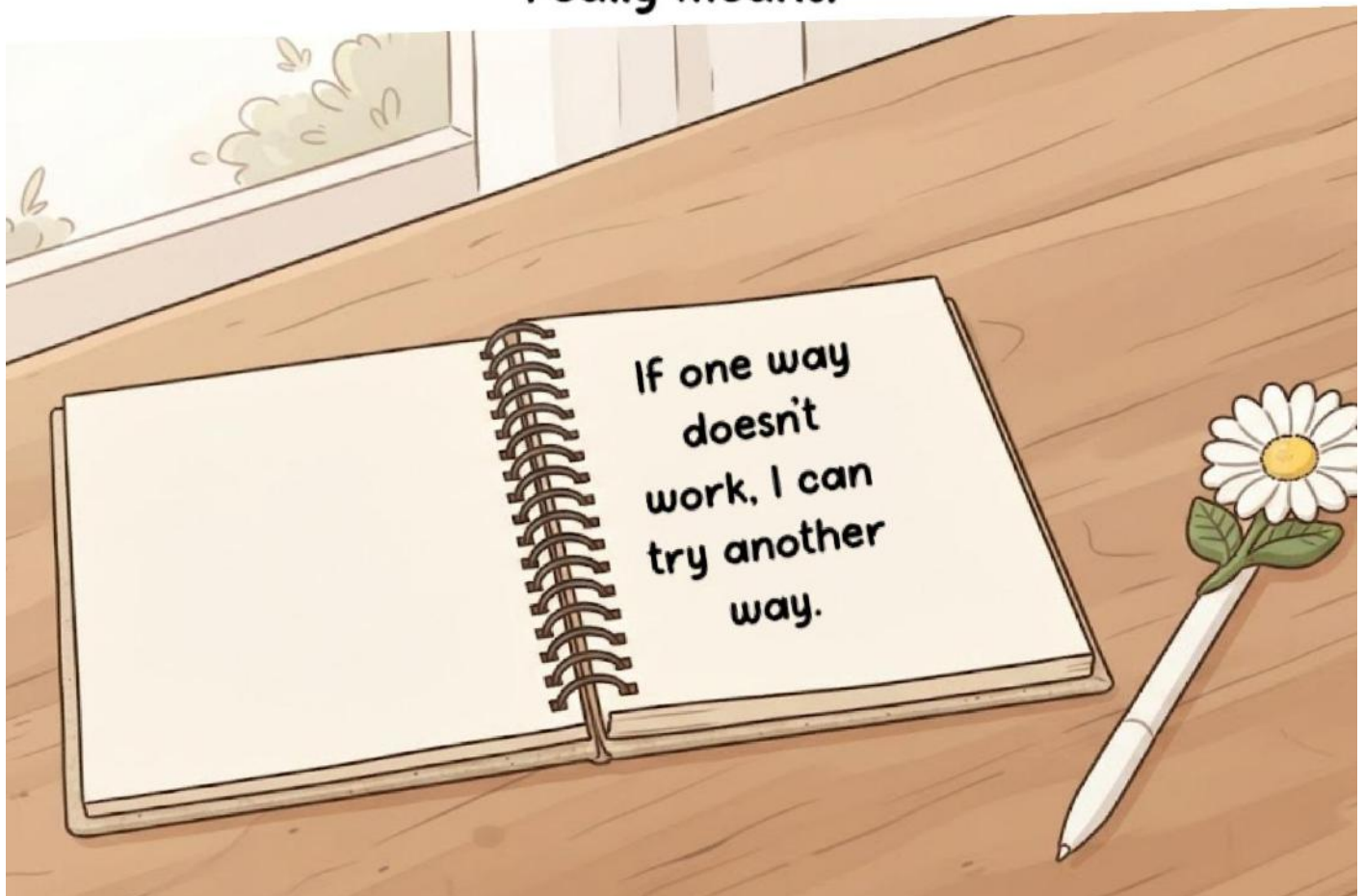
"Maybe that's why they call it third grade."

Peyton's Journal

Today I learned that third grade problems aren't always easy.

I tried one way to solve my math problem, and it didn't work. For a second, I wanted to give up. But then I remembered that I could try something different.

I didn't solve it perfectly the first time, but I kept going. I think that's what being a problem-solver really means.



Chapter 3

Meet Chance



That afternoon, Peyton rushed home.

“Chance!”

The orange cat came running.

“Well, sort of running.”

Chance had a very particular way of moving.

First he stretched.

Then he walked.

Then he decided whether running was necessary.

Peyton sat on the floor beside him.

“Third grade is going to be interesting.”

Chance curled his tail around her arm.

“I think I have a lot to learn.”

Chance blinked.

“And you have a lot to learn too.”

Chance immediately knocked a pencil off the table.

Peyton laughed.

“Okay. Maybe you need to learn not to do that.”

Chance looked completely innocent.

Peyton opened her backpack.

She took out a paper her teacher had sent home.

There was a big picture of apples on it.

CLASS TRIP TO ROCKY RIDGE APPLE ORCHARD!

Peyton's eyes widened.

She read the paper again.

“Chance!”

The cat looked up.

“We're going to an apple orchard!”

Chance meowed.

Peyton smiled.

“I wonder what we'll do there.”

She had no idea just how much she was about to find out.

Peyton's Journal

Chance is definitely still Chance.

He knocked my pencil off the table, looked completely innocent, and somehow made me laugh when I was thinking about all the things I have to learn this year.

Then I found out we're going to an apple orchard!

I wonder what kind of adventure is waiting for us there.



Chapter 4

The Surprise Announcement



The next morning, Peyton's teacher had a surprise for the class.

“We will be visiting an apple orchard in our own state of Maine. The Rocky Ridge Apple Orchard!

The classroom erupted.

“We're going apple picking!”

“Can we eat apples?”

“How many apples can we pick?”

“Are there pumpkins too?”

Peyton laughed.

Her teacher told them something else.

“There will also be a special activity.”

The room became quiet.

“A team challenge.”

Peyton's eyes lit up.

A challenge?

She loved challenges.

Her teacher explained.

“Each team will work together to collect apples. But this isn't simply a race.”

Peyton listened carefully.

“You'll need to plan.”

She continued.

“You'll need to communicate.”

“And you may need to change your plan.”

Peyton thought about her math problem.

Try.

Think.

Change.

Try again.

She smiled.

This sounded like a challenge she could handle.

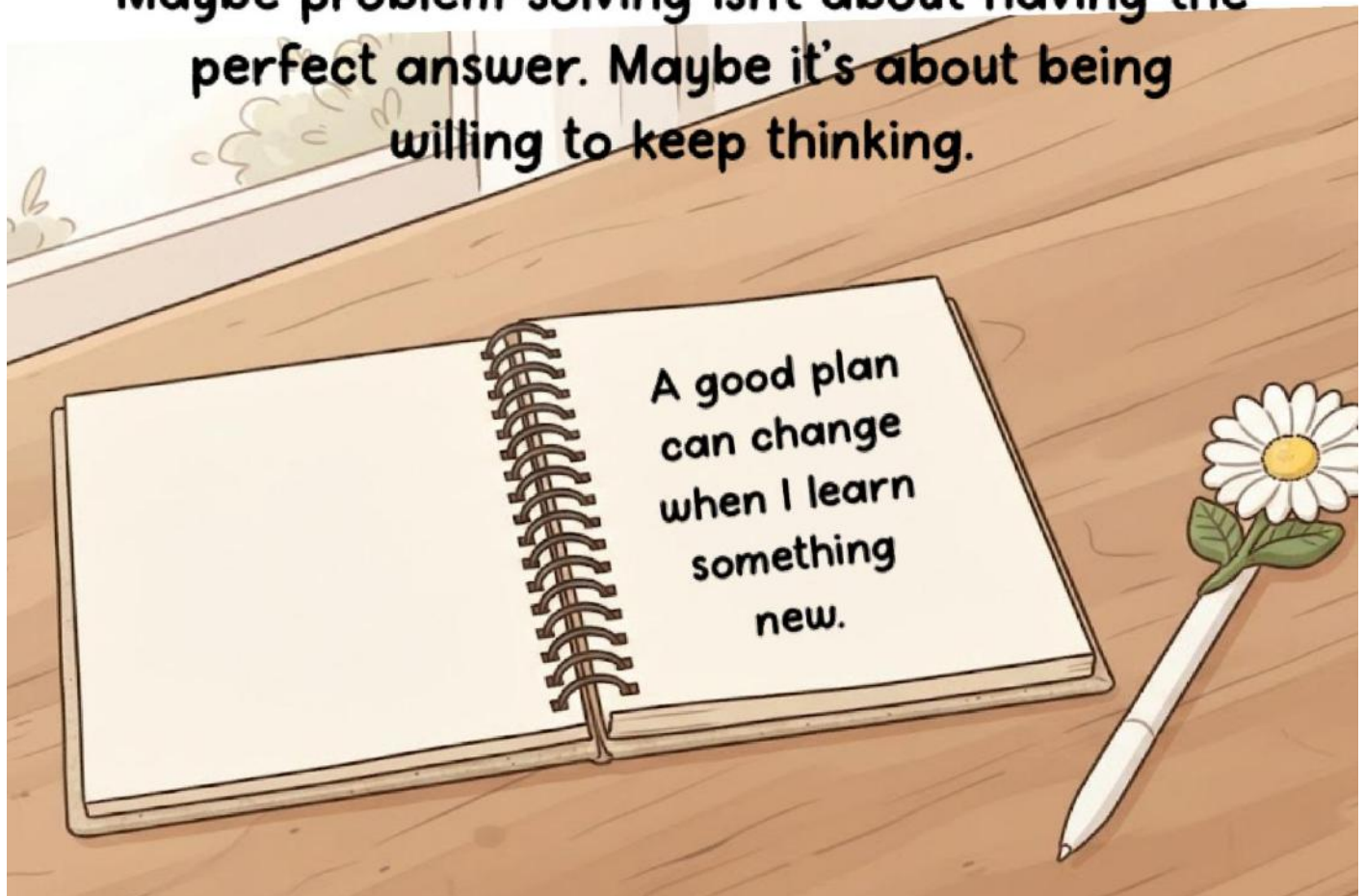
Peyton's Journal

Today we found out that our orchard trip isn't just going to be about picking apples.

There's going to be a TEAM CHALLENGE!

I love a challenge, but this one sounds different. We have to plan, communicate, and be willing to change our plan.

That reminds me of my math problem. Maybe problem-solving isn't about having the perfect answer. Maybe it's about being willing to keep thinking.



Chapter 5

Bus Trip to Rocky Ridge



The bus ride to Rocky Ridge was filled with laughter.

Peyton sat with her classmates.

Everyone talked about what they hoped to see.

"I want to see the biggest apple tree," Mateo said.

"I want apple cider," said another classmate.

"I want a caramel apple!"

Peyton laughed.

"I want to win the challenge."

Mateo raised an eyebrow.

"You're competitive."

"Maybe."

When they arrived, Peyton looked out the bus window.

Rows and rows of apple trees stretched across the orchard.

Red apples.

Green apples.

Yellow apples.

They seemed to go on forever.

"Wow," Peyton whispered.

Their guide welcomed them.

"Today you're going to learn about apples, explore the orchard, and work together."

Peyton looked at her classmates.

She couldn't wait.

Peyton's Journal

The orchard was even more amazing than I imagined.

There were apple trees everywhere! Everyone had something they wanted to see or taste, but I was thinking about the challenge. I really want my team to do well. But I think the most important thing will be figuring out how to work together.

Tomorrow we'll find out what we're really made of!



Chapter 6

Apples Everywhere!



The orchard smelled sweet.

Peyton walked between the trees.

She learned that apples could grow in different varieties and colors.

She learned how farmers cared for the trees.

She learned that apples didn't all ripen at exactly the same time.

Then came the moment everyone had been waiting for.

The team challenge.

Each group received:

- A basket
- A set of instructions
- A time limit
- A team goal

Peyton looked at her teammates.

“Okay,” she said.

“We need a plan.”

Everyone nodded.

One student would pick.

Another would carry the basket.

Another would look for ripe apples.

Peyton would keep track of the team's progress.

“Ready?”

“Ready!”

“Go!”

The challenge began.

At first, everything went perfectly.

Apples dropped into baskets.

Everyone worked.

Peyton smiled.

“This is easy!”

Then—

THUMP!

Their basket tipped over.

Apples rolled across the grass.

“Oh no!”

Everyone stopped.

Peyton stared at the apples.

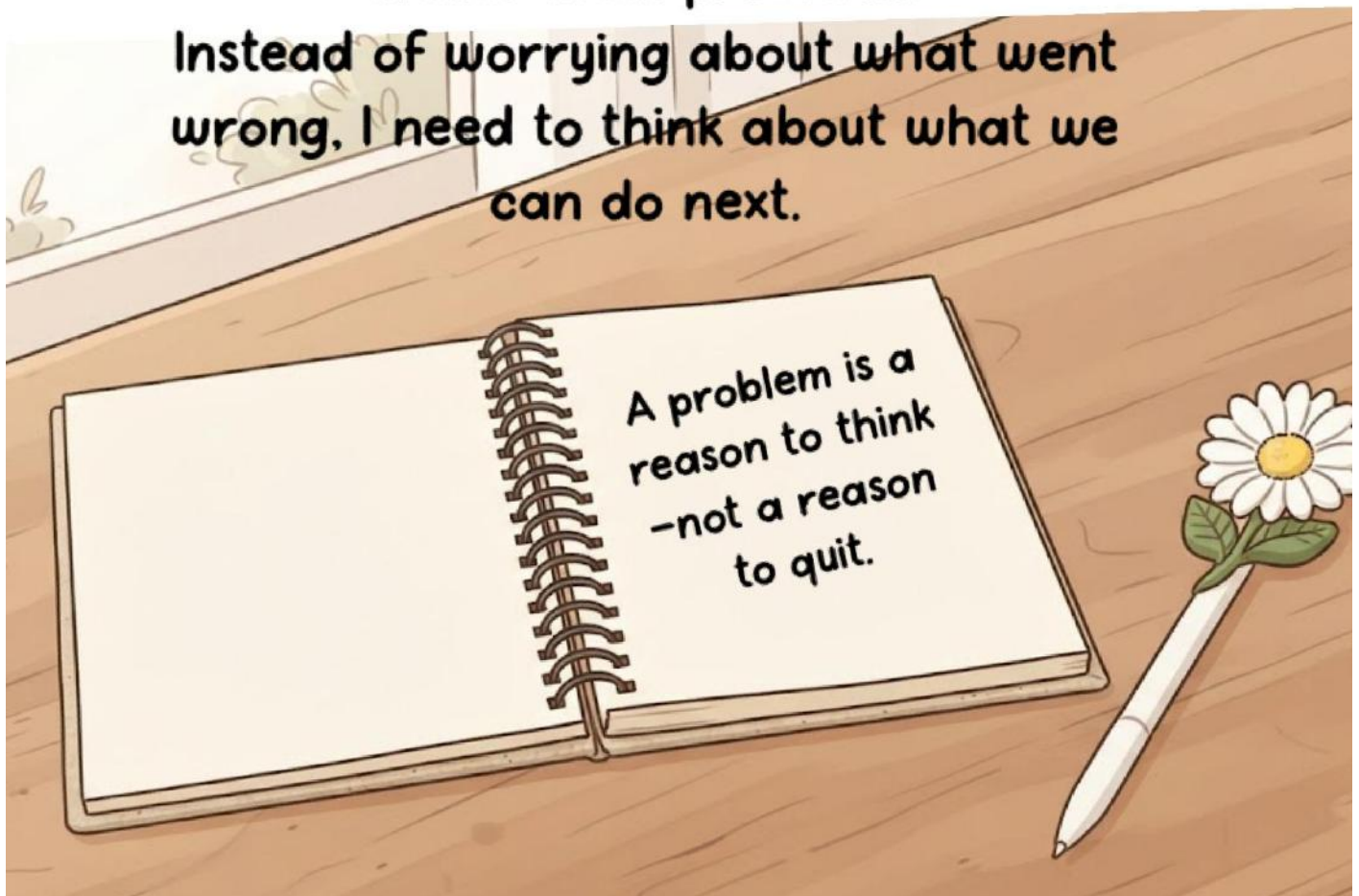
They had lost precious time.

“What do we do now?”

Peyton's Journal

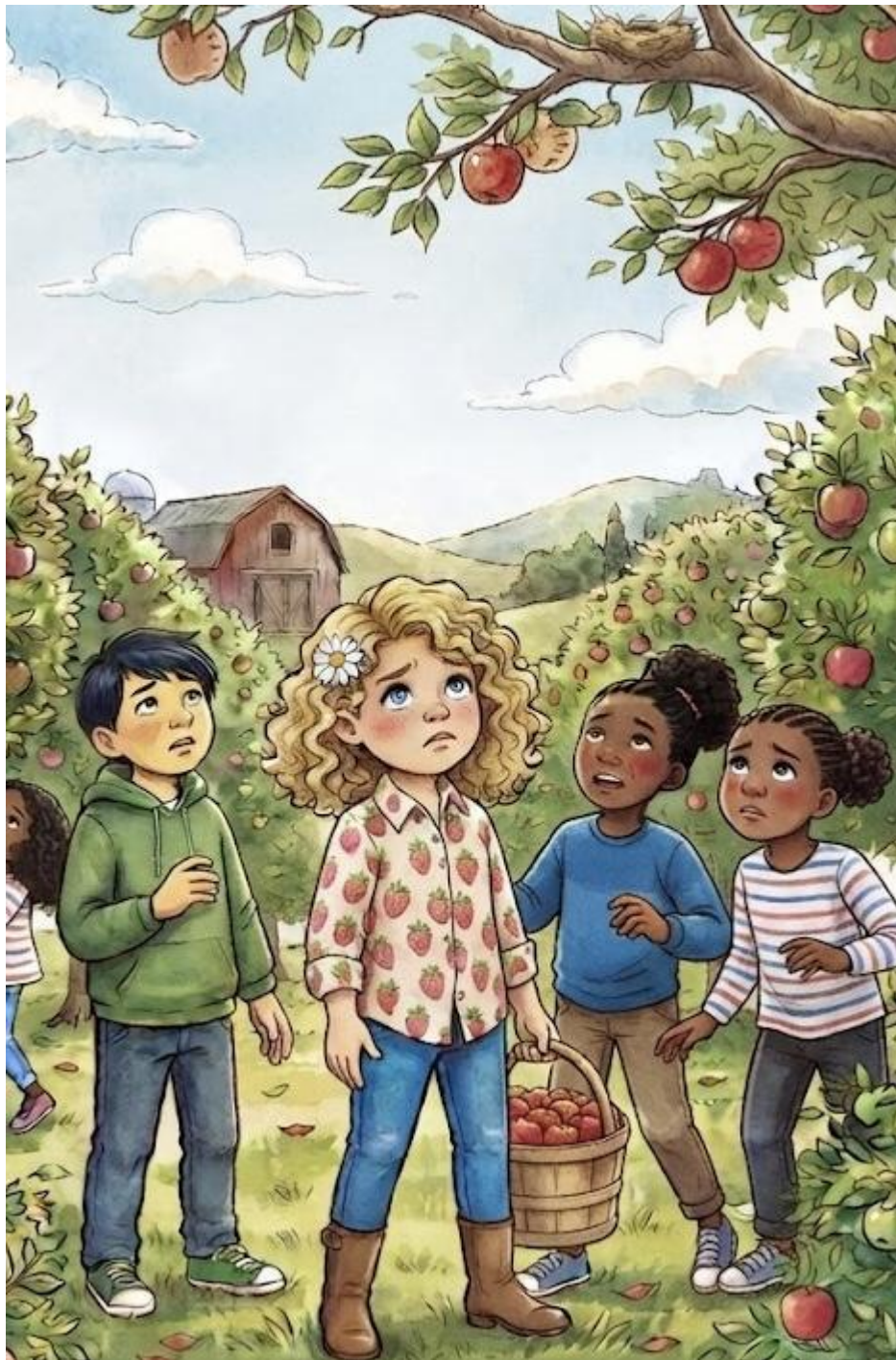
Well...our perfect plan didn't stay
perfect for very long!
Our basket tipped over, and apples
rolled everywhere.
At first, I felt like all our hard work
had disappeared.
But problems happen. That's what
makes them problems!

Instead of worrying about what went
wrong, I need to think about what we
can do next.



Chapter 7

Team Apple Pickers



The team quickly gathered the apples.

"We need to be faster," someone said.

“No,” Peyton replied.

“We need to be smarter.”

Everyone looked at her.

Peyton pointed toward the trees.

“We're all picking from the same area.”

“So?”

“We're getting in each other's way.”

Peyton thought for a moment.

“What if we spread out?”

One teammate could pick from one row.

Another could pick from the next row.

Another could carry the basket between them.

“And I'll keep count.”

Everyone agreed.

They tried the new plan.

It worked better.

But then another problem appeared.

Some apples were too high to reach.

Peyton looked at them.

“We can't climb the trees.”

Everyone laughed.

“Definitely not!”

They had to think again.

They found a safer way to reach the apples.

Their basket slowly filled.

Peyton checked the time.

“We have five minutes left!”

“Keep going!”

The team worked together.

Peyton could feel herself getting tired.

But she didn't want to quit.

Peyton's Journal

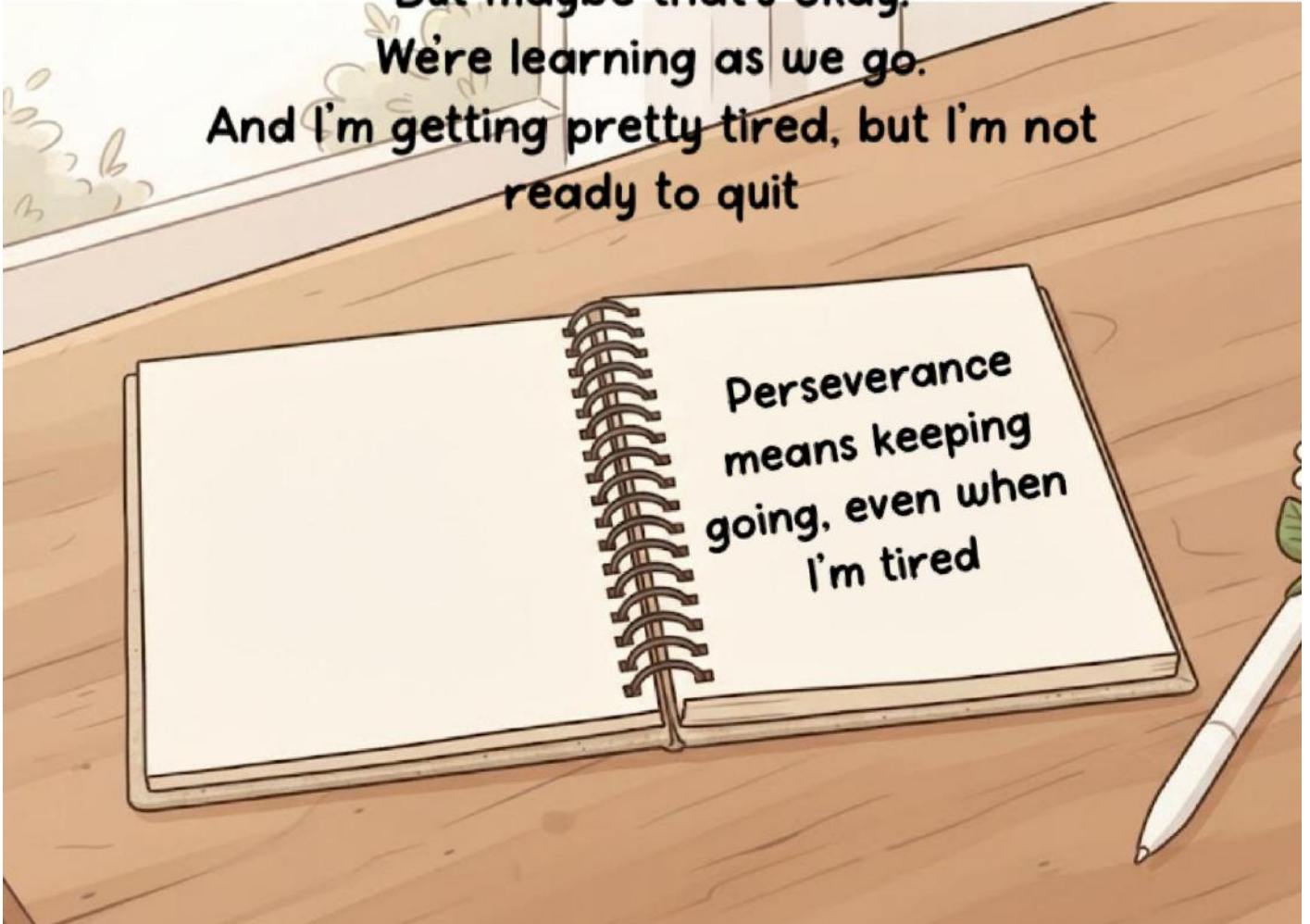
Our new plan worked better!
Spreading out helped us stop getting in
each other's way. But then we had
another problem—the apples were too
high to reach.

It feels like every time we solve one
problem, another one appears.

But maybe that's okay.

We're learning as we go.

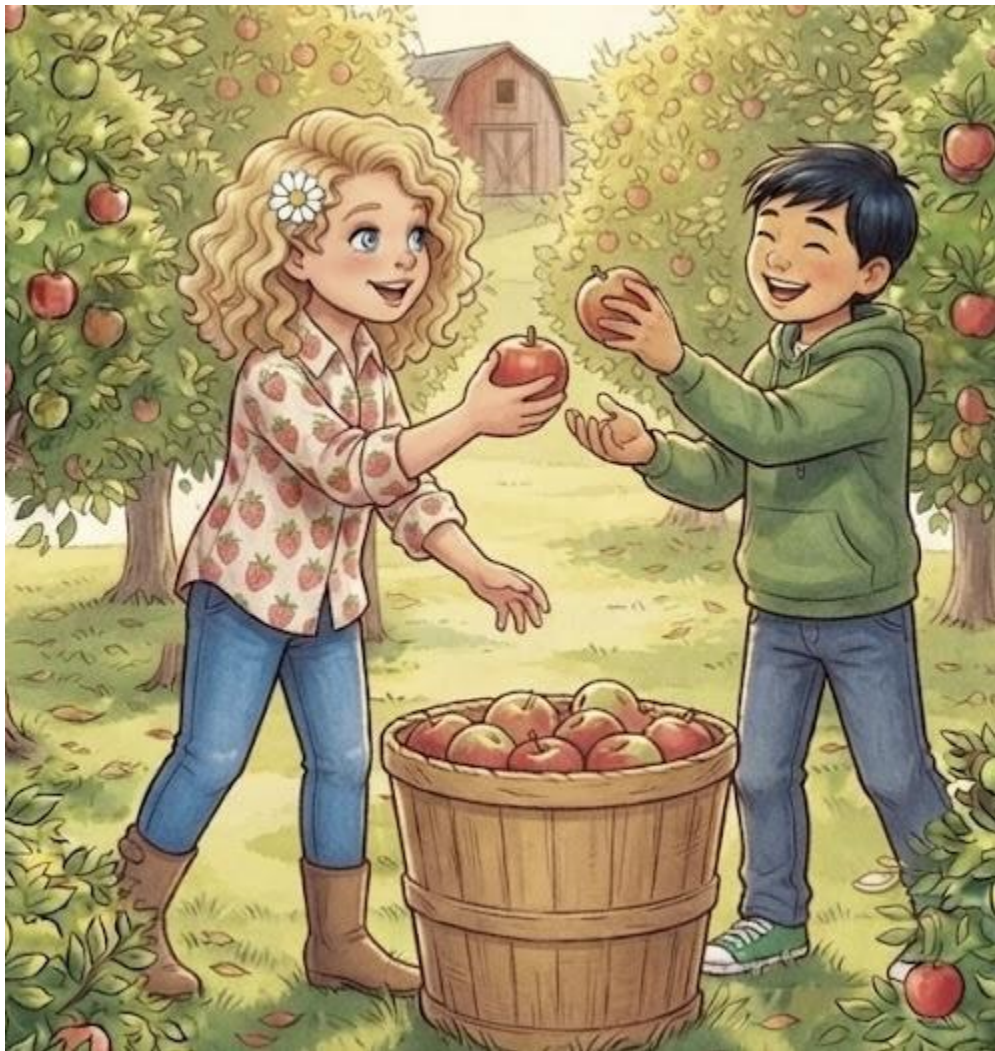
And I'm getting pretty tired, but I'm not
ready to quit



Perseverance
means keeping
going, even when
I'm tired

Chapter 8

Our Plan Isn't Working



Suddenly, Peyton noticed something.

Their basket wasn't filling as quickly as the other teams.

She looked around.

The other groups were moving quickly.

Peyton felt frustrated.

"We're losing."

One teammate said, "Maybe we should just give up."

Peyton shook her head.

"No."

She remembered something.

A problem doesn't mean you failed.

It means you have information.

Peyton looked at their basket.

She looked at the orchard.

She looked at her teammates.

"What if we're thinking about this the wrong way?"

"What do you mean?"

"We're trying to have one person do each job."

Peyton paused.

"Maybe we should work in pairs."

They tried it.

One pair picked.

One pair carried.

One person checked the apples.

Peyton moved between the groups.

Suddenly, everything became smoother.

"It's working!" Mateo shouted.

Peyton smiled.

They weren't the fastest.

But they were improving.

And that mattered.

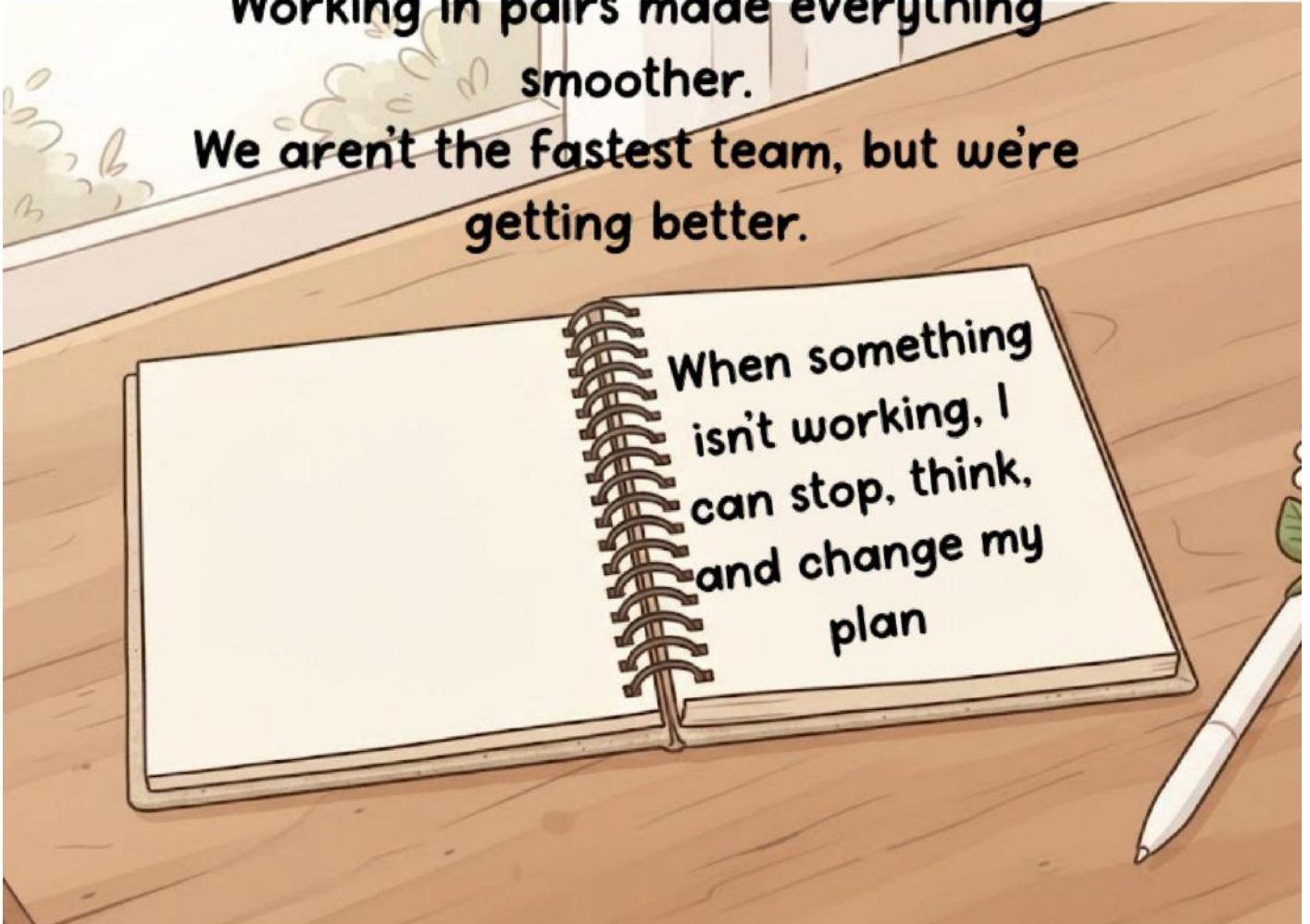
Peyton's Journal

Today I realized something important.
Sometimes working harder isn't enough.
Sometimes you have to stop and ask, "Is
there a better way?"

Our basket wasn't filling as quickly as the
other teams, so we changed our plan
again.

Working in pairs made everything
smoother.

We aren't the fastest team, but we're
getting better.



When something
isn't working, I
can stop, think,
and change my
plan

Chapter 9

Think, Try, Change



The final minutes flew by.

“Two minutes!”

Peyton's team worked faster.

"One minute!"

Everyone shouted encouragement.

"Keep going!"

"Almost there!"

"Don't stop!"

"Thirty seconds!"

Peyton looked at the basket.

It was nearly full.

"Ten!"

"Nine!"

"Eight!"

The entire team counted together.

"Seven!"

"Six!"

"Five!"

"Four!"

"Three!"

“Two!”

“One!”

“STOP!”

Everyone froze.

Peyton looked at her teammates.

They were tired.

They were smiling.

And they had done it.

Their basket was full.

Peyton's Journal

We did it!

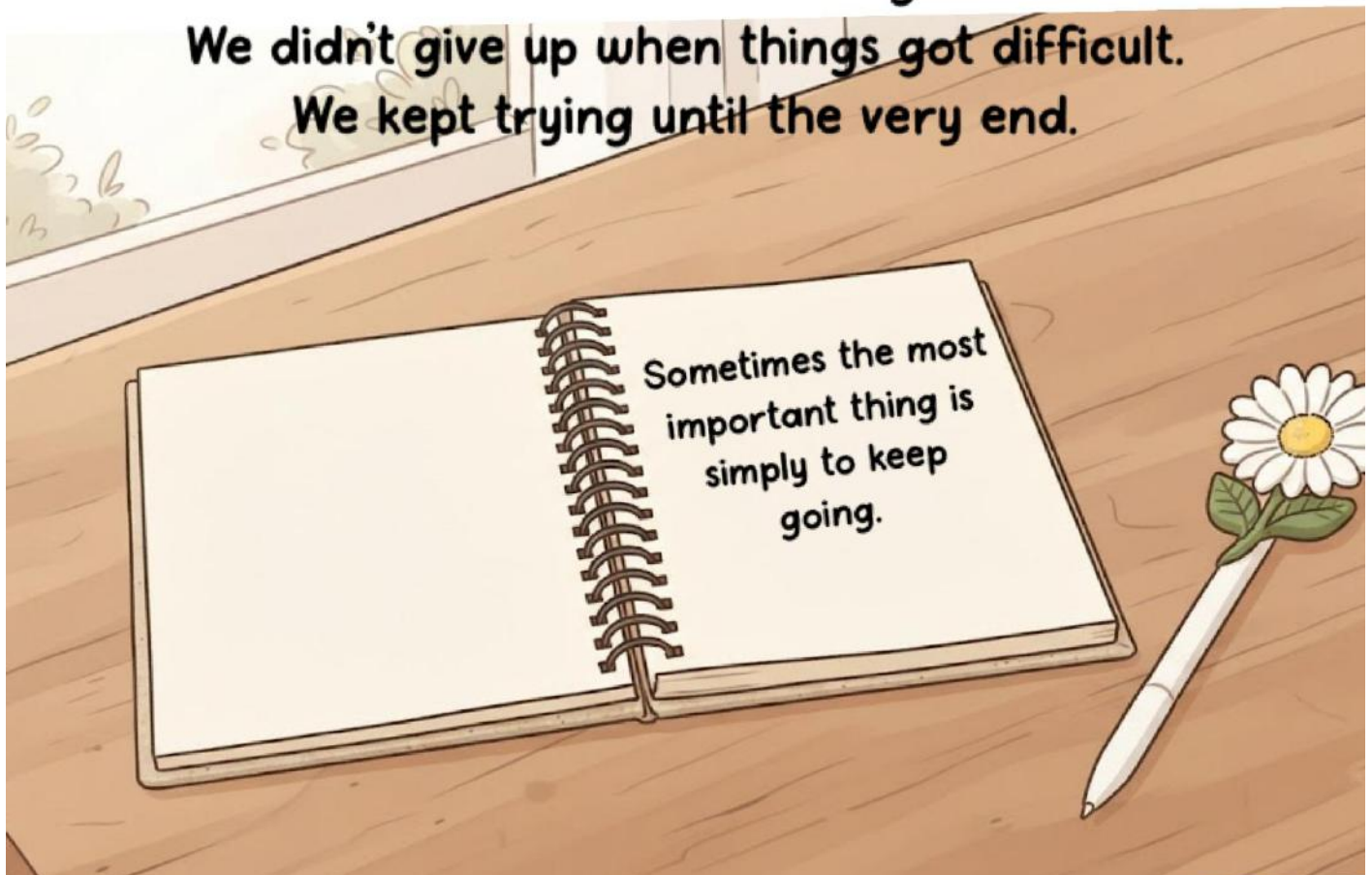
The last few minutes felt like they went by in about five seconds.

Everyone was cheering and encouraging each other. We weren't just working beside each other anymore.

We were working together.

When we counted down those final seconds, I realized something.

We didn't give up when things got difficult. We kept trying until the very end.



Chapter 10

The Great Apple Challenge



All of the teams gathered together.

The orchard guide looked at each basket.

Peyton waited.

"Every team did something wonderful today."

She explained that the challenge wasn't simply about who collected the most apples.

The teams were being evaluated on:

Teamwork.

Planning.

Problem-solving.

Perseverance.

Peyton smiled.

Then the guide announced the results.

Peyton's team hadn't picked the most apples.

But they had changed their plan more than once.

They had listened to one another.

They had helped teammates.

And they never gave up.

Their team received a special award:

THE PERSEVERANCE & PROBLEM-SOLVING AWARD

Peyton's eyes widened.

“We won!”

Her teammates cheered.

Peyton looked at the basket.

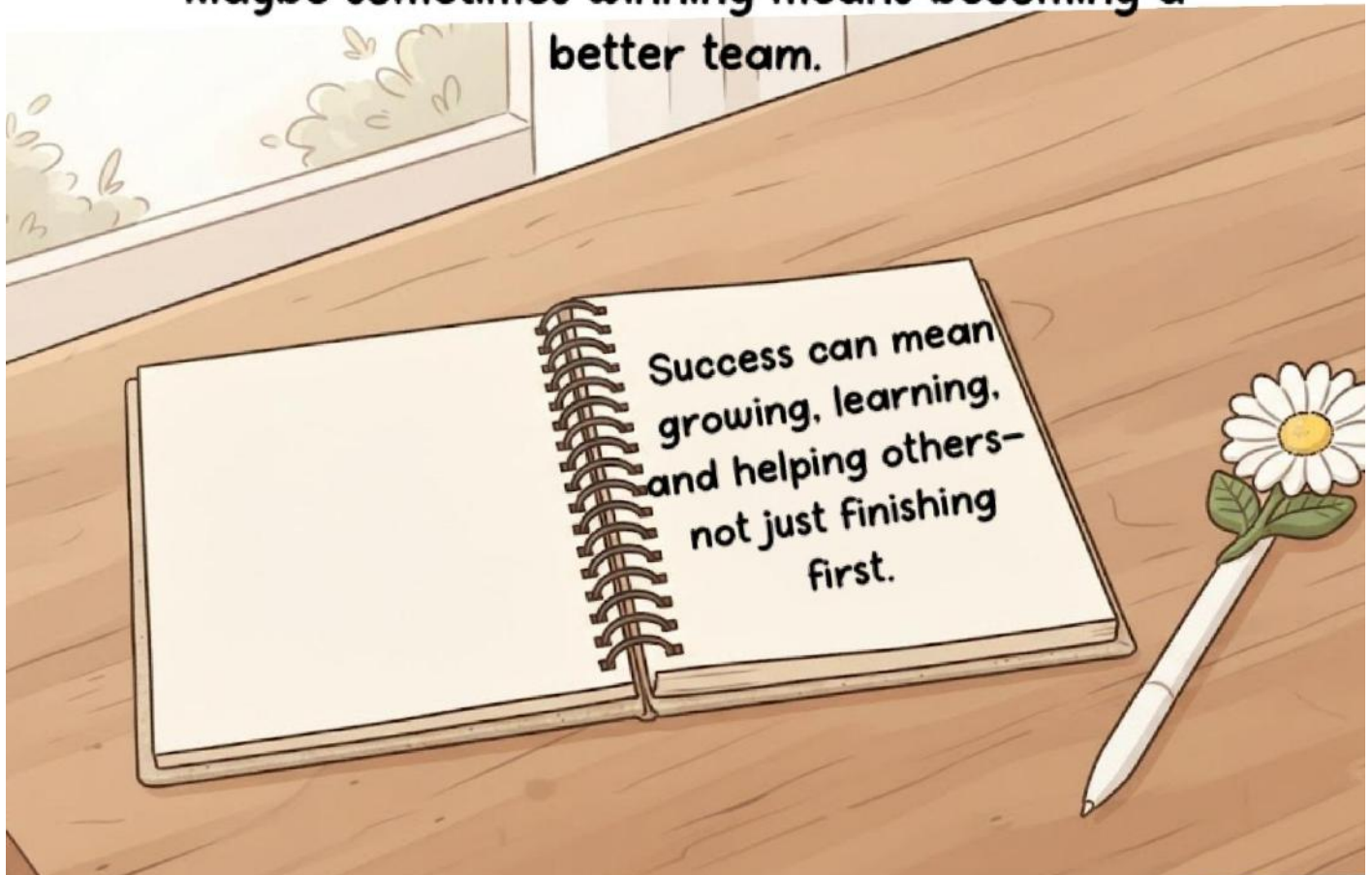
Then she looked at her friends.

Maybe winning wasn't always about being first.

Maybe winning could mean becoming better together.

Peyton's Journal

We didn't pick the most apples.
And we still won an award!
At first, I thought winning meant being first. But
today changed my mind.
We won the Perseverance & Problem-Solving
Award because we listened, helped each other,
changed our plan, and kept going.
Maybe winning isn't always about beating
someone else.
Maybe sometimes winning means becoming a
better team.



Chapter 11

More Than a Basket of Apples



On the bus ride home, Peyton looked out the window.

Her hometown countryside rolled past.

She thought about the challenge.

At first, she had thought the goal was to collect apples.

But she had learned something much bigger.

Sometimes your first plan doesn't work.

Sometimes you have to stop.

Think.

Ask questions.

Listen.

Try something different.

And sometimes you need your teammates.

Mateo leaned across the seat.

"So, Peyton, did you learn anything today?"

Peyton smiled.

"Definitely."

"What?"

She thought for a moment.

"Problems aren't always things to be afraid of."

Mateo nodded.

"They can be puzzles."

Peyton smiled.

"Exactly."

Peyton's Journal

On the bus ride home, I realized that I came to
the orchard thinking about apples.

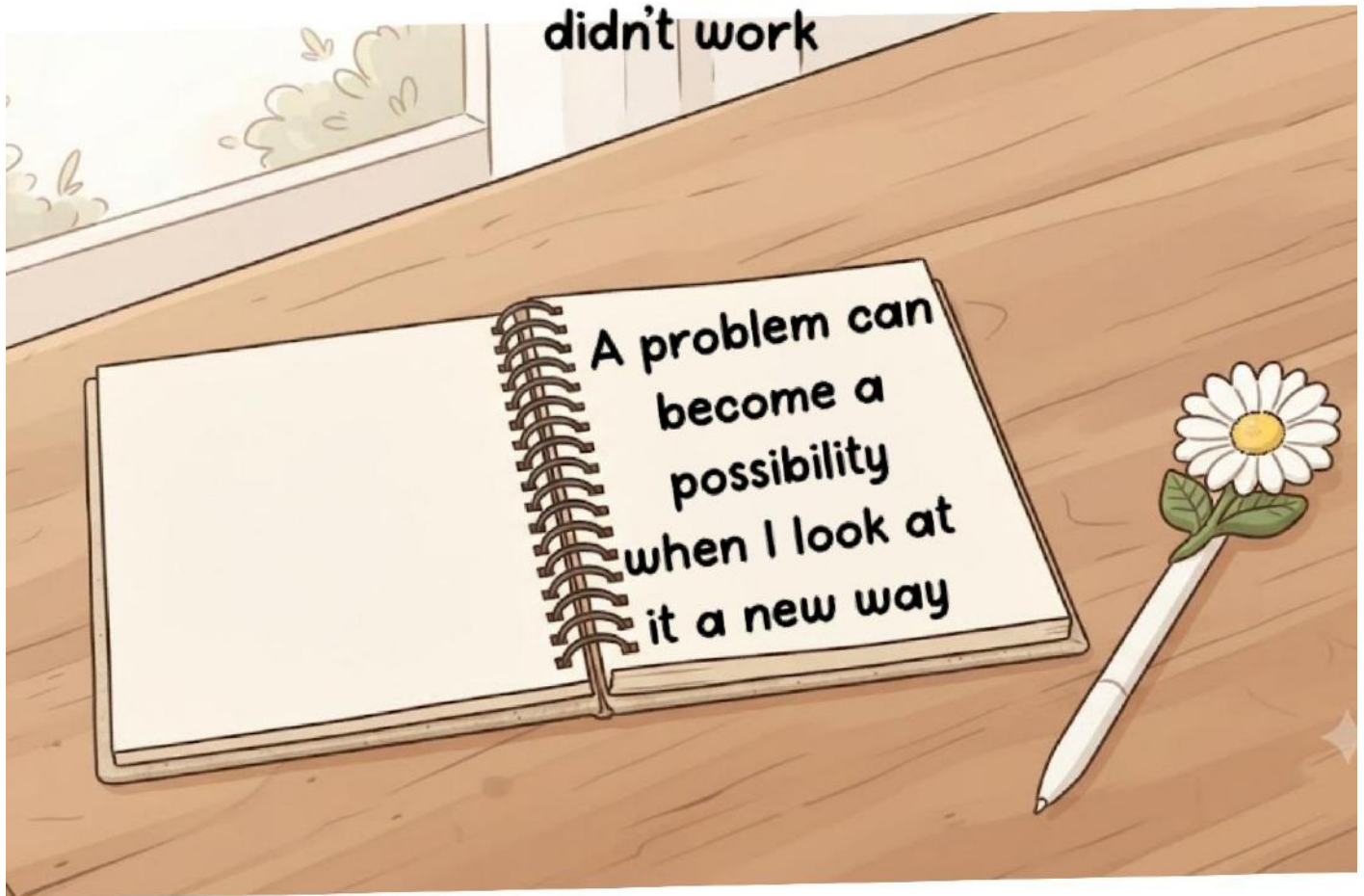
But I left thinking about problems.

Problems don't always have to be scary.

They can be puzzles.

And puzzles can be solved one step at a time.

I'm glad I didn't give up when our first plan
didn't work



Chapter 12

A Third-Grade Possibility



That evening, Peyton sat at her desk.

Chance jumped onto the chair beside her.

Peyton opened her notebook.

At the top of the page she wrote:

Things I Learned in Third Grade

Then she wrote:

- 1. I don't have to know the answer right away.**
- 2. I can try another way.**
- 3. My first plan doesn't have to be my final plan.**
- 4. Working with others can help me solve problems.**
- 5. Giving up isn't the same as being finished.**

Chance put one paw on her notebook.

"Hey!"

Peyton laughed.

"You're not helping."

Chance looked at her.

Then he curled up beside the notebook.

Peyton smiled.

Maybe he was helping after all.

She turned to a clean page.

At the top she wrote:

My Next Possibility

She didn't know what would happen next.

She didn't know what challenges third grade would bring.

She didn't know what adventures were waiting around the corner.

But she knew one thing.

She was ready.

Peyton closed her notebook.

“Bring it on, third grade.”

Chance meowed.

And somewhere inside Peyton's imagination, another page began to turn.

The End

Peyton's Journal

Tonight I made a list of things I've learned in third grade so far..

I don't have to know the answer right away.

I can try another way.

I can change my plan.

I can work with others.

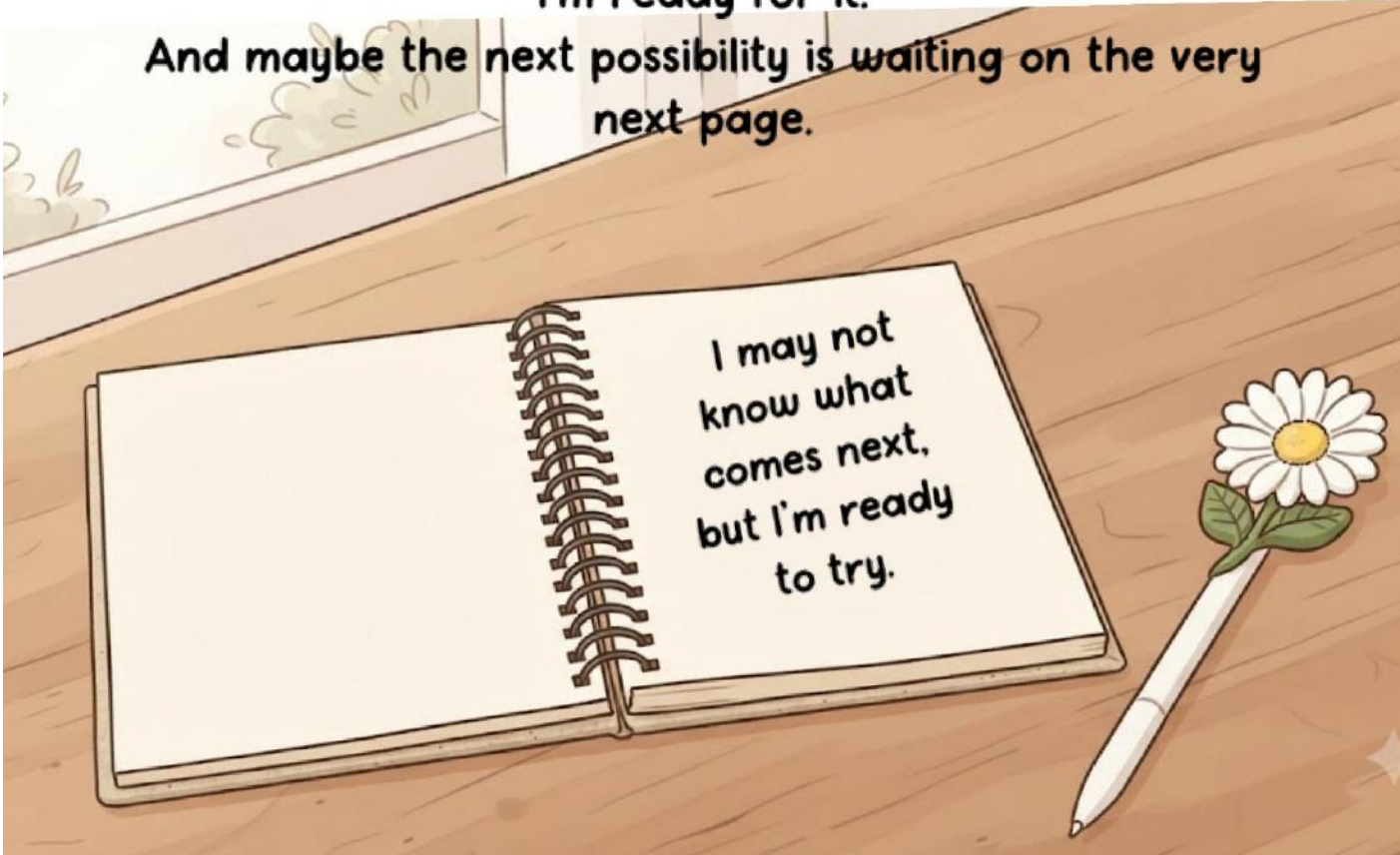
And I don't have to give up just because something is hard.

I don't know what my next third-grade challenge will be.

But that's okay.

I'm ready for it.

And maybe the next possibility is waiting on the very next page.



I may not
know what
comes next,
but I'm ready
to try.

Peyton's Pages of Possibility

What Did You Learn?

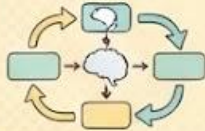
Think about Peyton's apple orchard adventure.



1. Peyton's team had a problem. What happened?



2. What did Peyton do when the first plan didn't work?



3. Why is teamwork important?



4. Tell about a time when you had to try again.

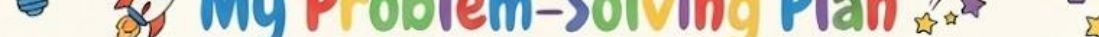


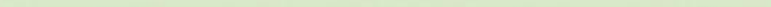
5. What does perseverance mean to you?



My Problem-Solving Plan

A problem I have:





 Yes   Not yet 

☆

☆

☆

☆

☆

☆

My Possibility Page

Draw or write about something you would like to try in third grade.

My possibility is:



I might have to work hard because:



If I have a problem, I can:



Ask for help



Try another way



Make a new plan

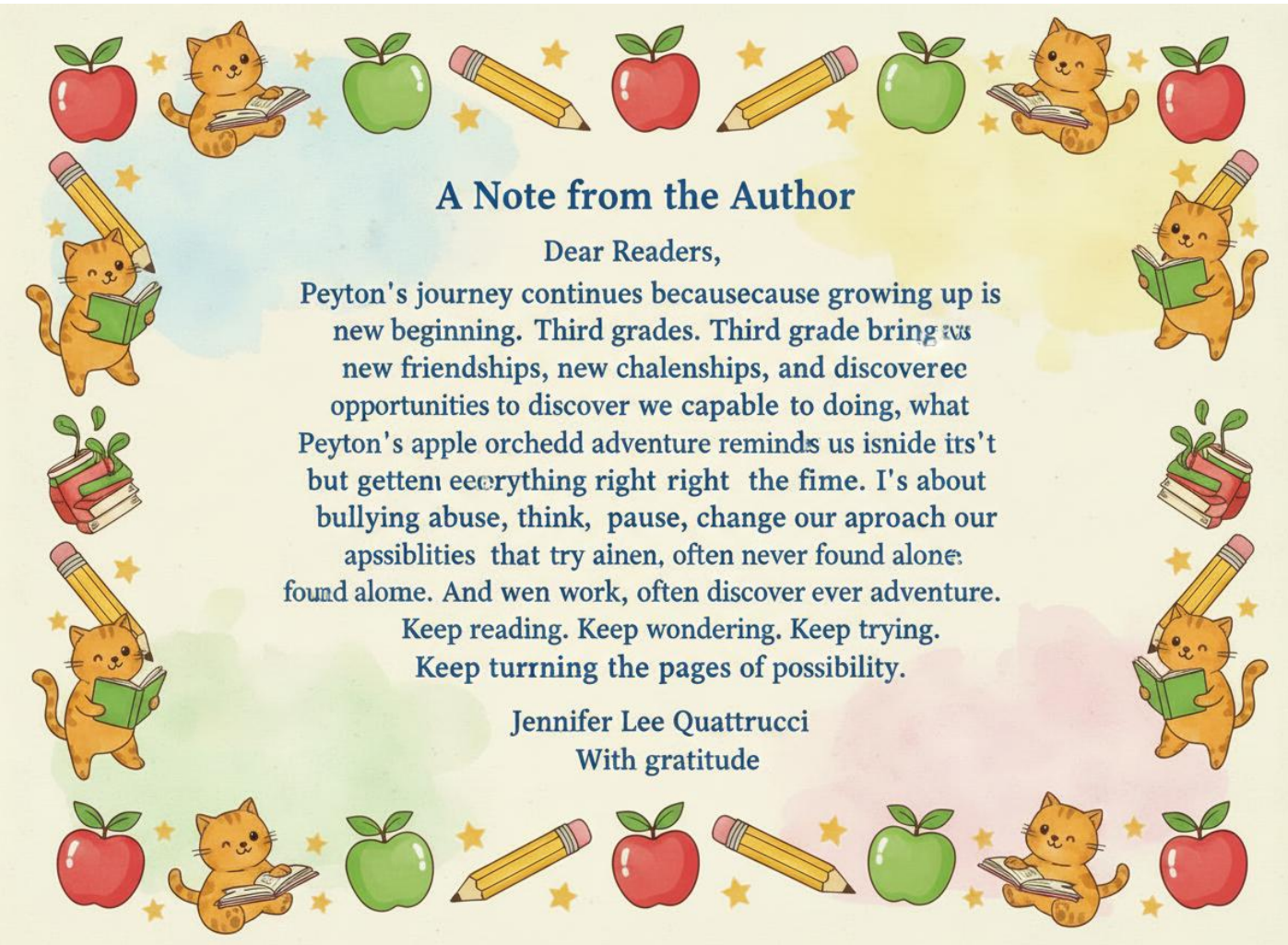


Keep practicing



Work with a teammate



A decorative border surrounds the central text. It features a repeating pattern of red and green apples, orange cats sitting and reading books, and yellow pencils. Small yellow stars are interspersed throughout the border.

A Note from the Author

Dear Readers,

Peyton's journey continues because growing up is a new beginning. Third grade brings new friendships, new challenges, and discovery opportunities to discover we are capable of doing, what Peyton's apple orchard adventure reminds us is inside its fruit but getting everything right right the time. It's about bullying abuse, think, pause, change our approach our possibilities that try again, often never found alone. And when we work, often discover ever adventure.

Keep reading. Keep wondering. Keep trying.

Keep turning the pages of possibility.

Jennifer Lee Quattrucci

With gratitude

About the Author

Jennifer Lee Quattrucci

Jennifer Lee Quattrucci is an educator, author, and creator who believes that learning begins with connection, curiosity, and kindness.

With nearly three decades of experience in education, Jennifer has worked as a classroom teacher, elementary school principal, and instructional leader. She holds a Master's degree in School Leadership and is certified in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

Throughout her career, Jennifer has seen the power of helping children feel valued, heard, and capable. She believes that when children know they matter, they are more willing to learn, take risks, and discover their own possibilities.

Jennifer created the **Peyton's Pages of Possibility** series to inspire children to believe in themselves, embrace kindness, and recognize that everyday moments can become meaningful stories.

Through Peyton's adventures, young readers discover that:

- their ideas matter,
- their kindness makes a difference,
- their curiosity can lead them to amazing discoveries,
- and every child has the ability to create positive change.

Jennifer is also the author of **Educate the Heart: Screen-Free Activities to Inspire Authentic Learning**, a resource designed to encourage meaningful connections, creativity, and authentic learning experiences for children.

When she is not writing, Jennifer enjoys teaching, spending time with her family, exploring new places, reading, and finding inspiration in the everyday moments that remind us all that life is full of possibilities.

She hopes every child who reads Peyton's stories remembers:

“You are capable.

You are important.

You have a story to tell.

And every day is a new page of possibility.”



Connect With Jennifer

Jennifer Lee Quattrucci

Creator and Author of the *Peyton's Pages of Possibility* Series and *Educate the Heart*

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