

SPARKS

for new readers!



FERGUS AND ZEKE



KATE MESSNER illustrated by HEATHER ROSS

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ILLUSTRATED BY HEATHER ROSS



CANDLEWICK PRESS

FOR EMILY, TOMMY, AND DANNY
K. M.

TO MY MUSEUM FRIENDS, MAX AND LUCA
H. R.

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are either products of the author's imagination or, if real, are used fictitiously.

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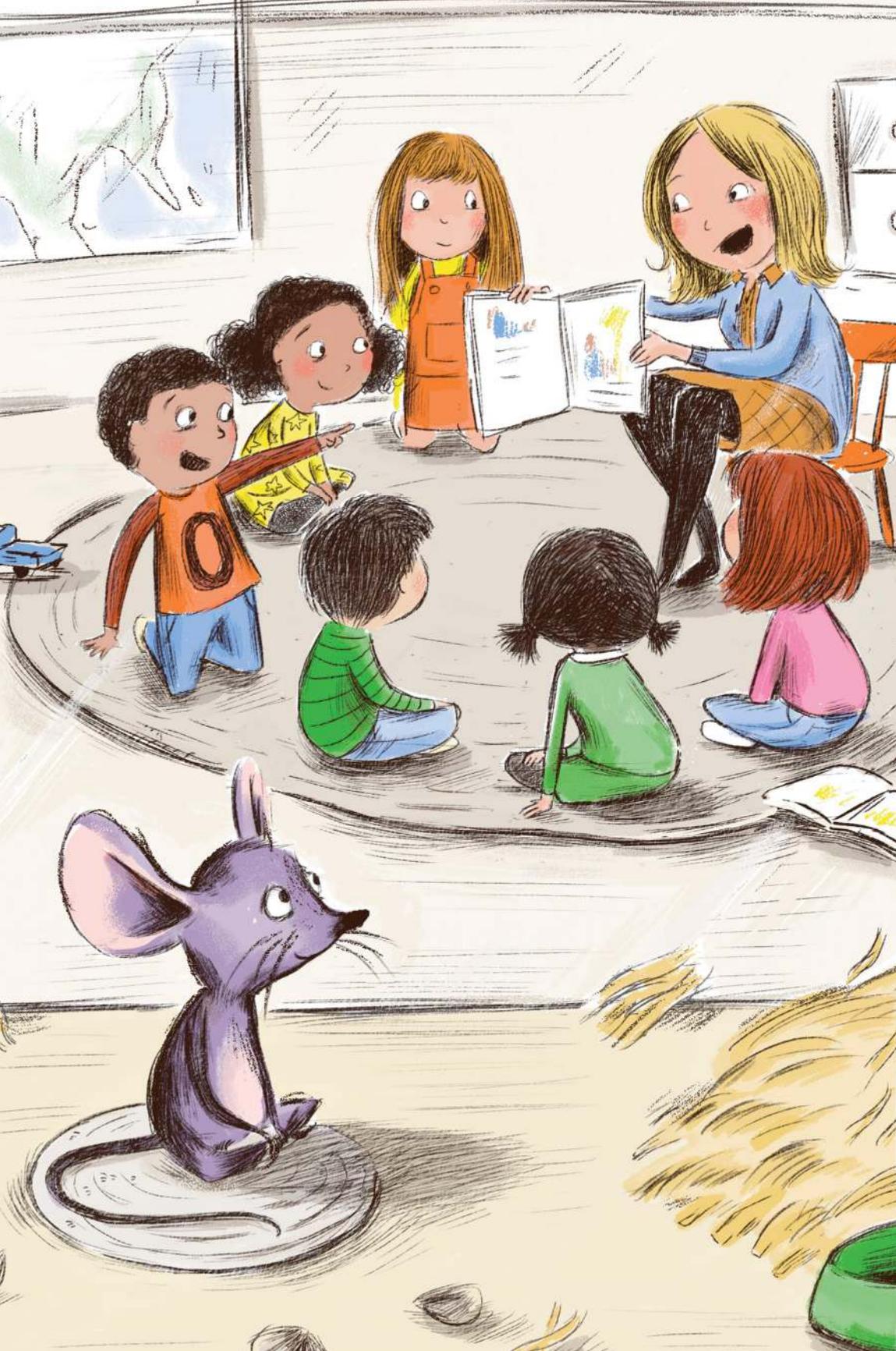
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CHAPTER 1

FIELD TRIP DAY . . . AND FERGUS, TOO!



FERGUS LOVED being the class pet in Miss Maxwell's room. He loved everything about school, and he was good at following the class rules.

When Miss Maxwell said, “Sit quietly for storytime,” Fergus sat still and listened.

When Miss Maxwell said, “Follow the directions carefully,” Fergus followed every step.



When the students solved math problems, Fergus solved them, too. He always kept his eyes on his own work.





And when Miss Maxwell said, "It's time to clean up," Fergus tidied his cage.

His favorite part of the day was music. Fergus did a jazzy dance while the children sang and played instruments.



One day, Miss Maxwell told the students they would be taking a field trip to the Museum of Natural History.

Everyone was excited. “I want to see the dinosaurs,” said Emma.

“I want to see the butterfly garden,” said Jake.



“I want to see the planetarium,” said Lucy. “I want to wish on a shooting star!” Fergus wanted to see all those things, too. What fun it would be to wish on a shooting star! He couldn’t wait for the big trip.



But when field trip day arrived, Miss Maxwell said, “Emma, will you please give Fergus some sunflower seeds? We don’t want him to be hungry while we are away.”

Wait! Fergus thought. Does that mean that I’m not going on the field trip?

“Here you go, Fergus,” Emma said. She put the seeds in his cage. “Sorry you can’t come to the museum with us.”

