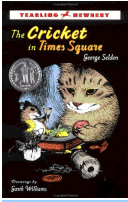


Passages

Reading Level 8



Title: The Cricket in Times Square

Author: George Selden

Sample From The Book

A mouse was looking at Mario.

The mouse's name was Tucker, and he was sitting in the opening of an abandoned drain pipe in the subway station at Times Square. The drain pipe was his home. Back a few feet in the wall, it opened out into a pocket that Tucker had filled with the bits of paper and shreds of cloth he collected. And when he wasn't collecting, "scrounging" as he called it, or sleeping, he liked to sit at the opening of the drain pipe and watch the world go by – at least as much of the world as hurried through the Times Square subway station.

Tucker finished the last few crumbs of a cookie he was eating – a Lorna Doone shortbread he had found earlier in the evening – and licked off his whiskers. "Such a pity," he sighed.

Every Saturday night now for almost a year he had watched Mario tending his father's newsstand. On weekdays, of course, the boy had to get to bed early, but over the weekends Papa Bellini let him take his part in helping out with the family business.



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