

CHAPTER 1

James was a **cowboy**. He lived in the American Wild West and looked after **cattle**. He **rode** a horse and wore a cool hat.

Jessie was a cowgirl. She also looked after cattle and rode a horse, but her hat was cooler.

“My hat is the coolest,” said Jessie.

“No,” said James. “My hat is the coolest.”

James and Jessie were brother and sister. They were very **competitive**.

“I am the best,” said James.

“No, I am the best,” said Jessie.

James and Jessie both had a horse. James’s horse was brown. Jessie’s horse was white with black spots.

“My horse is faster than your horse,” said Jessie.

“No,” said James. “My horse is the fastest.”

“Let’s have a race,” said Jessie.

cowboy (noun) a man who rides a horse and whose job is to take care of cows or horses

cattle (noun) cows and bulls

ride (verb) to sit on something such as a horse or a bike and control it as it moves

competitive (adjective) wanting to win and be the best at something



James and Jessie both had a horse. James's horse was brown. Jessie's horse was white with black spots.

James and Jessie had a race. They raced their horses across **the Great Plains**. Their horses ran really fast.

There was a snake in the grass. It **hissed** at them. James's horse was scared. James fell off. He fell onto the ground with a BUMP! The ground was hard.

“Ow,” said James.

Jessie came back. Her horse was not scared of the snake. She looked down at James.

“I win,” she said. “Because my horse is **braver** than your horse.”

“That's not fair!” said James. “Let's have another race.”

After James got back on his horse, they had another race. James won the second race. Jessie was cross. They **won** one race each, so they needed to have a third race to find a winner.

They lined up their horses for another race.

“I will win,” said Jessie.

“No, I will win,” said James. “3, 2, 1, go!”

the Great Plains (noun) a large area of flat land in the US

hiss (verb) to produce a sound like a long “s”

brave (adjective) not afraid

win (verb) to be successful in doing something (e.g a race, a competition)



James and Jessie had a race. They raced their horses across the Great Plains.

The horses ran fast. They had fun. They liked to run fast. Both horses got to the finish line together at the same time. James and Jessie did not think this was fun.

“It is a **draw**,” said James. “There is no winner.”

“But I am still the best,” said Jessie.

“No, you’re not!” said James. “I am the best.”

The cows were thirsty, so James and Jessie took them to a **watering hole**. Before the cows had a drink, James and Jessie filled their water bottles. After the cows had a drink, the water would be muddy.

“My water bottle is bigger than yours,” said James.

It was true. James had a bigger water bottle than Jessie, but she did not mind.

“Yes, your water bottle is bigger than mine,” said Jessie. “But my bottle holds more water than yours.”

Jessie laughed. James was **cross**. His water bottle **leaked**. There was a big hole in it, so the water came out.

“I bet I can drink more than you!” said James.

draw (noun) a game that doesn’t have a winner and both teams or people win

watering hole (noun) a place where animals often drink

cross (adjective) angry

leak (verb) to let liquid or gas in or out through a hole

“Ha!” said Jessie. “I can drink much more than you!”

“Okay,” said James. “Let’s have a drinking competition.”

They drank their water quickly. They both finished their water at the same time. They needed more water. When they looked at the watering hole, it was muddy.

“Yuk!” said Jessie. “The cows made the water muddy.”

“I don’t want to drink muddy water,” said James.



Jessie laughed. James was cross. His water bottle leaked. There was a big hole in it, so the water came out.

Quiz 2

Choose the correct answer.

- Sally was feeling very about her important interview.
a) nervous b) safe c) lucky
- It said on the that the next train was due in 5 minutes.
a) driver b) textbook c) timetable
- Cowboys looked after in the American Wild West.
a) children b) cats c) cattle
- This café is the most place in town. Everyone comes here.
a) popular b) dirty c) boring
- I will into the kitchen and take a biscuit when no one is looking.
a) sneak b) smell c) remove
- They got up early in the morning to watch the
a) sunshine b) sunrise c) sunset
- We for the 7 a.m. bus, but it never came.
a) slept b) waited c) played
- I am the driver in the world, so you should drive instead.
a) best b) coolest c) worst
- They both the race at the same time, so it was a draw.
a) began b) started c) finished
- The police blocked the road so they could the speeding car.
a) start b) move c) stop