

FIFTH GRADE STATE WINNER

The Little Farm Dog

BY: JOSEPHINE SLATTERY

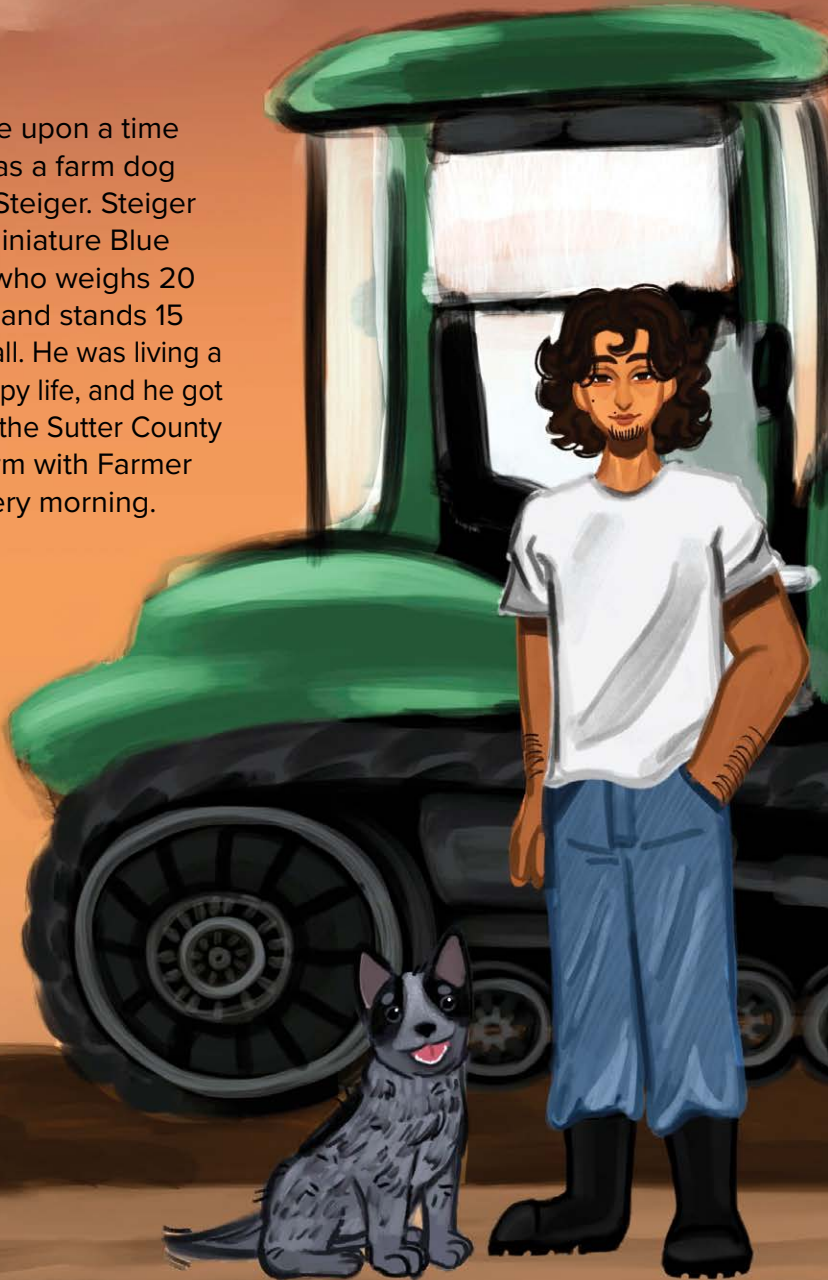
NICK MADDALENA
TEACHER

TWIN RIVERS CHARTER SCHOOL
SUTTER COUNTY

- ILLUSTRATED BY -
MONTEREY TRAIL
HIGH SCHOOL



Once upon a time there was a farm dog named Steiger. Steiger was a Miniature Blue Heeler who weighs 20 pounds and stands 15 inches tall. He was living a very happy life, and he got to go to the Sutter County Rice Farm with Farmer Joel every morning.

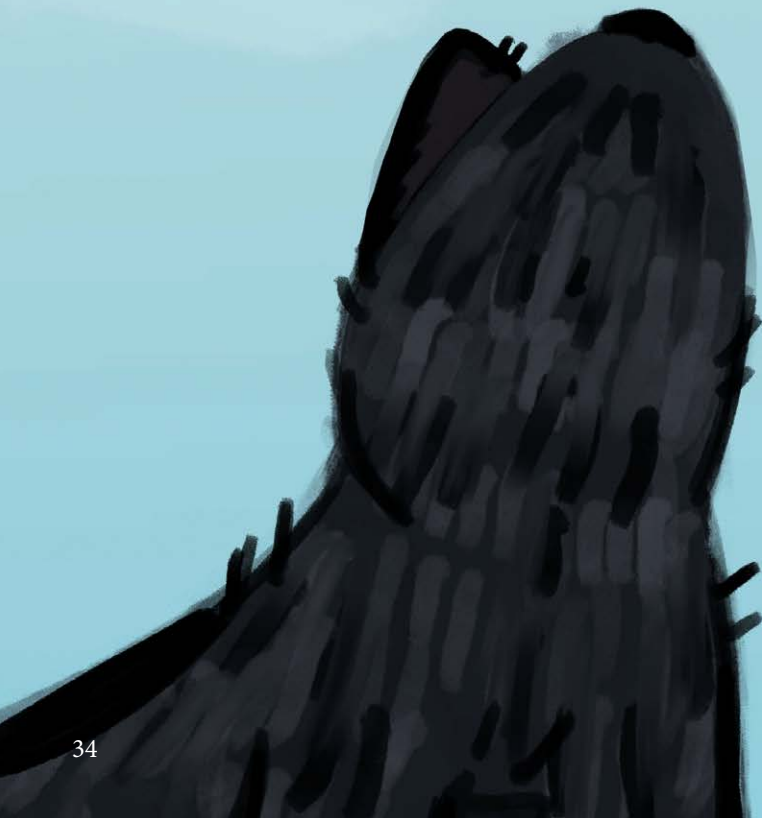


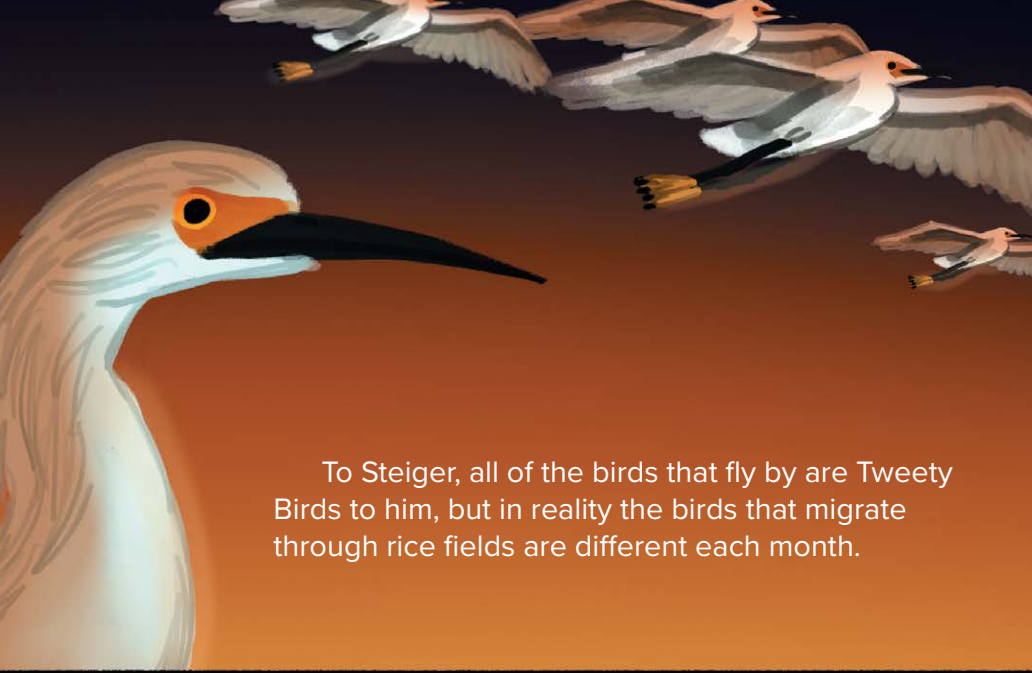


One morning Farmer Joel drove to the farm with Steiger. Once they got to the farm, Farmer Joel let Steiger out of the truck. Steiger got out and saw a huge plane flying by at 100 miles per hour planting the rice. He was so excited to watch the rice fall from the sky.



After the rice was planted by the plane, Steiger couldn't wait to go check on the rice with Farmer Joel each day so he could chase the Tweety Birds. Chasing Tweety Birds is Steiger's favorite thing to do of all time.





To Steiger, all of the birds that fly by are Tweety Birds to him, but in reality the birds that migrate through rice fields are different each month.



For example, in April the birds that visit the rice fields are called Bank Swallows, in May they are called Snowy and Great Egrets, in July they are called Aleutian Canada Geese, and in August they are Red-tailed Hawks. Sometimes you can even find Bald Eagles in the rice fields near the Sutter Buttes.



After chasing Tweety Birds and checking the rice every day for four months, it was finally September and Farmer Joel said to Steiger, "It's harvesting season!" All of a sudden Steiger jumped for joy and let out a loud bark. Steiger thought to himself, "This means that the Tweety Birds are going to be everywhere."



As soon as they arrived at the field for the first day of harvest, Steiger ran as fast as he could and chased all the Tweety Birds he could find.



After he had scared them all away he got very tired and then Farmer Joel said to Steiger, "It is time to get in the harvester." Steiger ran back and jumped up the ladder and into the harvester where he laid down near Farmer Joel's feet and took a big nap.



While Steiger was asleep, Farmer Joel filled up the back of the harvester seven times full of rice and then filled up three bankouts with rice. Each time after Farmer Joel filled up the bankout with the rice he harvested, the bankout driver would take the rice and empty it into the rice trailer. By the time Steiger finished his nap, Farmer Joel had already harvested over 80,000 pounds of rice and it was time for dinner.



For dinner Farmer Joel and Steiger ate rice and chicken, and after that they went home, and Steiger went and laid in his doggy bed.



He fell fast asleep
and dreamed about
chasing Tweety Birds
all night! THE END.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Josephine Slattery

5TH GRADE

TEACHER: NICK MADDALENA

A ride on a rice harvester started it all! Josephine accompanied her Uncle Joel, along with his dog, Steiger, on a harvester ride, and she found the experience story-worthy. The fifth-grader did a lot of research to tell her tale, and especially enjoyed learning that rice can be planted by plane, and the importance of the crop to migrating birds.

Josephine is hopeful readers gain an understanding of where their rice comes from (often Sutter County) and how it is grown. She's excited to be a published author and anticipates accepting her *Imagine this...* award with Uncle Joel and Steiger in attendance.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATORS



Savannah Farmer & Vivian Ning

MONTEREY TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL
MONICA ORTEGA, ART TEACHER

Rice grows well in Sutter County, something artists Savannah and Vivian learned as they illustrated this story.

The two high school seniors enjoyed investigating the process of growing and harvesting the grain, developing the characters, and visually telling the tale through the eyes of the miniature blue heeler, Steiger.

Working as a team and utilizing digital art, they worked on character design and paid careful attention to accurately illustrating a rice farm, as well as the birds that migrate through the region.