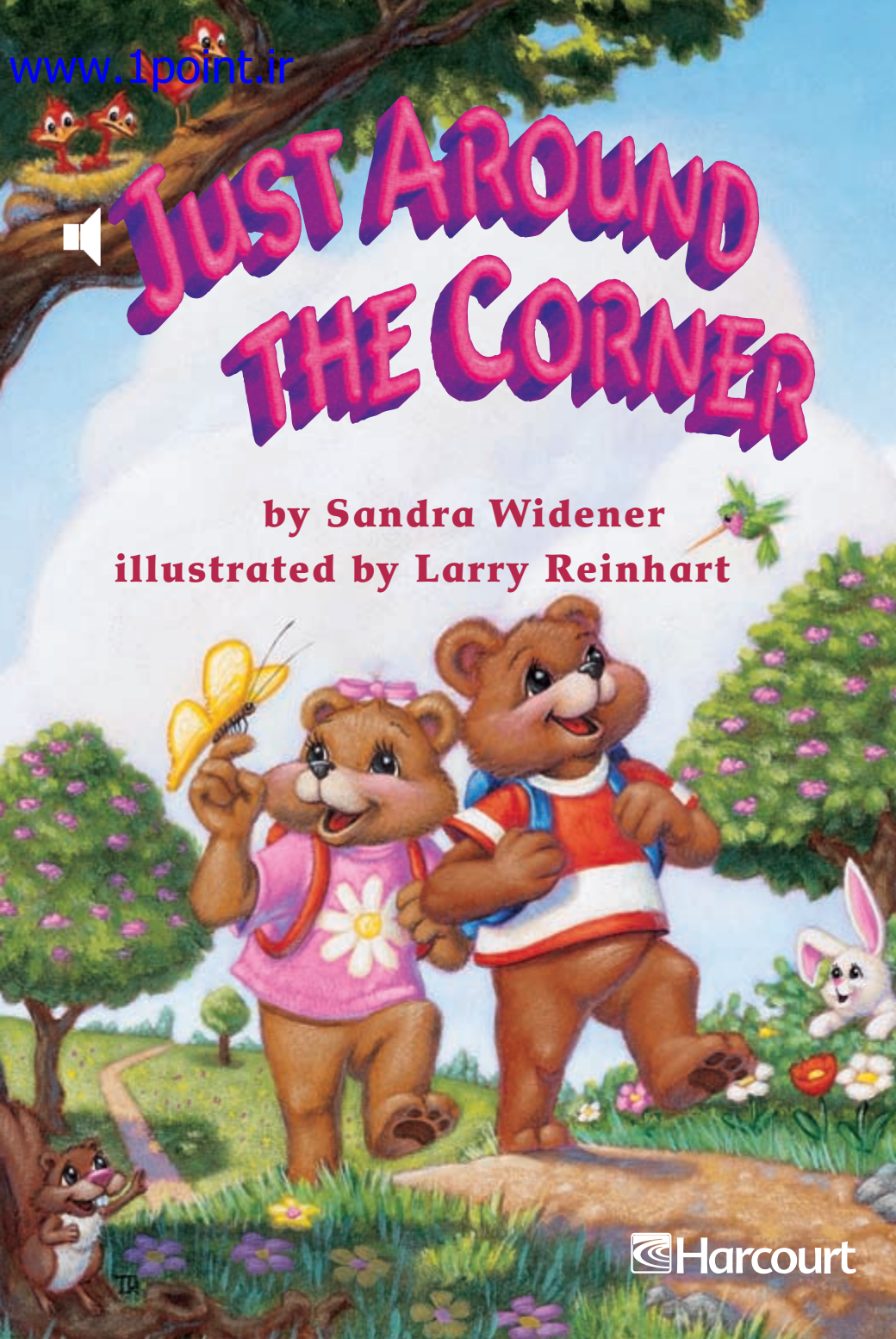




JUST AROUND THE CORNER

by Sandra Widener
illustrated by Larry Reinhart



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|| GRACE: This newspaper says that spring is just around the corner.

|| RAY: How can they say that? Are they sure? Does it explain?





▶ **GRACE:** No, but if I may say so, I have waited a long time. Do you think spring may be near?

▶ **RAY:** Maybe we should find out if it is.





- ▣ **GRACE:** How do we find spring, Ray? I am afraid I don't know.
- ▣ **RAY:** Well, let's see. We could stay and wait.





▣ **GRACE:** Ray, you are so lazy! Maybe we can follow the trail outside.

▣ **RAY:** Since it's raining, we should stay and wait for spring to come to us.





- ▶ **GRACE:** Rain or snow, I'm going to find spring! Follow me!
- ▶ **RAY:** Who cares if we get caught in the rain? We are looking for spring.





|| GRACE: We need a clue.

|| RAY: I may have one. What don't you see today?

|| GRACE: Snow!





- ▶ **RAY:** Right, Grace. The snow has melted away. It's a rainy day, but it is warm.
- ▶ **GRACE:** So spring is near. It's just around the corner.





- ▶ **RAY:** Maybe. Let's look for another clue, Grace.
- ▶ **GRACE:** I see a flower. That's a sure sign of spring.





- ▶ **GRACE:** The first flower of spring is blooming today.
- ▶ **RAY:** That's a good clue.





- ▶ **RAY:** Here's another. It's all around us. It's a color.
- ▶ **GRACE:** Can you explain?
- ▶ **RAY:** I don't like to be hurried. If you look around, you will see.





- ▣ **GRACE:** It's green! Green is the color of spring.
- ▣ **RAY:** Here's another clue. Raise your paws.
- ▣ **GRACE:** All right.





🔊 **RAY:** What's missing?

🔊 **GRACE:** My coat! It's not cold!
It's warm outside.





▶ **RAY:** Here's another clue. Today on the trail a dad and his son are playing. Blue jays and other animals are out and playing.





🔊 **GRACE:** We really know it's spring. It stopped raining. The sun is out. Flowers are blooming. The trail is green, and every day is warmer. Animals are out playing.








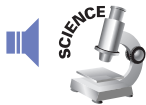


- ▶ **RAY:** So I'd say spring is just around the corner!
- ▶ **GRACE:** I'd say spring is here.



Think and Respond

-  **1** Why do Ray and Grace go outside?
-  **2** What is the first clue they see?
-  **3** What spring color do the characters identify?
-  **4** How do Grace and Ray prove that it is spring?
-  **5** What season do you like best? Why?



Find Spring How do you know it is spring? Make pictures of all the ways you can tell. Write under the pictures to explain.



School-Home Connection With a family member, make a paper doll that looks like you. Then help make clothes appropriate for the current season.



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