

## Curriculum Submission Packet

### Supplemental Literacy & Character Education Resource Grades 2–5

#### Program Title

#### **Pets to the Rescue: A Cousin Crew Series (six-book series)**

Book One: *Apple Butter Adventure* (available now- gold QR)

Forthcoming:

Book Two: *America’s Birthday Hero* (May 2026)

Book Three: *The Silver Sleuth* (before Christmas 2026)

Book Four: *An Alarming Escapade* (Spring 2027)

Book Five: *Nest-y Business* (Fall 2027)

Book Six: *Easter Basket Disaster* (Spring 2028)

#### **Authors:**

Lisa M. Pritchard

Jennifer E. Tirrell

#### **Endorsement:**

Dr. Gary Chapman, author of  
*The 5 Love Languages of Children*

#### Program Overview

*Pets to the Rescue: A Cousin Crew Series* is a supplemental children’s literature resource designed to support elementary literacy development while **reinforcing Biblical principles, character education, and civic responsibility.**

Written for students ages 7–10 (**Grades 2–5**), the series uses engaging narrative text, relatable characters, and real-world scenarios to **strengthen reading comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and critical thinking.**

The program is intended for use in classroom libraries, guided reading, independent reading, and cross-curricular enrichment.

#### Instructional Purpose

The purpose of this resource is to:

- Strengthen foundational literacy skills during critical elementary years
- Improve reading engagement through narrative-based learning
- Reinforce Biblical principles and family values, character, civic awareness, and social-emotional learning
- Encourage discussion, reflection, and written response
- Support device-free, real-world learning experiences

#### Alignment to State Literacy Standards

**North Carolina & South Carolina (Grades 2–5) See attached Standards Crosswalk below.**

#### Instructional Design Features

- Grade-appropriate vocabulary and sentence structure
- Built-in glossary to support vocabulary development
- Embedded life lessons connected to story events
- Opportunities for teacher-led discussion and student reflection
- Narrative structure that supports comprehension and analysis
- Cross-curricular connections (ELA, Social Studies, SEL)

### **Educational Outcomes**

Students using this resource will:

- Improve reading fluency and comprehension
  - Expand vocabulary through contextual learning
  - Demonstrate understanding of narrative elements
  - Engage in thoughtful discussion and respectful debate
  - Apply lessons related to responsibility, empathy, and collaboration
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### **Character & Civic Education Integration**

The series naturally reinforces:

- Responsibility and accountability
- Empathy and cooperation
- Respect for authority and family structures
- Civic awareness and patriotism
- Faith, moral reasoning, and ethical decision-making

These elements are integrated through story events rather than direct instruction, supporting authentic learning and discussion.

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### **Classroom Implementation Options**

- Classroom and school library inclusion
  - Guided reading groups
  - Independent reading assignments
  - Literature circles
  - Writing prompts and discussion starters
  - Supplemental literacy instruction
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### **Assessment & Evaluation**

While not a scripted curriculum, the series supports:

- Informal comprehension checks
  - Vocabulary application
  - Oral discussion assessment
  - Written reflection and response
  - Teacher observation of engagement and understanding
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### **Professional Development & Enrichment**

The authors offer **creative writing workshops** aligned with elementary literacy goals. These workshops have been successfully taught through a local Heritage Girls program and are available to schools as enrichment opportunities.

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### **Materials Provided**

- Printed book(s)
- Glossary and life-lesson content embedded in text
- Optional discussion and writing extensions

*Discounted prices are available for bulk orders of 25 or more*

**Standards Crosswalk Table**

**Grades 2–5 | Supplemental Literacy Resource**

***Pets to the Rescue: A Cousin Crew Series***

Instructional Focus	North Carolina ELA Standards (Grades 2–5)	South Carolina College- and Career-Ready ELA Standards (Grades 2–5)	How the Series Meets the Standard
<b>Reading Literary Text – Comprehension</b>	RL.2–5.1: Quote or refer to details to demonstrate understanding	RL.2–5.1: Ask and answer questions using explicit and inferred details	Students <b>analyze</b> story events, dialogue, and outcomes, supporting both literal and <b>inferential comprehension</b> .
<b>Theme &amp; Central Message</b>	RL.2–5.2: Determine theme, moral, or lesson; summarize text	RL.2–5.2: Identify theme and summarize key details	Each book presents a clear theme reinforced through <b>character choices, consequences, and reflection</b> .
<b>Character Development</b>	RL.2–5.3: Describe characters, motivations, and responses to challenges	RL.2–5.3: Analyze how characters respond to events and change	The Cousin Crew demonstrates growth over time, allowing <b>analysis of motivations, decisions, and character change</b> (Grade 5 emphasis).
<b>Plot &amp; Structure</b>	RL.2–5.5: Describe story structure and sequence	RL.2–5.5: Explain how chapters, scenes, or events fit together	Episodic adventures with clear structure <b>support sequencing, cause-and-effect, and narrative analysis</b> .
<b>Vocabulary Acquisition</b>	L.2–5.4: Determine meaning of words using context clues	L.2–5.4: Use context to determine meaning of unknown words	Rich, <b>grade-appropriate vocabulary</b> is supported through context and reinforced by an <b>embedded glossary</b> .
<b>Use of Reference Materials</b>	L.2–5.4(e): Use glossaries and dictionaries	L.2–5.4(c): Use reference tools	Students <b>practice independent vocabulary strategies</b> through glossary-supported reading.
<b>Fluency &amp; Complexity</b>	RF.2–5.4: Read with accuracy, fluency, and expression	RF.2–5.4: Read grade-level texts fluently	Text complexity increases naturally across the series, making it suitable for Grades 2–5 <b>differentiation</b> .
<b>Discussion &amp; Speaking Skills</b>	SL.2–5.1: Engage in collaborative discussions	SL.2–5.1: Participate in collaborative conversations	Stories prompt discussion of choices, ethics, and outcomes, supporting accountable talk and <b>respectful debate</b> .
<b>Writing About Reading</b>	W.2–5.1, W.2–5.9: Write opinions and responses using text evidence	W.2–5.1, W.2–5.9: Write supported responses to texts	Books lend themselves to opinion writing, short responses, journaling, and <b>extended reflection</b> (Grade 5).

Instructional Focus	North Carolina ELA Standards (Grades 2–5)	South Carolina College- and Career-Ready ELA Standards (Grades 2–5)	How the Series Meets the Standard
<b>Critical Thinking &amp; Analysis</b>	RL.3–5.7, RL.5.9: Analyze events, compare themes	RL.3–5.7, RL.5.9: Analyze and compare literary elements	Upper-elementary students can <b>compare themes, character decisions, and moral reasoning</b> across texts.
<b>Social-Emotional &amp; Civic Learning (Integrated)</b>	Whole Child Framework & Character Education	Profile of the SC Graduate: Character & Citizenship	<b>Responsibility, empathy, civic awareness, patriotism, and collaboration</b> are embedded within the narrative.

**District Review Summary**

- Aligned with NC and SC ELA standards for Grades 2–5
- Appropriate for mixed-grade classrooms and differentiation
- Supports Science of Reading-aligned comprehension and vocabulary development
- Functions as a supplemental literacy and character education resource