



The Relatives Came



It was in the summer of the year when the relatives came. They came up from Virginia. They left when their grapes were nearly purple enough to pick, but not quite.



They had an old station wagon that smelled like a real car,
and in it they put an ice chest full of soda pop
and some boxes of crackers and some bologna sandwiches,
and up they came—from Virginia.

They left at four in the morning when it was still dark,
before even the birds were awake.



THE RELATIVES CAME

In a rainbow-colored station wagon that smelled like a real car, the relatives came. When they arrived, they hugged and hugged from the kitchen to the front room. All summer they tended the garden and ate up all the strawberries and melons. They plucked banjos and strummed guitars.

When they finally had to leave, they were sad, but not for long. They all knew they would be together next summer.

Cynthia Rylant is the author of the popular Henry and Mudge series as well as *Night in the Country* and *This Year's Garden*, available from Aladdin Paperbacks.

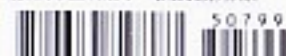
Stephen Gammell is the award-winning author/illustrator of *Once Upon MacDonald's Farm* and the illustrator of *The Old Banjo* by Dennis Haseley and *A Regular Rolling Noah* by George Ella Lyon, all Aladdin Paperbacks.



Meet the author and illustrator
and get activities at

KIDS.SimonandSchuster.com

ISBN 978-0-689-71138-1 \$7.99 U.S./\$9.50 Can.



5 0799