

Brooke Obiedzinski
Grade Five, Honorable Mention
Lynn Johnson, Teacher

Dear Ryan and Jack,

Hi! I'm super excited that you will be staying with us for a month. My mom told me that you have never been to a rural area. I know you will absolutely love it. There are so many outdoor activities we can do together.

Get your swim trunks on because the first thing we will be doing is playing and swimming in Capoolong Creek. Capoolong Creek is a small stream that runs through Franklin Township into the Raritan River. As fun as the creek is, it is not the only place we will be swimming. At the end of last summer, we put an in-ground pool in our yard, so be prepared to witness my superb swimming skills, when I beat you both in a race. Believe it or not, the pool is bigger than your whole back yard, meanwhile, it hardly takes up any of ours. Attached to the pool is a waterslide and a hot tub. We even have a waterfall! The best part is that the pool lights up at night so we can go night swimming and because there is such a large space between our neighbors and us, we can be as loud as we want. Well, almost as loud as we want. We still have my parents to worry about.

Make sure to bring your bikes. There is an amazing trail called the Landsdown Trail that we can pick up in our town on a road called Lower Landsdown Road and ride it all the way into the nearby town of Clinton to get ice cream. Along the 1.5 mile trail you will experience some beautiful views and wildlife that you will not find in the city. Just watch out for the bears! Just kidding. (I hope!)

While we are on the topic, another thing you will not find in the city, are hot air balloons. We have an abundance of them here. They come in all different colors and designs and since they launch them right on our road, you can check one out up close. My favorite one is yellow with red flames. Maybe we will go on one. You never know.

I bet you have never been to a polo match. Well, you will soon enough! We will be going to a polo match at a local farm. It may seem a little crazy but polo is a game where grown men play on horses. Well, sort of, you are just going to have to see for yourself. While we are there we will meet up with some of our friends while feasting on delicious food.

So, tell me cousins, are you ready to leave the pollution of the city behind and come and breathe some fresh country air? Trust me, once you visit Franklin Township, you will never want to leave.

Love, your #1 cousin,
Brooke