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Grade Three, First Place
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Dear Kyleigh and Ashley,

Hi, girls! Hope all is well in the city. I heard you are coming to visit us in the summer. I'm so excited! I was told that you don't know what rural means. Well, I am going to explain it to you. I hope by the end of this letter that you will be as excited to visit us as I am excited to have you.

My family and I live in Franklin Township, NJ. Where we live is considered a rural area. This means we live where there is a large amount of land and farmlands. We have wide open spaces and woodlands. Our neighbor across the street owns a large property with many acres. He has a barn with a big horse, lots of sheep, and goats. I bet you don't have a neighbor like that. We also have other neighbors on our street that have goats, chickens, and horses. It's really neat.

At our house we have lots of land as well. Our property backs up to the Capoolong Creek. We have ten chickens and they lay lots of eggs. We also have three rabbits. Scotty, Micaylah, Holly, and myself have to help feed the chickens and the rabbits and we have to collect the chicken eggs. Sometimes, we even have to help clean out the chicken coop.

Do you want to know something exciting? Our neighbor's goat just had two babies, a boy and a girl. Their names are Linus and Lucy. We got to go help bottle feed them. It is so much fun and they are so cute. Last year, mommy helped deliver the baby goats and Holly and Micaylah were able to watch. They said it was an amazing experience.

Our next door neighbor makes his own maple syrup. He starts out by placing taps in all of the maple trees on his property and our property. He then collects all of the sap and brings it home. Then, he boils the sap down to make the maple syrup. It tastes delicious! I bet that none of your neighbors do that.

In our neck of the woods, we also have lots of hiking trails. One trail is along the Capoolong Creek which is neat because it is right behind our house. My family and I love hiking these trails and looking at the beautiful nature. Around us you can see lots of deer, foxes, squirrels, chipmunks, ducks, beautiful birds, and much more. One year a duck laid her eggs in our pool area and we were able to watch the ducklings hatch. Then they swam around our pool and eventually left. That was amazing. Another thing we can do from our property is fish for trout in the creek and then my family eats the fish. Not me though, I won't eat those fish.

We have quite a few farms around us. They have cows, chickens, pigs, ducks, peacocks and other animals. We can buy fresh fruits, vegetables, and homemade pies from these farms. Also on these farms we can pick our pumpkins from the pumpkin patch, apples, peaches and strawberries. Unlike us, I think you have to get everything from the store because you don't have farms where you live.

I hope you now understand what rural means. I love where I live and what I'm able to do here. I hope you think where I live is interesting and you are excited to come visit and spend a month with us. We can't wait for you to visit and show you around.

Love,
Tyler