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The Cricket in Times Square

By George Selden

Drawings by Garth Williams
A mouse named Tucker and a boy named Mario lived in New York City.

Tucker and Mario went to Mario's news stand. Mario sold newspapers.
Mario heard the train by the news stand.

Mario and Tucker heard a sound.

They looked around.

It was a small cricket.

Mario picked up the cricket.

Mario put the cricket in a small box.

He fed the cricket chocolate.
Mario showed the cricket to his Mama and Papa.

Mario wanted to bring the cricket home as a pet.

Mama said, "No! The cricket should live at the news stand."
Tucker said hello to the cricket.

The grasshopper's name was Chester.
Chester ate some meat.

Chester was very hungry.
Harry met Chester.

Chester made music with his wings.
Harry, Chester, and Tucker went outside to see the city at night.
Mario and Chester went to the restaurant. Chester drank soda.
Mario and Chester went to CHINATOWN.

They found a special house for Chester.
Tucker went in the house.

He looked like a king.
Tucker slept in the house.

He used a dollar for a blanket.

Good Night, said Chester.
Chester rang the bell in the house.

Tucker woke up.

Chester and Tucker put all their money in the house.
Mama saw the money in the house. She thanked Chester for the money.
Mario and Chester met men from China. They ate dinner. They said Chester needed to eat Mulberry leaves so Chester could play music better.
Chester ate the Mulberry leaves.

He made music.

Tucker and Harry sang.

Chester listened to the radio and made new music.
Harry, and Tucker saw a fire in the news stand.

They tried to stop the fire.

The newspapers burned.
Mama cleaned the news stand.

Chester made music.

Mama sang and felt happy.
Tucker, Harry and Chester had an idea!

Chester will make music, and people will stop and listen.
A man listened to Chester make music.

The man wrote a story about Chester's music in the newspaper.
Chester was FAMOUS!

Many people came to hear Chester's music.

They bought newspapers.
People loved to hear Chester's music.

But Chester was sad.

Chester told a man he wanted to travel back to his home in the country.
Tucker, Chester, and Harry ate dinner together.

Chester will leave to the country tomorrow.
Tucker gave Chester a bell.

The bell will remind Chester of the city.

Chester rode a train home to the country.
Tucker and Harry missed Chester.

They will visit Chester in the country.
The end