

The Copycats

by

Victoria Foti

Children's Literature  
College of Education  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

## Author's Purpose

The author's purpose of the story is to document our culture with real Louisiana stories for young children. This story demonstrates authenticity of voice, Louisiana culture in children's literature. Its grade level is appropriate for 3rd Grade. The author's tone of the story demonstrates humor, informational context, and Fiction/Non-Fiction combined.



1436 North Berard Street

Our old house



200 West Mills Avenue

Dad's business

### The Copycats

A long time ago, a ten-year-old girl named Victoria had hair as long as a horse's tail and eyes as brown as chocolate. Her younger brother Christian was eight and had brown hair and brown eyes. These siblings were full of life, and so were their older brothers, Ryan and Jean. Victoria's brothers had short brown hair, and Ryan and Christian had brown eyes, but Jean's eyes were as blue as the sea. Victoria and her sibling's hometown is Breaux Bridge, a small town located in St. Martin Parish, Louisiana. This town is known as the crawfish capital of the world, and it is a great place to explore authentic Cajun culture. This town has a relaxing

atmosphere, old-fashioned downtown streets, and traditional Cajun and Zydeco music. Victoria's dad named Floyd owned a business in Breaux Bridge; he was tall, had hair as black as coal, and his skin was olive, just like hers and Christian's. This business was called The Fruit Stand, and her dad would sell crawfish, burgers, wings, and even alligator nuggets! The café is in the front of the building; while you walk through, there are doors as clear as crystal that you walk through into the store part, you can shop for all kinds of fruits and vegetables, and he even has a scrapyard in the back of the building.

Victoria's dad spent most of his time working while her mom would take care of her and her brothers at home. Her mom is named Robin; she is a little shorter than my dad, and she has hair as yellow as a sunflower and eyes as blue as the sea; she has lighter skin than my dad but not completely pale like Jean and Ryan's skin. One day Victoria and Christian felt adventurous; they often made-up stories and pretended they were certain characters like superheroes, spies, and sometimes animals. When Christian was a baby, he would often copy Victoria wherever she went; he followed her like a puppy following its mom. They were both obsessed with Disney Movies; one movie they watched was Highschool Musical. Now, Highschool Musical 2 came out, and they both were excited to watch it. Christian's favorite character was Troy Bolton (played by Zac Efron); he thought he was so cool, and I thought he was cute, and so did my mom. I thought

that was gross as a ten-year-old, but she enjoyed the relationship between Troy and Gabriela (played by Vanessa Hudgens). Troy and Gabriela were boyfriend and girlfriend, and I thought she was pretty with her olive skin and long black hair.

Troy had long brown hair, not that long like Victoria's; that would be silly. Troy had pretty blue eyes, Victoria thought, and in her mind, he looked handsome. In one scene, Troy is on a golf course and signing a song called "Bet on it" this was Christian's favorite scene. When Troy jumped in the air Christian had an idea; he said to his sister, "Hey Toria, let's jump off the arm of the couches when Troy jumps" Victoria replied, "Okay, sounds fun!" So, they both got on the dark green couches and stood on its arms. It was kind of a high jump to Victoria, and she was scared, but when the time came to jump off the arm of the couch, it was fun for her, and they both wanted to do it again. So, they did it again and laughed and giggled until their mom showed up.

Ryan and Jean saw us in action, and they laughed at us. We were both embarrassed, and our faces were red like tomatoes. Their mom walked up and asked, "What are you doing? You can both get seriously hurt!" Victoria said, "We were just trying to have fun, mom." Her mom told both of them to be careful next time. Our older brothers stopped laughing and asked why we did not get fussed at longer or get punished. My mom replied, "Well, I am interested in this movie, and unlike both of you, at least they do not mess up the house like animals." Victoria

and Christian were snickering, and Christian asked, "What do you mean, mommy?" She said, "Ryan and Jean also copy characters they play that video game and play fight with each other." Victoria and Christian laughed, and Ryan and Jean were silent as mice. Our brothers were mad and walked away, but we just giggled because we never thought our older brothers would do the same thing as us.

One day, we walked into Jean's room; all my brothers would go in there, and I would go into the room as well. We saw them playing a video game; the game was called *Mortal Kombat*; we weren't supposed to watch this game until Christian and I got older, but we were curious. I thought it was gross and still think it is with its fighting and some of the characters I thought were creepy, but all my brothers thought it was awesome, even Christian. The two main characters are Scorpion and Sub-Zero, and they are brothers. Jean and Ryan mostly played these characters. These characters were tough and looked scary in their ninja outfits. Scorpion had a yellow outfit, and Sub-Zero had a blue outfit; you could not really see their faces, but you could tell they were scary just by their facial expressions and eyes. Scorpion has fire powers, and Sub-Zero has ice; they are both compelling characters when we watch them fight. When my mom called Christian and me out of the room for a little bit to help her fold some clothes, we all heard a noise coming from Jean's room. We hurried to see what it was, and it was Jean and Ryan

acting like the two characters me and Christian laughed because we had caught them in action, and we could not believe it. My mom just rolled her eyes but could not help but laugh. Christian and I both said "Copycat" "Copycat" to Ryan and Jean out loud because they copied characters. Ryan said, "Well, we are all a copycat." Then my mom thought of an idea; she said, "Well, since you all are a copycat, you all shall be called the copycats." We all laughed at the idea, but we all liked it and became known as the copycats.

## Vocabulary

- 1. Arm-** The ends of a couch.
- 2. Breaux Bridge-** A small city in St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, United States.
- 3. Café-** A small restaurant selling light meals and drinks.
- 4. Cajun-** A member of any of the largely self-contained communities in the bayou areas of southern Louisiana formed by descendants of French Canadians, speaking an archaic form of French.
- 5. Compelling-** Evoking interest, attention, or admiration in a powerfully irresistible way.
- 6. Olive-** Having yellowish-brown skin.
- 7. Pale-** Having very light whitish skin.
- 8. Snickering-** To laugh in a covert or partly suppressed manner.
- 9. St. Martin Parish-** Is a parish located in the U.S. state of Louisiana, founded in 1811. Its parish seat is St. Martinville, and the largest city is Breaux Bridge.
- 10. Zydeco-** A kind of black American dance music originally from southern Louisiana, typically featuring accordion and guitar.

## References

Louisiana Believes State Standards. (2011). [https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/academic-curriculum/standards--k-12-social-studies.pdf?sfvrsn=24665cc3\\_39](https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/academic-curriculum/standards--k-12-social-studies.pdf?sfvrsn=24665cc3_39)

### Social Studies

#### Standard 4: People, Land, Environment

1. 3.4.1 Compare and contrast the physical features of various regions of Louisiana.
2. 3.1.2 Explain how technology has changed family and community life in Louisiana over time
3. 3.4.5 Describe how humans affect the environment in Louisiana

Louisiana Believes State Standards. (2022). [https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/teacher-toolbox-resources/k-12-cla-standards.pdf?sfvrsn=52b98a1f\\_38](https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/teacher-toolbox-resources/k-12-cla-standards.pdf?sfvrsn=52b98a1f_38)

### ELA

#### Key Ideas and Details

1. Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.
2. Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
3. Distinguish the student's point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

Byrd, M. (2021). *Mortal Kombat: Sub-Zero and Scorpion's Rivalry Explained*. Matthew Sullivan-Pond, Denofgeek.com.

Romer, M. (2019). *Breaux, Bridge Louisiana The Crawfish Capital of the World*. Dotdash Meredith. Tripsavvy.com.

Rubin, R. (2021). *High School Musical' Turns 15: A Look Back at the Humble Origins of Disney Channel's Billion-Dollar Franchise*. Michelle Sobrino-Stearns. Variety.com.

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## Author's Bio

My name is Victoria Foti; my major is Elementary Education Grades (1-5). I attend the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; my interest includes anime, animals, concerts, cosplay, education, shopping, and video games. My hobbies include watching tv, reading, spending time with friends, playing video games, and fishing. My Career Goal is to learn from my mistakes to become the best teacher I can be, always be there for my students, and learn more about the education system.

