

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Co
 Form 4
 December 30, 2015

FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Gentel Gary Lee

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Co [HMHC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 12/29/2015

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 ____ Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 See remarks.

C/O HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT CO., 222 BERKELEY STREET

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

BOSTON, MA 02116

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Price | | |
| | | | | Code | V Amount | | |
| Common Stock | 12/29/2015 | | M | V | 43,900 | A | \$ 12.5 62,859 D |
| Common Stock | 12/29/2015 | | S ⁽¹⁾ | V | 10,900 | D | \$ 21.5 51,959 D |
| Common Stock | 12/29/2015 | | S ⁽¹⁾ | V | 11,000 | D | \$ 21.5 40,959 D |
| Common Stock | 12/29/2015 | | S ⁽¹⁾ | V | 11,000 | D | \$ 21.5 29,959 D |
| | 12/29/2015 | | S ⁽¹⁾ | V | 11,000 | D | 18,959 D |

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Common Stock \$ 21.5

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title Amount or Number of Shares |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$ 12.5 | 12/29/2015 | | M | V 43,900 | (2) 06/22/2019 | Common Stock 43,900 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Gentel Gary Lee C/O HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT CO., 222 BERKELEY STREET BOSTON, MA 02116 | | | | See remarks. |

Signatures

/s/ William F. Bayers, Attorney-in-Fact 12/30/2015

__Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) These shares were sold pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan.

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(2) These employee stock options have vested and are currently exercisable.

Remarks:

Formerly President, HMH Trade Publishing. William F. Bayers is the Executive Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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