



A Familiar Face

Chapter Seven - by Kay Hively

Rain fell all through the night. Scotty slept late on Sunday morning. But the smell of breakfast cooking in the kitchen was powerful enough to awaken Scotty. He bounced out of bed in time to eat with his parents.

In the afternoon, Scotty returned to his bedroom and picked up his library books.

Starting at the chapter he had marked in the book, Scotty saw pictures of President Truman with many soldiers. In this chapter, Scotty learned a new word - segregation. But he did not really know what the word meant.

As Scotty was reading, Mrs. Brown opened his door and said that Jimmy Powers was on the front porch.

Ready for some activity, Scotty put down his book and hurried out to see his friend. Because it was still raining, the two boys stayed on the porch to work on model planes. Jimmy had brought his P-38 with him. Scotty worked on a B-52 bomber he was putting together.

Throughout the afternoon, Scotty and Jimmy worked on their model planes. The rain continued - sometimes hard and sometimes gentle. But the boys stayed nice and dry on the big porch. They talked about how much fun it would be to actually fly in the planes they were building. Neither boy had ever flown in an airplane.

As they worked together on their models, the boys shared glue and stickers and dabs of paint. Finally, late in the afternoon, Jimmy finished his plane. Scotty wasn't finished with his big bomber, but it was late and Jimmy had to go home.

Mr. Brown brought a big cardboard box out on the porch so Jimmy could carry his plane home without getting it wet.

Carefully, the two boys lowered the P-38 into the box, and then Jimmy raced off down the street, splashing through puddles of rainwater. Mr. Brown helped Scotty bring his plane inside the house and put it on the coffee table. Because he had only a little work left, Scotty decided to finish his plane. It only needed some decals and some wheels.

As Scotty sat on the floor working on his model plane, he asked his father what the word "segregation" meant.

Mr. Brown laid down his newspaper and said that segregation meant keeping people or things apart from each other. He said

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that segregation would mean that Jimmy Powers could not come to their house and play. Segregation usually separates people of different races, Mr. Brown explained.

But Jimmy was one of his best friends, Scotty explained. How could someone not let them play together? That, Mr. Brown said, was one of the evils of segregation. Black people and white people could not be friends.

After learning what the word meant, Scotty was eager to get back to his books and find out what President Truman did about segregation. Scotty hoped Mr. Truman did not believe that people should be separated.



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Coforth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Truman photo by Harry Barth. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2007.

Things to Think About and Do

- If a school is only for boys, is that segregation? Is that a bad thing? If a sick child is confined to a room alone, is that segregation? Can segregation sometimes be a good thing? Talk about this with your parents or in your classroom.
- Have you flown in an airplane? If you have, write about your trip. Tell how it felt and what things looked like outside the airplane window.
- Find a story in the newspaper that looks interesting based on the headline. Write a list of five things you think you know about the subject. Read the story and then look back over your list to see if you were right and add new things you learned to your list.

STANDARDS: G4:1; G2:1; G4:3; CA:4; CA:6; SS:6

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