

A Familiar Face

Chapter Two - by Kay Hively

Scotty carried his backpack to his bedroom and flung it on a chair. It lay there untouched until the Brown family finished supper.

Then, with a heavy sigh, Scotty carried it to the dining room table where he did his homework. Slowly, he pulled out his math workbook and turned to page 44. In only a short time, the two assigned pages were filled out.

Scotty admired what he had done in his workbook. Math was easy, and he liked to see his workbook looking neat so he wrote his letters and numbers clearly.

But now, with regular homework done, Scotty knew he should start his research project. Downhearted, he reached into his backpack and pulled out a book. The book was small with a big color picture of President Truman on the cover.

Slowly, Scotty opened the book. The first thing he saw a picture of a young boy wearing glasses. The boy in the photograph looked almost like Scotty himself. Scotty smiled. He never thought of himself looking like a President of the United States. He had imagined looking like Harry Potter, but never like a president.

Scotty read the words under the boy's picture. The caption said this was a picture of Harry Truman when he was 12 years old. This time, Scotty laughed right out loud because he was 12 years old, the same age as the boy in the photograph.

Scotty's attitude began to change as he turned another page in the little book.

As Scotty began to read, again came the smile. President Truman was born in Missouri – and that's where Scotty was born. The boy stopped and thought for a moment. It seemed spooky that he had so much in common with President Truman.

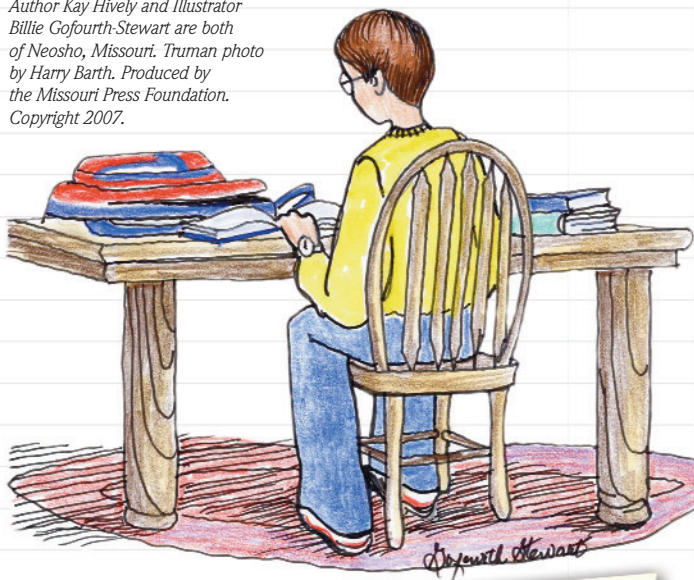
Maybe, he thought, learning about President Truman wouldn't be so bad after all. Scotty turned another page, but he didn't read the words, he just looked at the pictures. For almost an hour he studied the photographs in the book. As he turned each page, he could see the young boy in the round glasses growing up. There were pictures of him

working on a farm, clerking in a clothing store, wearing a military uniform and, at the very end, there were pictures of Mr. Truman living with his wife and daughter in the White House.

In one picture, there was a sign on the President's desk. The sign said, "The Buck Stops Here." Scotty didn't know what that meant.

But it was bedtime. Carefully, Scotty carried the books to his room and placed them on his desk.

Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Goforth-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

- Scotty tried to keep his workbook neat. Why is it important to write letters and numbers correctly? Write a paragraph on the importance of neatness and cleanliness in homework and in life.
- From a list of Presidents, find one that is like you in some way. Look for one who has the same first or last name as you. Or find one who has the same initials or who was born in the same state or town as you. Do a timeline of that President, starting with his birth date and place and include important events in his life.
- Look through the newspaper and find five photographs of people who resemble you in some way, such as same hair color, same age, etc.

Next Week: Chapter Three - The man in the white suit

Visit the Truman Presidential Museum & Library at www.trumanlibrary.org