

CAPTAIN OF THE UNIVERSE

CHAPTER 4

by Kay Hively

Two weeks in Springfield were filled with wonder for Eddie. His grandmother read to him. His grandfather took him on long walks under the stars at night and he found other boys to play with each day. They played “kick the can,” “stick ball” and “marbles.”

Saturday was shopping day so Eddie went to town with his grandparents. The streets were filled with buggies and wagons coming and going in every direction. All the stores were crowded.

Grandma Hubble was worried that Eddie might get lost in the crowds. He wasn't afraid of getting lost. But he did hold tight to his grandfather's hand.

He told his grandfather that if he did get lost, he would just wait until dark and then find his way home by the North Star.

Early one Sunday morning after breakfast, Grandpa Hubble brought his buggy around to the front of the house. Eddie put all his things into the buggy.

He was going home.

Grandpa Hubble's little horse, Blackie, was hitched to the buggy. Eddie climbed up on the front seat with his grandfather. His grandmother rode in the back seat with Eddie's things and a little picnic basket.

When everyone was settled in their seats, Grandpa Hubble snapped the reins and they started off down the street. Blackie had no trouble pulling the buggy and its passengers.

After about two hours, Grandpa stopped Blackie at a little spring. Everyone got out to let the horse rest and get a drink. Grandma Hubble took some peach muffins out of her basket and everyone had a cup to get a drink from the spring. The water was clear and very cold. Eddie drank two cups full.

The water and the peach muffins tasted very good as Eddie sat in the grass with his grandparents.

When everyone had finished eating, Eddie and

his grandparents got back into the buggy and Blackie started out again. Grandma Hubble said they should be in Marshfield by dinner time.

Just before noon, Grandpa Hubble brought the little horse to a halt at the corner of West Third and Buffalo Street in Marshfield. This was the home of Eddie's other grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. William Henderson James.

As Eddie climbed down from the buggy, he was greeted by his brothers and sisters. His parents stood on the porch and watched their children welcome Eddie back home. Then Grandfather James invited everyone in to eat. A big dinner was waiting on the table.

Eddie was the center of attention at the dinner table. He rattled like a little sewing machine, telling about his trip to Springfield. He talked so much that his mother had to remind him to eat his mashed potatoes.

As the meal ended, Grandfather James declared that Eddie was destined to be an astronomer. He said he had never heard anyone so excited about the moon and the stars.



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CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS — THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AND DO

- Eddie played marbles with his friends in Springfield. Get two or three of your friends and play a game of marbles. If you do not know how to play, ask an adult to teach you.
- Eddie and his family had a big meal at his grandparents' house. Write out a menu for what you think would be the best meal in the world. Include a meat, two vegetables and a dessert.

**NEXT
WEEK
CHAPTER
FIVE**

**Back to the
Ranch**

