

# CAPTAIN OF THE UNIVERSE

## CHAPTER 6

by Kay Hively

Summer was full of things for Eddie to do. He played games with his brothers and sisters. He rode the horses, and helped his mother with chores. And he often went with his parents to visit his grandparents in Springfield, and his grandparents in Marshfield.

A few times he was even allowed to go to work with his father. When he spent the day at his father's office he drew pictures or read a new adventure book. His father let him walk down the street to visit Grandfather James in his doctor's office and drugstore.

There were many strange smells and hundreds of bottles in his grandfather's drugstore. His grandfather told Eddie never to take any strange medicine or pills. He told Eddie to grow up strong and healthy and keep his body clean and pure. Only sick people, Grandfather James said, should take any medicine.

When Grandfather James had time to listen, Eddie told him adventure stories. He also told his grandfather about the stars and the planets.

Grandfather James was glad to know that Eddie was having fun all summer long.

But in September, summer fun came to an end. Eddie started back to school. He was in second grade at the little country school near his home.

This little school was called "Jump School." Eddie thought that was a funny name for a school, but he was

happy to be there. He and Henry walked to school with their sister, Lucy. All three children carried their books and their lunch with them.

When school opened, Eddie was eager to find more books to read. On the first day, he told his teacher that he wanted to be a sky captain. She was very pleased. Then she opened the door of a

cabinet and brought out a map of the sky. It showed all the stars and constellations that Eddie had learned about from his grandfather.

His teacher put the map up on a wall. From his seat, Eddie could see the map and read most of the words on it.

In school, Eddie only wanted to study the stars and read adventure books.

But he had other things to learn. He worked on being a good reader. This was important because by learning to read better, he was able to read more and more adventures books by himself. And he wanted to read all the books in the world.

At Jump School, the children had recess in the morning and in the afternoon. This was when Eddie and his school chums played games. They played "stick ball," "crack the whip," and "marbles." Sometimes the boys would even wrestle. The teacher did not approve of this sport so the boys would sneak behind the school house to wrestle. If the teacher found anyone wrestling, she would send all the boys inside and only the girls got to enjoy the full recess time.



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Produced in partnership with this newspaper and the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2001.

### CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS — THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AND DO

- Find a map of the sky like the one in Eddie's classroom. Using as a guide, draw your own map and add the stars and constellations you like best.
- Talk to an older person you know and ask them what kind of games the children played when they were in school. Learn to play one of the old games. Make a list of those games and include some of the games that you play at school.

**NEXT  
WEEK  
CHAPTER  
SEVEN**  
**A Very  
Special  
Gift**