

# CAPTAIN OF THE UNIVERSE

## CHAPTER 3

by Kay Hively

Eddie was having a good time in Springfield. His grandmother read wonderful books to him. He liked adventure books best. Although he was only seven years old, he could already read some. But he liked for his grandmother to read stories that were too hard for him.

One of his favorite books was "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea." It was filled with adventures at the bottom of the ocean. Eddie thought it would be wonderful to explore an unknown world like the bottom of the sea.

Each night, Eddie and his grandfather talked about the big unknown world up in the sky. They sat on the porch and found pictures in the sky. Grandpa Hubble showed Eddie groups of stars and gave them interesting names. These special stars were called constellations. Grandpa told Eddie there were other stars and groups of stars that would be seen when winter came.

Eddie couldn't remember all the Latin words his grandfather used to describe the stars. But he remembered the nicknames like "The Great Bear" and "Leo, the Lion." One of his favorite pictures was the Big Dipper. Eddie looked for it every night.

Sometimes, Eddie and his grandfather would leave the back porch and walk in a field not far from the house. In the middle of the field, they had found a big rock. This is where they would stop to rest. There they could see stars in every direction. On the porch, they could only see in two directions.

One night as they sat on their rock, Eddie told his grandfather about the wonderful undersea story his grandmother had read to him. He said that being a sea captain would be exciting. He thought it might be fun to one day have a ship and sail through the sky, like a ship on the ocean.



Grandpa Hubble told Eddie that sea captains also had to learn about the stars. Because there were no road signs on the ocean, sailors sometimes found their way over the water by following the stars. He said the North Star was one of the most important signposts in the sky.



Grandpa Hubble said you could always find your way home by the North Star. Eddie asked his grandfather how to find the North Star. Grandpa told Eddie to find the Big Dipper. That was easy because Eddie knew it very well.

Grandpa then told him to look for a bright star that was straight in line with the two stars on the front of the dipper cup. Eddie used his finger and pointed to the front of the Big Dipper. Then he moved his finger like it was coming up out of the cup, and just a short distance away, he found the North Star.

When Eddie went to bed that night, he dreamed of being a captain in the sky. All through the night he dreamed of sailing from planet to planet, using the North Star as his guide.

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

- Read one of Eddie's favorite books, "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea." Who was the author of this book? What are some of the other books this author wrote?
- Make a list of constellations. Write down both their Latin names and their common or nicknames. Take the list home and, after dark, ask someone to help you find one of the constellations.

**NEXT  
WEEK  
CHAPTER  
FOUR  
Another  
Grandpa**