

Everybody Loves Jack

Chapter Four – by Russ and Kay Hively

Where was the dog? The little bed by the stove was empty.

Adam and Anna began searching for the dog. It was not in the house. The children ran outside and found Mama working in the garden. Adam asked what happened to the dog. Mama pointed to a ball of dark brown fur snoozing under a tree.

Adam could see that the dog had bandages on its two front paws and there were more bandages around its head and belly. When the kids petted the dog, it wagged its tail and licked their hands. The children decided to call the dog Jack.

Mama said Jack could walk, but she said he was still weak and needed more rest. She said he had eaten a little and had drunk water. Mama said Jack seemed to be doing much better now that his wounds had been cleaned and dressed.

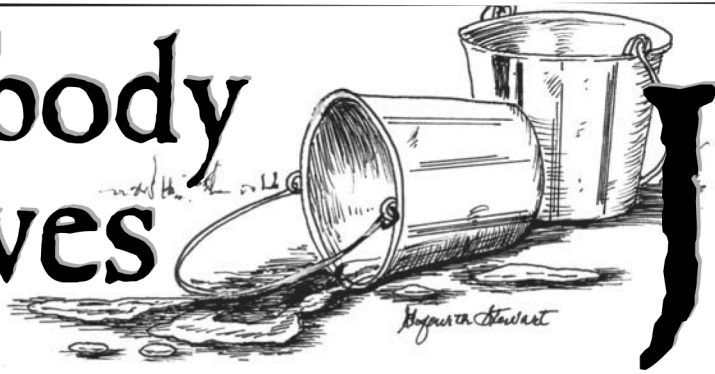
Mama told Adam and Anna to do their homework and their chores so they could help care for the dog. Adam had just started his chores when his father got home. Papa told Adam to hurry with his chores and then come to the chicken coop and help him build the new door. Adam held the boards straight while Papa drove nails into them. In almost no time a strong new door was ready to hang on the chicken coop.

When they were finished Papa and Adam put the chickens in the coop and locked them up for the night.

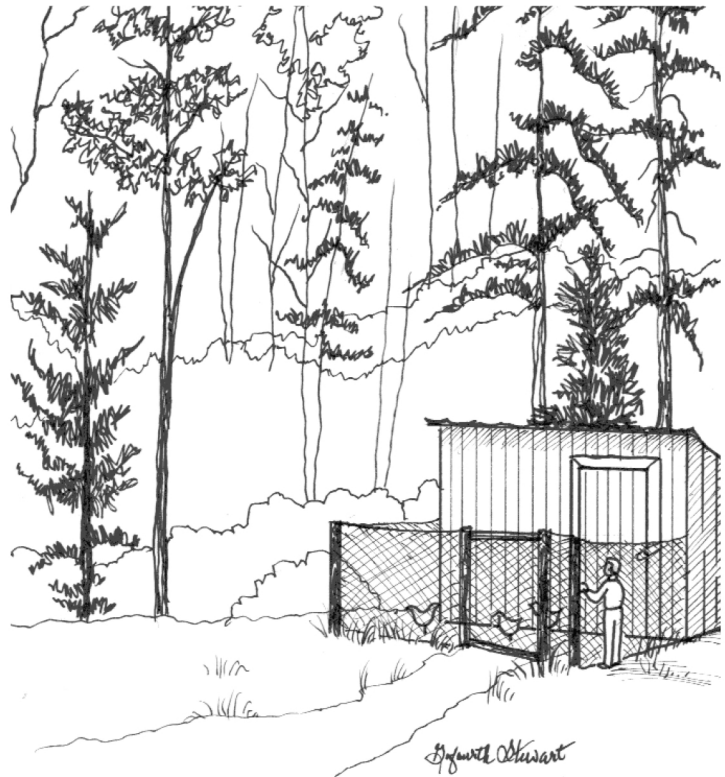
That night, by the light of a lamp, Adam read his schoolbook and practiced his spelling words. Only when he was finished was he allowed to see the dog. At supper time, Jack had walked into the house by himself and was resting by the stove. Adam really liked the dog. He was so warm and soft. He wished they could go outside and play, but Mama said the dog needed more rest.

Adam sat on the floor petting and talking to Jack until bedtime. Adam did not want to go to bed, but Mama said it was time. Slowly Adam trudged up the stairs and went to bed. He was not sure he would be able to sleep, but as soon as he lay down he passed out. It had been a big day.

The next morning Adam woke early. He and Anna dressed and hurried downstairs. Mama and Papa were sitting in the kitchen talking in Swedish again. When the children came into the room, the dog rose to its feet and rubbed his head against Anna's leg. Anna giggled and said it tickled. They all laughed. Even Jack seemed to laugh. Adam could see that everybody loved Jack.



Papa said that he had already opened the chicken coop this morning and all the chickens were safe. But, he said he had found two strangers in the chicken coop this morning. Adam's eyes popped wide open. Something had gotten in with the chickens again!



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Russ Hively lives in Newtonia, Missouri. Copyright 2005, Missouri Press Foundation.

Things to Think About and Do

- Adam and Papa built a door for the chicken coop. List what tools and supplies you would need if you had to build a door. Why would knowledge of math be important in building your door?
- Chickens live in a coop. What do you call the places where hogs, horses, lions, birds and rabbits live? Name some different structures where people live.