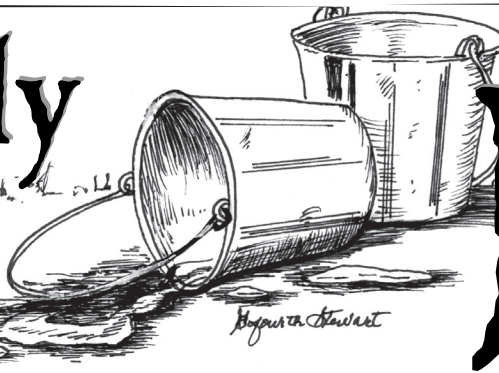


Everybody Loves

Loves



Jack

Chapter One – by Russ and Kay Hively

Adam Holms woke to the smell of eggs and bacon cooking on the stove. Sleepily, he climbed out of bed. Adam dressed, washed up and combed his blonde hair, which was cut short just like his father's. Adam, who was 11, called to Anna, his little sister, to be sure she was awake.

When Adam and Anna came down the stairs, Papa was already at the table, talking to Mama and stroking his beard with his big rough hands.

Papa and Mama had been born in Sweden. Papa had heard there were jobs cutting timber in the north woods of America. So, he and Mama emigrated to America in 1889. When their boat landed in New York City, they traveled to the north woods where Papa got a job in a Minnesota lumber mill. His job was to make boards and timbers.

Adam and Anna were born in Minnesota so Mama said that made them Americans and they should speak only English. Papa and Mama would always speak English to their children, but sometimes they spoke Swedish to each other.

When Adam got into the kitchen, Papa and Mama were talking in Swedish. Papa said that something got in the chicken coop last night and one of the chickens was missing. Papa asked Adam if he had heard anything in the night.

Both Adam and Anna said they heard nothing.

Whatever got in the chicken coop was strong enough to pull wire away from the posts. Papa said when he got home from work today he would build a door for the coop. He said now Adam would have to put the chickens away at night and lock the door when he did his chores.

Adam looked up from his breakfast and asked what kind of animal had gotten into the chicken coop. Papa said he didn't know. But he said the tracks were very big.

As Mama sat down to eat, she told Adam and Anna to keep a watch out while they were doing their chores and when they walked to school. Adam could see that his sister was scared, so he tried to be brave in front of her.

After breakfast, Adam went outside and looked at the chicken coop.

Although it was barely light, he saw where Papa had fixed the fence earlier that morning. The chickens didn't seem scared. They were scratching the dirt for something to eat.

Adam took the two tin pails he used to haul water and headed to the creek. As he walked along the path, Adam looked and listened for anything that seemed strange. About half way down to the creek, Adam heard a noise out in the brush. He stopped and stared into the thicket along the path.

Could it be the same animal that broke into the chicken coop? Suddenly, Adam froze where he was – afraid but also curious.



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

- What is an emigrant? Where did Papa and Mama come from? Many emigrants came through Ellis Island to get to America. On a map, find Ellis Island?
- How old is Adam? If Adam was born the year Papa and Mama emigrated, what year is it in the story? If Anna is 7 years old, what year was she born?

STANDARDS - G1:1; G3:5; SS:5; M:1

Next Week: Chapter Two – A wounded animal