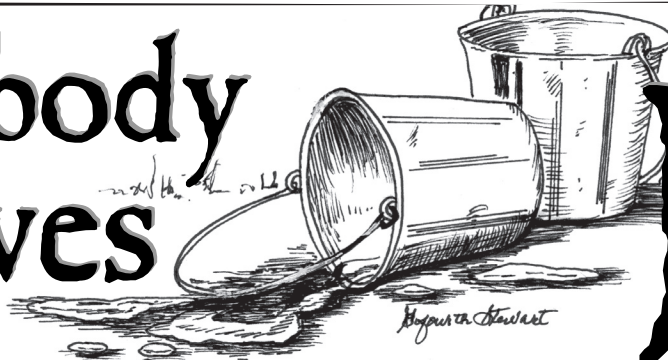


Everybody Loves

Jack



Chapter Seven – by Russ and Kay Hively

Adam jumped out of bed and headed downstairs, carrying his pants and shoes. Papa was already in the kitchen, loading his gun. He looked worried. Jack was at the door, growling and jumping up and down. Papa told Adam to stay in the kitchen and keep everyone in the house. When Papa opened the door, Jack dashed outside. Papa took the lantern and walked into the darkness.

For Adam, time seemed to stop. He wanted to go outside and see what was going on, but Papa had left him in charge of the house. As Adam waited, Mama came into the kitchen carrying a very sleepy Anna. Everyone could hear Jack barking, and then they heard a loud bang. Papa had fired the gun.

Adam sat in a chair, wanting very much to go outside and look for his father. Anna buried her head on Mama's shoulder. Then the door opened. Jack romped into the kitchen and jumped up on Adam's lap. Papa stepped through the door smiling.

Mr. Holms said that a wolverine had gotten through the fence around the chicken yard and was trying to get in the chicken house. Jack chased the wolverine back through the fence, then Papa shot at the animal as it ran away into the woods.

Adam asked Papa if he had shot the wolverine. Papa wasn't sure, but he said that between Jack and the gunshot, that creature would most likely look for his food somewhere else. Papa said, thanks to Jack, they did not lose another chicken and all was safe in the chicken house.

Adam looked at the brown dog sitting at his side. Happily, Adam gave Jack a big hug. Everyone petted Jack and talked about what had happened and how brave he was. After a few minutes, Anna and Adam were sent back to bed for the rest of the night.

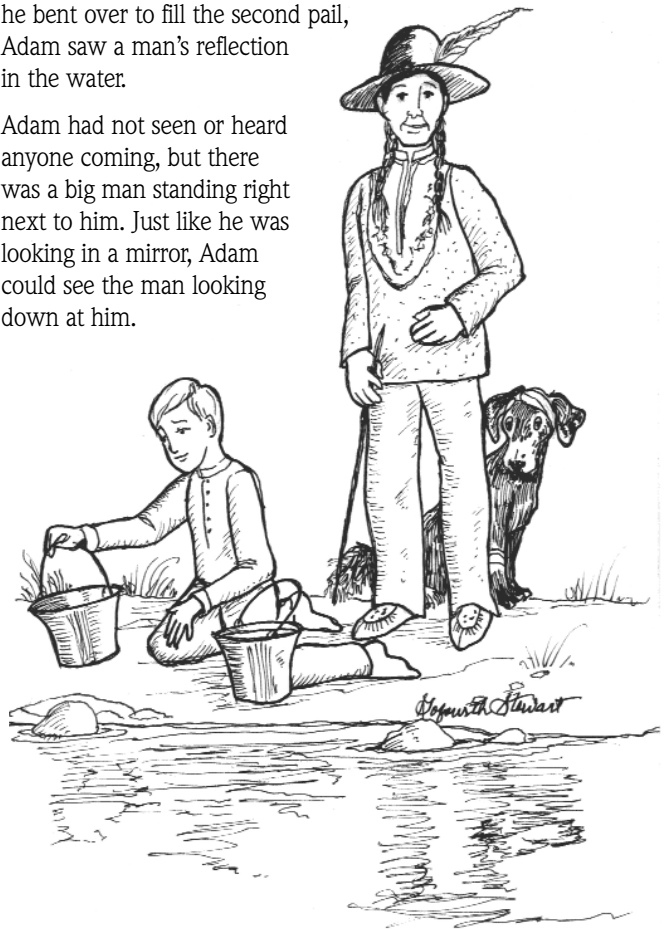
As Adam got under the covers he was so proud of Jack for saving the chickens. But he still wondered where the medicine and bandages had come from. There were still puzzles to solve.

The next morning Jack followed Adam as he did his chores. Adam was not as scared as he had been before. Now he knew the animal that had been bothering the chickens would probably not come back. Besides, Jack was with him today and Jack was brave.

As he always did, Adam picked up the two tin water pails and headed for the creek. This time Jack followed Adam down the path. When they got to the creek everything seemed normal. Adam dipped the first pail in the water and filled it. He set the pail on the creek bank and then picked up the other pail. When

he bent over to fill the second pail, Adam saw a man's reflection in the water.

Adam had not seen or heard anyone coming, but there was a big man standing right next to him. Just like he was looking in a mirror, Adam could see the man looking down at him.



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 a wolverine? What kinds of food do wolverines eat? What is the difference between a badger and a wolverine? (color, size and etc.)
- Is there a difference between a pail and a bucket? Is there a difference between a bag and a sack? Do you use either of these words or do you use a different word?

STANDARDS – G1:1; G1:5; S:3; CA:1

Next Week: Chapter Eight – Good-bye, Jack