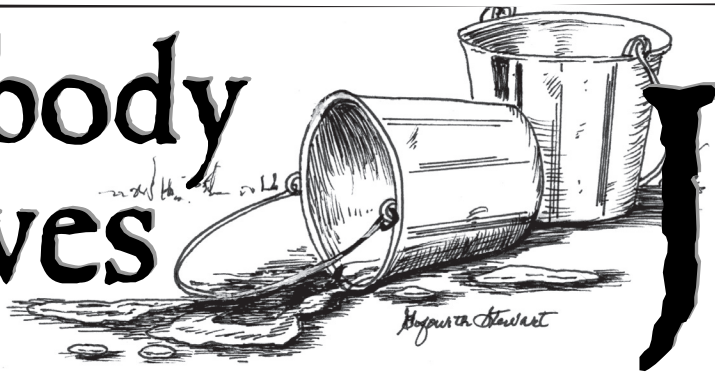


Everybody Loves

Loves



Jack

Chapter Three – by Russ and Kay Hively

Adam and Anna could only stare at the little bag that was hanging on the gate. Below the bag was a picture of a dog that had been drawn on the gate with a piece of charcoal. Adam walked up to the gate and looked closely at the bag. It was made of an animal skin that Adam had never seen before. Carefully he picked up the bag and looked inside. It was full of ground-up leaves that smelled funny. Adam and Anna went back to the house and showed Mama the bag. They told her about the picture of a dog on the gate.

Mama opened the bag, poured some of the leaves in her hand, and smelled them. Then she smiled and said the leaves were a medicine that some people use to help heal wounds. Mama said someone must have left it on the gate so she could treat the dog.

Adam asked who left it. Mama didn't know, but she said maybe Papa had told someone about the dog and that person had left the medicine. Mama looked at the big clock. She waved her hands and told Adam and Anna they had to get off to school. Then Mama walked with her children out to the gate and looked at the little drawing. Mama then gave Adam and Anna a second hug and kiss and said goodbye.

As the Holms kids walked to school, all they could talk about was the dog. The wounded dog gave them lots of mysteries to think about. Who did the dog belong to? What animal had taken the chicken? And where did the medicine bag come from? Adam was excited about all these puzzles and he wanted to know the answers to them.

When Adam and Anna got closer to the school house, they met other children who were also walking to school. They told their friends about what had happened that morning at home. By the time the school bell rang, all the children were talking about the mysteries.

All day long Adam could not think about anything but the dog and the medicine bag. He thought mostly about the dog. He wondered what it would be like to have a dog like the one Papa had found. When Adam should have been doing his arithmetic problems, he thought about all the things he and a dog could do together.

For Adam, today seemed like it was the longest school day ever. Finally school was dismissed. All the children picked up their belongings and headed out the door. As Adam started down the steps he heard the teacher call to him. She reminded him that tomorrow was his day to come early to ring the school bell.

Adam told his teacher he would not forget, then he and Anna ran all the way home. When they got to their house, they both went straight to the kitchen to see the dog. But the dog was gone!



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 was in the picture below the medicine bag? Did this drawing make clear who the medicine was for? Are pictures used today to communicate a message? List or draw some pictures you see that communicate a message.
- Adam and Anna walked to school. How do you get to school? List five ways people travel from one place to another.

Next Week: Chapter Four – A new door