

FREEDOM'S CIRCUS



Chapter Five – by Kay Hively

Sarah and Gabe had just finished their checker game when Poppa came through the kitchen door. He told Mamma that he had found no one around the boat. But Poppa said there were many places on the island to hide. He told everyone to stay by the cottage until the mystery of the little boat was solved.

Poppa put his arm around Sarah. He said he was sorry he did not believe she saw the monkey. He said it probably got on Lighthouse Island in that little boat. Sarah then told Poppa about seeing the monkey in the berry patch.

Poppa returned to his painting job and Mamma started cleaning the cottage. Sarah and Gabe played outside, but their parents told them to stay close to the house. Sarah took her dolls and made a playhouse near the front door.



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 2005.

Gabe put Prince in the woodshed, then sat in the dirt to play marbles. He made a large circle in the dirt and placed five marbles inside. Then he took his shooter and tried to knock the marbles out of the circle.

Sarah watched Poppa set up his ladder so he could paint higher up on the lighthouse. Mamma was busy going in and out of the cottage. She brought her beautiful rugs outside and spread them over a little fence to get sun and fresh air.

As she played with her dolls, Sarah also watched for ships. All morning long she saw only one, and it was far away. She could see only its black smoke.

While having a tea party with her dolls, Sarah heard her mother rattling dishes inside the cottage. That meant lunch would soon be ready. Sarah picked up her dolls, brushed the dirt off their clothes and boxed up her little dishes before going into the house. Mamma met her at the door and together they rang the dinner bell.

Seated around the table, the little family ate lunch. Poppa was very worried. He said no one should go anywhere alone. He said when the mail boat came in two days, they could send for authorities to come search the island.

Gabe asked why they couldn't just get in their own boat and go to the mainland. Poppa sat up very straight and told his son that the Callaway family had a responsibility on the island. Many ships and many lives counted on them. Poppa said they would not run away, they would stay and carry out their duties.

After everyone had eaten, Poppa went back to work. Sarah helped clean the kitchen while Gabe played with his toys. When the kitchen was clean, Sarah curled up in a big chair by a window to read. Mamma went outside to bring in her rugs.

Suddenly Sarah heard a loud scream. She jumped from her chair and raced outside. Mamma was standing in the yard with her hands on her hips. Poppa was running around the side of the cottage with his pistol in his hand.

But Mamma was not hurt. She was mad. Someone had stolen her two best rugs.

Learning Extensions – Things to Think About and Do

A. Plan a game time for your classroom. Learn to play marbles and checkers. Have a tournament for each game.

B. Make a map of Lighthouse Island. Include drawings of the lighthouse, the lightkeeper's cottage, the boathouse, the woodshed and even the berry patch.