

Good Morning, Mr. President

Chapter Five – by Kay Hively

After the hike, Peggy enjoyed the sandwiches her mother fixed. As she and Mike sat eating their lunch, a big BOOM rattled the cabin windows.

Mike and Peggy ran outdoors and looked up at the mountain. Dust and dirt filled the air. They knew that someone had set off a dynamite charge on the mountain. Maybe, Peggy thought, her father had set the charge. He knew all about blasting rocks with dynamite. After the dust and dirt cleared from the air, Peggy couldn't see much change in the rock.

While they were on their morning hike, she had seen the Keystone Boys standing in baskets or strapped into a harness while they worked. But no one was on the mountain now.

After lunch, Mrs. Jansen started working on her quilt. She told Mike and Peggy to find something useful to do. Even in summer, Mrs. Jansen said, children need to be learning. In school, children learn through books. But in summer she said they should learn through living.



Mike, who was only 7, didn't want to play checkers with Peggy. He wanted to roll his baseball off the cabin roof and practice catching. Since he planned to be a St. Louis Cardinal when he grew up, Mike practiced any time he could.

Left alone, Peggy decided to walk down to the main highway. Maybe she would find someone to play with in one of the cabins.

No one seemed to be at home at the Foster cabin. Then, as she strolled along, Peggy came to the little road that went down to the Potter place.

She paused and thought about strange old Mrs. Potter. Finally she decided it would be all right to walk down the road a short distance. That wouldn't hurt anything. And it would be nice to see where Mrs. Potter lived.

The road to Mrs. Potter's house was lined with trees. Peggy could see red arrows on the trees. The arrows all pointed toward the cabins. On both sides of the little road, many wildflowers were in bloom. Peggy didn't know the names of the flowers, but they were pretty. She told herself that on the way back, she would pick a bouquet for the supper table that night.

After going only a few steps, Peggy was spooked by a rabbit that bounded across her path. The rabbit seemed as startled as Peggy. With long strides, it scampered into the woods, waving good-bye with a flash of its white tail.

When the rabbit was out of sight, Peggy bent down and began gathering flowers. She mixed her bouquet with blossoms that were white, soft blue and bright yellow. She picked as many flowers as she could carry. She knew her mother would like them on the supper table.

When her arms were full of flowers, Peggy rose to her feet.

That's when she spotted the house. And what a house it was! Peggy had never seen one like it. Could it be old Mrs. Potter's house? Should she get closer for a better look?

Which way should she go? Back up to the cabin or down to the Potter place?

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Classroom Extensions

Things to Think About and Do –

- Mrs. Jansen said children should learn through living. What does that mean?
- Mike wants to be a St. Louis Cardinal. In what state is St. Louis? Measure the distance between Mount Rushmore and St. Louis.

STANDARDS – G1:2; SS7; SS6; M2

Next Week: Chapter Six – Meet Mrs. Potter