

Grandfather's Wish



Chapter Three by Kay Hively

After about an hour of walking, Miguel could see a small stream of water.

The water made its way down from the nearby hills and flowed across the meadow. Because it came from melting snow on the hilltops, Miguel knew it would be cold. But the sheep and the dogs didn't mind.

Senor Sanchez forded the stream first. He was followed by the sheep and the dogs. Miguel was the last one to cross, making sure no one was left behind.

When everyone was safely across the little waterway, Miguel's father laid his pack down beside a large rock on the edge of the meadow. This was where they would spend the day.

Miguel and his father sat down and leaned against the rock. Now that the walk had ended, the sheep were allowed to graze. Hector and Gogo each found a resting place where they could keep an eye on the flock. Although there seemed to be nothing but peace in the meadow, the two dogs watched the flock closely. Any sound made both dogs rise to their feet for a better look.

From their places by the big rock, Miguel and his father could see the sheep as they moved slowly over the meadow. If one of the flock began to wander too far away, Senor Sanchez would call to one of the dogs.

Immediately the dog would bring the sheep back where it belonged. Miguel's father told him that Hector had once fought a mountain lion to protect the sheep.

Classroom Extensions Things to Think About and Do -

- A. What is a tortilla? Have you ever eaten one? Visit a Mexican restaurant and see how many kinds of tortilla are served.
- B. What is the official name of the Thunderbird? Why do you think Senor Sanchez did not seem worried about his sheep?

STANDARDS – G1:3; G1:9; SS6; CA7

Next Week: Chapter Four - No Fish for Miguel

When the sun stood high in the sky, Miguel's father said it was time to eat. Taking the food prepared for the dogs, Miguel fed Hector and Gogo.

Then he took them, one at a time, to the stream for a drink. Even though the two dogs ate heartily, they never took their eyes off the flock.

With the dogs fed and watered, Miguel and his father ate the lunch that Miguel's mother had packed for them. Senora Sanchez knew that her son liked cheese in his tortillas, so he was happy to find two tortillas filled with beans and cheese.

When he had filled his stomach, Miguel leaned against the rock and bathed himself in the midday sun. Just as he was about to fall asleep, Miguel heard Hector growl. He knew right away that something was wrong.

Miguel looked all around but saw nothing threatening. Then Gogo began to growl. Both dogs got to their feet and began to move in a circle around the flock. The sheep were also nervous. Miguel asked his father what was wrong.



Senor Sanchez said that Hector and Gogo had seen the great Thunderbird.

Pointing to the sky, Miguel's father showed his son a giant bird floating above the meadow with its wings spread out wide.

Miguel did not understand why his father sat calmly against the rock while the Thunderbird circled above the flock. The bird was very big. Miguel was sure it could easily carry away one of the lambs.

Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Produced in partnership with this newspaper and the Missouri Press Foundation with support from Verizon Foundation. Copyright 2002.