

HANNAH'S DIARY

A Tale Of The Pony Express

Chapter Two – by Kay Hively

For two days, Hannah helped her mother around the house. All the time she worked, she still thought about Betsy. She wondered if her friend had seen any Indians yet or was crossing a desert.

Then one morning, while Hannah was carrying a basket of wet clothes out to the clothes line, she saw a big wagon coming down the street. At first, she thought it was the Jenkins family and that Betsy had come back.

But then, Hannah saw a man and a boy in the big wagon. She did not know either of them.

The wagon stopped at the house where Betsy used to live. The man and the boy jumped off the wagon seat and began unloading furniture into the house. Hannah had new neighbors.

While she hung the wet clothes on the line in the backyard, Hannah could watch what happened at the house next door. To her disappointment, there were no girls, only a mother, a father and a boy.

When Mr. Evans came home for lunch, Hannah's mother told him the news. She said when the dishes were washed and the clothes were brought in from the line, she and Hannah would call on the new neighbors.

After wrapping two loaves of bread in a cloth, Mrs. Evans called to Hannah and they walked down the street to Betsy's old house.

Only the mother was home when Hannah and Mrs. Evans knocked on the door. Hannah thought the woman who answered the door was beautiful, and she seemed very happy to have visitors. She thanked Hannah's mother for the bread, saying it was a very nice present.



The woman said her name was Sarah Cole. She invited Hannah and her mother into her house to sit and visit. Hannah found a small chair and listened as the women talked.

Hannah didn't hear everything that was said. She was too busy looking at all the nice things in the house. But she did hear the woman say that her husband would be working for the Pony Express.

Hannah did not know what the Pony Express was. That night she wrote in her diary,:

“Dear Diary, I met Mrs. Cole today. She is very nice. Maybe not as nice as Betsy's mother. She and her family moved here from St. Louis. Mr. Cole will work at some place called the Pony Express. I don't know what that is. Maybe it is a saloon. I still miss Betsy and hope she is all right.”



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Classroom Extensions

Things to Think About and Do –

- A. Why did Hannah take wet clothes outside and hang them on a line? What did Hannah's mother wrap the bread in? Why didn't she wrap the bread in foil or plastic wrap?
- B. Hannah did not know about the Pony Express. What do you know about the Pony Express? Write a prediction about what you think the Pony Express will be.

Next Week: Chapter Three – Hannah sees the riverboats.