

HANNAH'S DIARY

A Tale Of The Pony Express

Chapter Four – by Kay Hively

In September Hannah had her 12th birthday. She also started back to school in the fifth grade. As much as she loved school, Hannah again felt sad that Betsy had gone to California. Until this year, the two girls had walked to school together and had helped each other with homework every night.

Betsy was good in arithmetic. Hannah was better at reading and spelling.

This year at school, Hannah heard many of the children talking about about the Pony Express. Everyone said the Pony Express would start delivering letters in the spring. Hannah hoped to have a letter to Betsy on the first pony that left for California.

Because his father was working for the Pony Express company, Robert Cole was very popular in school. All the boys dreamed of being a Pony Express rider, so they wanted to be friends with Robert.

Like his friends, Robert wanted to be a Pony Express rider. He longed for adventure. He also loved horses and was an excellent rider. Robert didn't have a horse at home, but he spent his free time at the stables where his father worked.

Just to be close to the horses, Robert cleaned the stalls and did other chores around the office and stables. His father allowed him to ride one of the horses around the corral as payment for his work.

Robert's father did not think his son should be a Pony Express rider. But Robert was determined. He even thought about asking his father's boss for a job.

Mr. Alexander Majors was one of the men who owned the Pony Express. He often stopped to visit with Robert's father about the business. Everyone said Mr. Majors was a kind man.



When he saw Mr. Majors at the stables, Robert would mount one of the ponies and ride around so everyone could see what a good horseman he was. Robert was sure Mr. Majors would give him a job if he asked.

Hannah did not care to ride a horse, but she was glad to know the Pony Express would soon carry the mail from St. Joseph to California.

She wrote in her diary:

“Dear Diary, Soon I will be able to write to Betsy. I have so many things to tell her. I hope she will write me back. Robert Cole wants to be a Pony Express rider. He is very good on a horse, but he is not very big.”



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Classroom Extensions

Things to Think About and Do –

- Hannah was good in reading and spelling. Make a spelling list, using only words found in this chapter of the story.
- Robert could ride a horse very well. Do you know anyone who rides a horse? Have you ever been to a rodeo? List five things you can see at a rodeo?

Next Week: Chapter Five – The Showboat comes to town!