



Chapter Eight - by Kay Hively

Little Bear worked beside his father's lodge, helping his mother prepare the fish. There was much work to do. Salmon were piled high on the ground. Because his father would be gone for two days, Little Bear had to work hard. As he worked, Little Bear dreamed of becoming a man. He wanted to be a fisherman like his father.

While he was working and thinking, Little Bear heard horses coming down the riverbank.

"Here they come," he thought. Little Bear knew this must be the white men who were traveling through the country. Word about Captain Lewis and Captain Clark had come down river only yesterday.

Soon the white men passed by on horses. Then, not far away, they stopped and began making a camp. Little Bear could see the men moving about. He saw them bring great logs to the camp. That meant they would be making canoes. Before night fell, two of the white men came to the lodge to buy fish. They said some of their men were sick and needed food. Little Bear's mother traded many pieces of salmon for a small bag of brightly colored beads, a blanket and some bright red ribbon.

The next morning Little Bear and his mother once again worked on the fish. Because the white men had traded for so much, their work was soon finished. All around the lodge, fish dried in the sun.

With the work done, Little Bear went to visit the white men's camp. Some of the men were still sick, but others were carving the great logs. One of the men spoke so Little Bear could understand. He said the men were eager to finish the canoes so they could continue their journey to the great salt water.

Little Bear was puzzled. If the men were in a hurry, why were they carving the great logs? Even with their long knives, it was slow work. Little Bear asked why they didn't use fire to burn away the wood. This was the way his father made canoes.

The man who could understand listened to Little Bear. Then he talked to the leaders of the white men. Soon, the men carried flaming sticks from the campfire and began burning the thick logs.

Before the end of the day, five canoes were almost ready to put into the water. The man who was called Captain Clark sat down beside Little Bear. Through the interpreter, the captain thanked the boy for his help. He was happy that he and his men would be able to start down river the next day. Then Captain Clark gave Little Bear a box full of metal fish hooks. Little Bear had never seen fish hooks like the ones in the little box. He could hardly wait to show his father. It was the best gift he had ever gotten. It would make him a better fisherman.



Classroom Extensions Things to Think About and Do -

- A. Learn how to write a news story, then pretend you are a newspaper reporter. Write a news story about what the Lewis and Clark expedition is doing in this chapter. What is the difference between a news story and a human interest or feature story?
- B. There are several kinds of canoes. Lewis and Clark were making dugout canoes. Using paper or other art supplies, make a canoe and decorate it with an Indian symbol.

STANDARDS – G1:1; G1:5; G2:7; G2:1; CA1; CA3; CA4; FA1; FA2; SS6

Next Week: Chapter Nine - Beautiful horses

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