



Chapter Ten - by Kay Hively

Every day when the fishing nets were repaired, West Wind visited the fort. The white men there had become his friends. They let him inside the fort to watch them work. He liked watching the one called John Shields.

Using white men's tools and a hot fire, this man could make things of metal. He could also make parts for broken guns.

Today, work on the nets finished early so West Wind walked through the forest to Fort Clatsop. There was much excitement at the fort. Two Indians who live by the salt water had told Captain Clark that a great fish had washed up on the beach. The captain was getting men ready to go and bring back meat and fat from the big fish.

As the men made ready, Sacagawea came to Captain Clark. She spoke hard and loud. West Wind could see anger and fire in her eyes, but he could not understand what she was saying. West Wind watched as Captain Clark smiled at Sacagawea and patted her on the head. Though still excited, Sacagawea stopped talking.

John Shields told West Wind that Sacagawea demanded to go see the big fish. Bird Woman said that she had come many miles with the men and deserved to see the great fish and the great salt water. Captain Clark approved Sacagawea's demand to take her baby and go with her husband Charbonneau and the white men.

Even though he had seen the salt water many times, West Wind went along with John Shields. They left the fort immediately and made it to the beach in a short time.

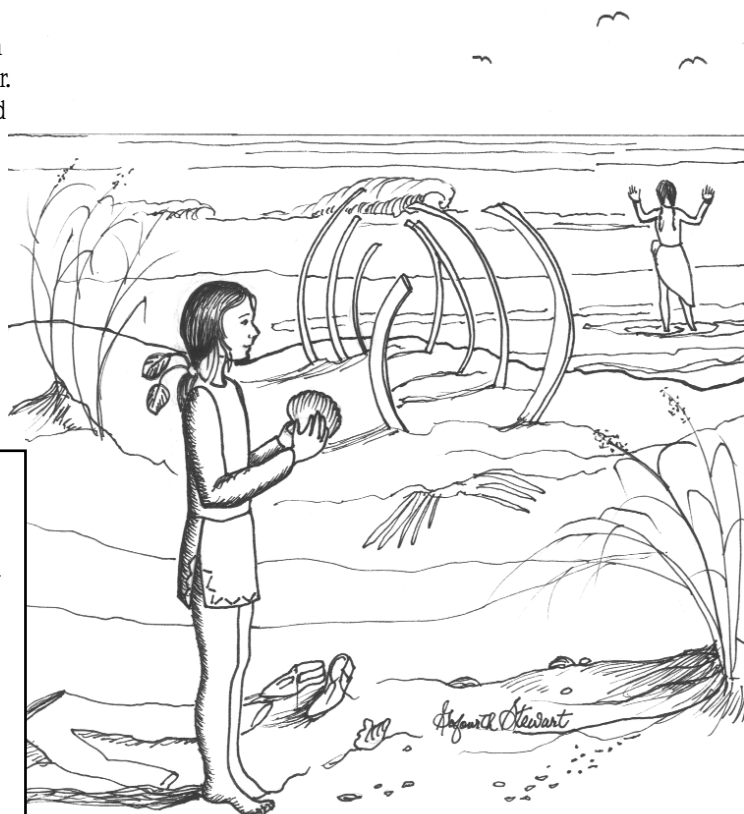
Soon, West Wind saw Captain Clark and the others nearing the beach. "Here they come," he told Shields.

When Captain Clark got to the beach, he was disappointed. All that was left of the great fish were its bones. The men stopped to examine the bones. But West Wind followed Sacagawea down to the ocean. As Sacagawea neared the water which was rushing on to shore, she removed her moccasins and gently stepped into the surf.

As the waves washed over her feet, Sacagawea raised her arms and looked into the sky to give thanks. Once her prayer was over, she held her moccasins high over her head with one hand, lifted her dress with her other hand and began walking down the beach.

West Wind watched in silence as Sacagawea walked in the sea. It was the most beautiful sight he had ever seen. For the first time in his young life, West Wind looked at his neighbor, the great water, and realized that it was a wonderful gift.

As he watched Bird Woman wrap herself in the beauty of the waters, West Wind vowed to love nature's gifts as much as Sacagawea did.



Classroom Extensions

Things to Think About and Do -

- What do you call someone who makes things of metal in a hot fire? What is a forge? Find and read the poem "The Village Blacksmith." Memorize the poem and recite it to your class or to your parents or to some other group of people.
- Which ocean did West Wind and the others go to see? Why did Lewis and Clark name their home on the coast Fort Clatsop? Using a map, measure how far it is from St. Louis to Fort Clatsop?

Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Produced in partnership with this newspaper and the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2003.

Next Week: Chapter Eleven - Leaving a mark