



Chapter Eleven - by Kay Hively

Little Antelope was eager to tell his father about the buffalo herd. He guided his pony along the river of yellow stones. By traveling along the river, Little Antelope never got lost. From a long distance up and down the river, he could see the great hill close to his village. The hill was his guide.

But today, as he came near the great hill, Little Antelope came upon some white strangers with boats. Before he could ride away, the men called to Little Antelope.

Trying to be brave, Little Antelope spoke to the strangers. One of them talked in a way that Little Antelope could understand. He said their leader, Captain Clark, saw the great rock and wanted to explore it. Looking up at the rock, Little Antelope saw three men on top of it.

The men on shore were cooking. They invited him to stay and eat with them. They told Little Antelope that Captain Clark would like to meet him. Little Antelope accepted the invitation.

While he waited, Little Antelope watched the men climb down off the hill. Many times they stumbled, but did not fall. When the climbers reached the bottom, one of the cooks called out, "Here they come."

The man who spoke with Little Antelope introduced him to the captain. The captain sat down by Little Antelope and asked many questions. Sometimes he took a small stick out of his pocket and made strange marks on white leaves.

Little Antelope liked Captain Clark. He told the captain that Indians called the hill "Place where mountain lion dwells." He

also said that Indians cut their names into the stone. Little Antelope said someday he would like to carve his name high up on the rock.

Captain Clark said they should go high up the rock together and put their names side by side. Soon the two climbed up the rock until they found a ledge big enough for them both. Captain Clark handed Little Antelope a knife to carve his name. Carefully, the boy made an antelope. Then Captain Clark carved his name. Little Antelope could not understand the words, but they looked very nice.

When they finished, the two shook hands and climbed down. Once on the ground, the two new friends shook hands once again. Then Captain Clark gave Little Antelope the knife they had used on the rock.

Little Antelope stayed long enough to watch Captain Clark and the other men put out their campfire and make ready to leave. As the boats moved out of sight, Little Antelope suddenly remembered that he had news of a buffalo herd. He dug his heels into his pony's side and galloped away. He had more than buffalo to tell his father about – and he could hardly wait to get home.



Classroom Extensions Things to Think About and Do -

- The rock that Captain Clark climbed is near Billings, Montana. Using a map, locate the rock. (It is also called a tower.) Who was it named for? How tall and how big around is this famous rock?
- The carving that Captain Clark made on this rock is the only known mark that was left by anyone on the expedition. What did Captain Clark write on the rock? Write a short essay telling why it is not good now to carve our names on things. Define graffiti.

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 Twelve - Home Again!