



Chapter Twelve - by Kay Hively

Andy Bates stacked another big crate in the wagon bed. Picking up freight for his father's store was his favorite job. He liked meeting the steamboats, and there was always excitement on the docks.

To rest his sore back, Andy stood up tall in the wagon. As he reared back, he could see another boat coming down river. It was an unusual looking boat, followed by three canoes. A large black object rode in the bow of the boat.

Andy focused his eyes on the boat which was fast approaching the St. Louis docks. Suddenly he recognized the big black dog that he had seen more than two years ago. Jumping from the wagon, Andy let out a mighty shout, "Here they come! It's Lewis and Clark!"

Andy had never forgotten the time he met Captains Lewis and Clark and the great dog, Seaman. Hardly a day had gone by that he didn't think of them and wonder what they were doing.

Many people who came to his father's store talked about Lewis and Clark. Most people believed they had all been lost.

As the long-awaited expedition sailed into St. Louis, the men on the boat fired a shot from their big gun. It was a salute to the city and an announcement that Lewis and Clark had returned.

Word spread quickly. By the time Andy reached the dock where the expedition landed, almost everyone in town was running down to riverside. Andy rushed to the first boat where the big dog stood in the bow. Seaman began barking when Andy called his name.

Captain Meriwether Lewis stepped to the front of the boat and stood by his dog. He spoke briefly to the crowd, saying the journey had been a great success. Only one member of the expedition, Sergeant Floyd, had died of an illness, but everyone else had returned safely.

The crowd cheered at almost every word spoken by Captain Lewis. Then Captain Clark came forward and the entire city applauded the two great explorers.

With the boat securely tied, the first one to come on shore was Seaman. The big black Newfoundlander raced around to the front of the boat and began licking Andy's outstretched hand.

Soon, Captains Lewis and Clark made their way through the crowd. Both stopped to shake hands with Andy. Smiling broadly, Andy welcomed them home, saying he had never given up on them. He knew they would come back. The two great men thanked Andy for his faith in them. Then Captain Lewis called to Seaman. Andy rubbed the big dog's head and said, "I'm glad you're back, too. I wish I could hear all the stories you have to tell."

Andy watched as Captains Lewis and Clark and Seaman made their way up the riverbank to the little government office. There they would deliver an official report on their great American Odyssey.



Classroom Extensions Things to Think About and Do -

- Pretend you lived in St. Louis in 1806 when Lewis and Clark returned. Write a letter to a friend, telling about the return of the expedition. Tell how excited people were and tell what people said to Lewis and Clark. Tell how you felt.
- Make a Lewis and Clark poster. Include some of the people, places and events from the expedition. Find a place in your school to display all the posters made by students in your class.

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