



Here They Come!

Chapter Five - by Kay Hively

Prairie Rose wrapped a fur over her mouth and nose. It was cold and windy outside, but she was going to visit Sacagawea and baby Jean Baptiste.

Every day since the baby had come, Prairie Rose had visited the lodge of Charbonneau and his family. Sacagawea was always happy when Prairie Rose came to see the baby. Sacagawea talked while she cooked and sewed. She even showed Prairie Rose how to work leather. Sometimes they talked about the explorers who were spending the winter nearby. Sacagawea even told Prairie Rose how Captain Lewis helped at the birth of Jean Baptiste.

When Prairie Rose arrived at the Charbonneau lodge, Jean Baptiste was asleep in his rabbit fur bed. So Prairie Rose and Sacagawea began sewing leather for a new moccasin.

As the two worked, they heard voices outside. Sacagawea peeked through a small opening. She whispered that Captain Lewis and Captain Clark were talking to Charbonneau. Suddenly Sacagawea came back to the center of the lodge and whispered, "Here they come."

Prairie Rose moved to a dark corner of the lodge. From there, she saw Charbonneau enter the lodge, followed by Captains Lewis and Clark. She heard the white men ask Sacagawea to go west with them to the ocean. They said she could help them in Shoshone country, where she had been born. They said she and Charbonneau could take their son, Jean Baptiste, with them.

Sacagawea and Charbonneau talked quietly together, then Sacagawea agreed to go on the trip to the great water. Captain Lewis thanked her for her decision. Then he reached inside his coat and brought out a beautiful blanket. He gave it to Sacagawea, saying it was for

the baby's long trip. When Charbonneau and the two white men left the lodge, Prairie Rose came out of the shadows. She threw her arms around Sacagawea, saying she would miss her and Jean Baptiste if they went away. Sacagawea put her arms around Prairie Rose and promised to think of her every day. She said it would be a great adventure, and a way to see her homeland again. She promised to return safely.

The following day, when Prairie Rose went to visit, she took a gift for Sacagawea. To keep it a surprise, the 7-year-old girl put it under her little buffalo robe. After she sat down to sew, Prairie Rose presented the gift. Sacagawea's eyes lit up when she saw the cradle board. Prairie Rose said it was the one she had as a baby. Now, the little girl said, she wanted Jean Baptiste to use the cradle board on the trip west.

Taking the board, Sacagawea wrapped it in the new blanket that Captain Lewis had given her. Then she placed her sleeping son inside. This time, it was Prairie Rose whose eyes lit up in delight. Somehow she knew that both Sacagawea and Jean Baptiste would survive their great journey and return to the village.



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.

Classroom Extensions

Things to Think About and Do -

- Pretend you are Sacagawea. Write a letter to Prairie Rose, telling about your trip with Lewis and Clark. Include something about Jean Baptiste, riding on a keelboat, and about some of the animals you may have seen.
- Jean Baptiste was born in North Dakota in February. Find the average temperature in North Dakota in February. What is the average February temperature where you live?

Next Week: Chapter Six - The Portage