



Here They Come!

Chapter Seven - by Kay Hively

"Here they come!" could be heard coming from many lips. Nearly everyone in the village hurried out to meet the visitors. But Sweet Berry walked shyly beside her big sister, Yellow Flower.

One group of white men had already come to the village. Now a bigger party was coming. Sweet Berry peeked around Yellow Flower's dress. She was curious about the men – but also afraid. She had never seen men like this before.

Many of the villagers walked close to the strangers. But Sweet Berry hung back. Then, without any warning, she heard Yellow Flower cry out and run toward the men marching into camp.

Sweet Berry lost hold of her sister's dress and was left alone. She could only watch as Yellow Flower plunged into the crowd of strange men. Sweet Berry saw her sister throw her arms around an Indian woman who walked with the strangers. The two women shouted loudly and embraced. Tears flowed down their faces.

Then with their arms still wrapped around each other, the two women came to Sweet Berry. The stranger carried a small child on her back. Yellow Flower introduced the woman as Sacagawea, who was also called Bird Woman. Yellow Flower said that she and Sacagawea had once been best friends.

With much happiness, they all walked to a lean-to made of willow branches and sat down together. The women talked. Sweet Berry played with Sacagawea's baby.

Late in the day, one of the white men came to Sacagawea, saying she was needed to translate for Captain Lewis and Captain Clark.

Yellow Flower and Sweet Berry begged to take care of the baby while Sacagawea was gone to the chief's council. The baby's name

was Jean Baptiste, but everyone called him "Pomp." The two babysitters bounced Pomp on their laps and fed him from their cook pot.

After about two hours, Sacagawea returned to the lean-to. Once again, her face was streaked with tears. Sweet Berry was afraid something bad had happened. But Sacagawea said they were tears of joy. She told them that while she was translating for the white men, she had recognized the village chief as Cameahwait, her brother.

Sacagawea and Cameahwait had been separated years ago when another tribe kidnapped Sacagawea. Now the brother and sister were together again for a happy reunion.

Sweet Berry hoped Sacagawea would stay in their village with her old friends and her brother. But Sacagawea said her home was with her husband and her baby. She said she was happy to visit her old home and her own people, but now she must live in another place. As Sweet Berry listened to Sacagawea tell about her life and her travels, she realized that Bird Woman was very special. Sweet Berry hoped that one day she would lose her shyness and become as brave and noble as Sacagawea.



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Classroom Extensions

Things to Think About and Do -

- Sacagawea is the most honored woman in the United States. Using maps, almanacs and encyclopedia, find all the things you can which were named in her honor. Make this a contest for your classroom. See who can find and describe the most things named for Sacagawea.
- Using a good dictionary, learn the definition and how to spell these words from this chapter: 1. Lean-to 2. Translate 3. Willow 4. Council 5. Noble

Next Week: Chapter Eight - Let's Fish!