



Chapter Four - by Kay Hively

The ground felt warm as the young boy lay down in the dirt. He broke a small twig off the bush he hid behind. Then, straining his eyes, he searched for movement on the big river.

Suddenly, someone shouted, "Here they come!"

At that moment, a strange looking red boat rounded a bend in the river. Following behind came two more boats. The boy lying on the ground had never seen anything like what was coming up the river.

What an exciting day it was for this young member of the Yankton Sioux tribe. Just as the sun came over the hill that morning, his mother had given birth to a baby. The boy who lay watching the river thought it was good to have a brother. Now he might get a name of his own. He had always been called Son-of-His-Father. But his father had promised to give him a real name when another child was born.

Son-of-His-Father watched as the three boats landed on shore. He could see his father and many of the other Yankton men greeting the fair-skinned strangers. After a few moments, the Yanktons and some of the boatmen began making their way up the hill to the village.

Jumping to his feet, Son-of-His-Father ran back home to wait for the strangers. Sitting beside the tepee, he could hear his mother singing to the new baby. Then he saw the strangers come into camp. Many of the villagers crowded around the men from the boat. Son-of-His-Father held back and stayed by the tepee.

At last the boy saw his father take the arm of a stranger and bring him toward the tent. When the two men approached the tepee, they stopped. To his surprise, the boy heard his father tell the stranger that his son's name was Little Buffalo.

Son-of-His-Father smiled broadly. He was pleased to have a name of his own. The name Little Buffalo would serve him well until he performed an act of bravery and earned a warrior name.

Without another word, the two men entered the tepee. Little Buffalo could hear the voices of his father, his mother and the stranger. He could also hear the soft cry of his new brother.

After a few minutes, Little Buffalo opened the tent flap and went inside. As his eyes adjusted to the darkness, he saw his father give the baby to the stranger. The stranger had a red, white and blue cloth which he wrapped around the baby.

Little Buffalo did not know that the cloth was an American flag. He did not understand that the stranger had symbolically made the baby a citizen of the United States. He did not understand the stranger's words when he predicted that the baby would become a man of peace.

But it all came true, and Little Buffalo was there when Captain Meriwether Lewis wrapped his brother in an American flag.



Classroom Extensions Things to Think About and Do -

- Little Buffalo lived in a tepee. Draw an Indian village and decorate the tepees. What symbols did the Yankton Sioux put on their tents? Design a new symbol that you like.
- When the new baby in this story grew up, his name was Struck-by-the-Ree. Learn what this name meant, and learn what happened to this baby. If you could name an Indian boy or girl, what name would you give him or her? Why?

Next Week: Chapter Five - Sacagawea

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