

# Hooked on Horses



## Chapter Two by Kay Hively

As the train pulled into the station in Mexico, Missouri, Suzanne saw her grandparents. When the train came to a stop, Suzanne hurried down the steps and was immediately wrapped in the arms of her grandmother and grandfather. The truck with their furniture was not to arrive for two more days, so Suzanne's family stayed with her grandparents. Suzanne was happy to be in the big farmhouse where her grandparents lived.

From her grandparents' porch, Suzanne could see the house where she would live. There were big trees in the front yard and a little barn in the backyard. Suzanne thought the barn looked like a wonderful place for a horse. On her first day, Suzanne's grandfather took her out to the corral behind his barn. He introduced her to Bill and Babe. Bill was a chestnut horse with a blaze of white on his forehead. Babe was a gentle little dapple gray mare.

As Suzanne reached over the fence to pet the big chestnut, the little gray mare nuzzled up to the fence and brushed the big horse's head to one side. Grandfather laughed as the little mare pushed the big chestnut horse out of her way. He said that meant Babe had laid claim to Suzanne. The big horse would have to find another friend.

Suzanne was thrilled to make friends so quickly. Even though Babe belonged to Grandfather, Suzanne knew right away that she would soon be riding the little gray horse.

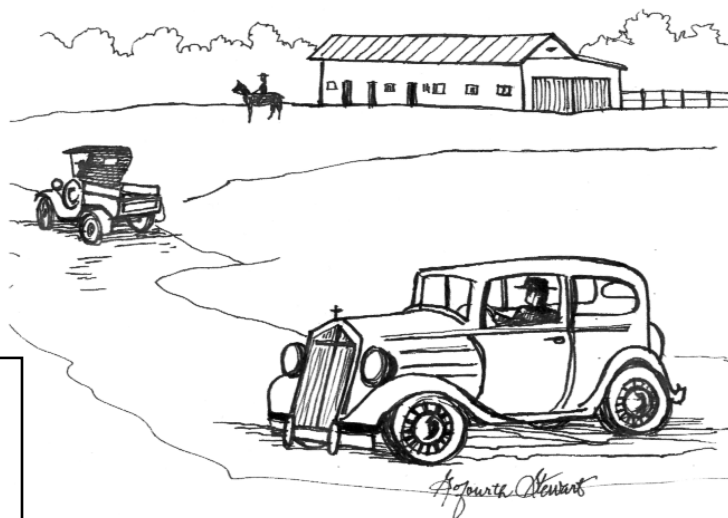
Tomorrow, Grandfather promised, he would put a saddle on Babe and Suzanne could have her first ride. He said they could ride on the farm or they could ride down the road all the way to town.

Later that day, Suzanne's father and grandfather went to town in the old truck. When they returned, Grandfather was driving the truck, but Suzanne's father was driving a brand new 1934 Chevrolet. Suzanne's father blasted on the horn and invited everyone to go for a ride.

Suzanne sat in the back seat between her mother and grandmother. She loved the new car. It was very big, and it smelled nice. Her father guided the car into town and drove around the city square. Suzanne's mother accused him of trying to show off.

When the family left the square and started back to the farm, they passed by a large stable. From her place in the back seat, Suzanne could see several horses. As she raised herself up for a better look, she heard her grandfather say something about Tom Bass.

Suzanne didn't know who Tom Bass was, but if that was his stable he must have a lot of horses, she thought. He might even have one for sale.



## Classroom Extensions

### Things to Think About and Do -

- Bill is described as a "chestnut" horse. What does that mean? Babe is "dapple gray." What does that mean? See if you can find a picture of a chestnut horse and a dapple gray horse.
- What color do you think the new car was? How many went riding on that trip into town? How were cars different in 1934 than today?

*Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Produced in partnership with this newspaper and the Missouri Press Foundation with support from Verizon Foundation. Copyright 2002.*

**Next Week: Chapter Three – How to Get a Horse?**