



MADIELINE'S MARVELOUS WEEK

CHAPTER THREE - by Kay Hively

The loud sound that struck Madeline's ears when she got out of the carriage was coming from a huge bell. But it was not the sound of a bell that caught Maddie's real attention. It was a flower bed that brought joy and surprise to her face.

Maddie had seen flower beds before. Mama had a flower bed that bloomed all summer long. Maddie and her mother often picked bouquets from their flower bed. Every summer and fall, the Fischer family dined at a table made lovely by flowers from Mama's garden.

But the flower bed that Madeline was looking at in front of the Agricultural Palace was beyond words. It was much bigger than Mama's flower bed. In fact, it was bigger than their entire house back in Nebraska.

After Maddie looked closer, she realized she was seeing more than just a flower bed. The big bed of flowers was actually a giant clock. Everything, even the numbers on the clock, was made of flowers. Maddie could see the minute hand moving slowly around the dial. Everyone wanted to stay and look at the clock, but Papa had to get inside the building and find his work station.

Madeline and her parents walked around the great clock, making their way toward the building. As she walked along with her parents, Maddie could not take her eyes off the clock. Everywhere she looked there were beautiful flowers, and the giant moving hand was fascinating.

When the family reached the doors of the Agricultural Palace, they hurried inside to find the place where Papa would be working. Maddie's father was a salesman for a big farm machinery company. He had come to Saint Louis to help the company display its new equipment.

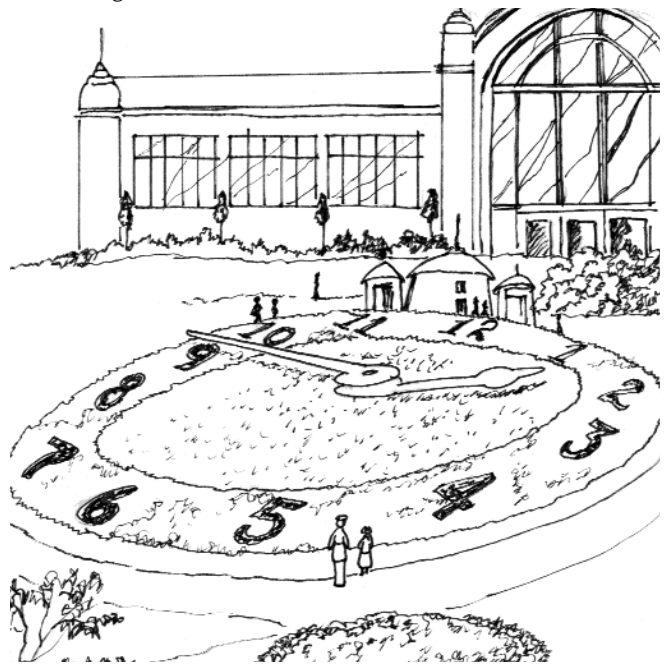
Quickly, Papa gave Maddie and Mama a kiss and told them to have fun at the fair, and to be careful out by themselves.

Once outside again, Maddie and Mama could see dozens of people strolling around the floral clock, admiring its beauty. The clock had been built into a mound of dirt so it could easily be viewed, even from a far distance.

As Maddie and Mama stood by the clock admiring its beauty, a young man with garden tools came to work in the flower beds. He tipped his cap and said good morning. Before he stepped into the flower bed, the young man turned to Mama and asked if she liked the clock. Mama said it was the most beautiful thing she had ever seen.

The young man said his name was Max. He said his job was to take care of the flowers. Then he invited Mama and Maddie to walk around the clock with him so he could tell them about the flowers and about the clock. Maddie was thrilled with the invitation. It would be a special treat to be escorted by the man who made the great clock bloom so beautifully.

Excitedly, Maddie took Mama's hand and off they set on their tour of the great floral clock.



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Goforth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Copyright 2005, Missouri Press Foundation.

CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS

Things to Think About and Do

- Have you ever seen a floral clock? Using colored pencils or crayons, design a floral clock and make a list of your favorite flowers. Use Roman Numerals for the numbers on your clock.
- Many clocks have numbers in Roman Numerals. Write Roman Numerals from 1 to 50. Use an encyclopedia or search the internet if you do not know how to write Roman Numerals.

Next Week: Chapter Four – A timely walk