



# MADDELINÉ'S MARVELOUS WEEK

## CHAPTER FOUR - by Kay Hively

Maddie and Mama walked around the big floral clock with their new friend, Max. First, they stopped at the great bell tower beside the number 12. Max said the bell weighed 5,000 pounds and tolled every 30 minutes. Suddenly, the bell began to ring. Maddie covered her ears and counted as the bell tolled nine times.

Mama asked Max about the flowers. He said they were mostly verbena, centaurea and coleus. He told Mama and Maddie to look closely at the face of the clock. They could see that different colors of flowers were used to mark each minute. Then Max said that 13,000 flowers were blooming in the clock.

Mama gasped when Max said that. Maddie thought Mama was probably thinking how much work it would be to keep weeds away from 13,000 flowers. Mama was always fighting weeds in her flower bed. Maddie was glad she didn't have to pull weeds in the floral clock like she did at home.

As Maddie walked around the clock, she listened to all that Max had to say. She hoped she could remember everything because she had brought her diary to Saint Louis. She planned to write down what she saw and did at the World's Fair each day.

While Mama liked the flowers best, Maddie was fascinated with the long hands that moved around the big circle. When she stood by the minute hand, Maddie could see it slowly moving. Max told her that it moved five feet every minute. He also said it was 75 feet long and weighed 2,700 pounds. It took a long time for Maddie, Mama and Max to walk all the way around the clock. Often they would stop while Max reached into the flower bed and pulled a weed or a dead blossom. When they got to the number six at the bottom of the clock, Maddie looked up to the top of the clock. Max said it was about 100 feet from the six to the 12. That distance, he said, was like a 10-story building.

Maddie felt very small, but also very excited as she stood by the clock. She knew there were other wonders to see at the fair, but she was sure the floral clock would be the best thing of all.

It took more than two hours for Maddie and her mother to walk around the clock. When they finished, Mama shook hands with Max and thanked him for the tour. Max tipped his hat, smiled down at Maddie, and then stepped into the huge flower bed to look for weeds or dead flowers.

As Maddie waved good-bye to Max, she heard a loud roaring sound above her head. Looking into the sky, Maddie saw the strangest looking thing she had ever seen.



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

## CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS

### Things to Think About and Do

- Max told Mama what kinds of flowers were in the floral clock. Can you think of 26 different flowers? With help from an encyclopedia, the internet or a flower lover, make a list of flowers using every letter of the alphabet. You might begin with aster and end with zinnia.
- Find an old seed catalog or visit a local nursery and find pictures of some of the flowers on your list. Use the pictures to make a poster that looks like a flower bed or like a floral clock.