



MADDELINE'S MARVELOUS WEEK

CHAPTER SIX - by Kay Hively

When Maddie awoke the next morning, only Mama was in the hotel room with her. Maddie jumped out of bed, eager to go back to the fair. But Mama said it was almost noon so they would eat lunch first.

When they finished eating, Maddie and her mother took a carriage to the fairgrounds. It was a very hot day so Mama suggested they go see the Observation Wheel. Maddie had never heard of it, so Mama pointed out the carriage window and there it was – standing high in the air.

Maddie's eyes got very big.

The Observation Wheel really was a wheel – a giant wheel. At first, Maddie thought it looked like one of the hoops the boys played with at home. But hanging inside this hoop were boxes where people were sitting. And the hoop was turning around and around.

Maddie and Mama walked slowly toward the Observation Wheel. Maddie had to tilt her head back to see the top of the great wheel. As they got closer, she could hear people on the big wheel shouting and screaming. She couldn't decide if they were having a good time or if they were scared.

Mama asked if Maddie would like a ride. After Mama promised to go with her, Maddie agreed. They bought two tickets and soon were ready to go. Their seats were in a big box that looked like a trolley car. There were many people in the box with them. Mama and Maddie held on to each other as the Observation Wheel began to move. Higher and higher they rose. Maddie was so scared she couldn't even talk, but Mama was having a wonderful time.

When their box got to the very top, the big wheel stopped. Mama and Maddie were up as high as the machine could take them. A man, who was like a tour guide, said they were 250 feet above the ground. Maddie covered her eyes, but Mama was eager to look down. Finally, Maddie sneaked a peek between her fingers. She could see all of the World's Fair grounds – even the floral clock.

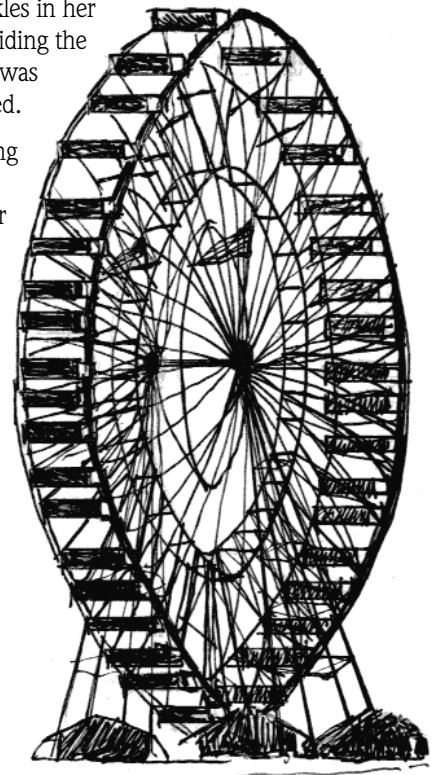
As she looked at the scene before her, Maddie lost her fear and became enthralled with all the things she could see. She had once stood on a small hill out in Nebraska, but this was much better. Sitting high in the air, Maddie felt like a genie riding on a magic carpet.

After a few moments, the wheel began to move again. Maddie and her mother made four turns on the Observation Wheel. It took an entire hour for the big wheel to go around four times.

Even though she had tickles in her stomach, Maddie loved riding the Observation Wheel. She was sorry when the ride ended.

Maddie wondered if riding the Observation Wheel was like flying in a hot-air balloon. Mama thought it was great fun and, to Maddie's surprise, she bought two more tickets.

After a short wait, they were back on the big wheel, having a wonderful time!



Billie Goforth-Stewart

Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Goforth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri.
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CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS

Things to Think About and Do

- A. Today the Observation Wheel is known as a Ferris Wheel. Why do we call it that? At the St. Louis World's Fair, there were 36 boxes for riders. If 60 people could be in each box, how many could ride at the same time?
- B. Maddie felt like a genie – what is a genie? What is a “magic carpet?”

Next Week: Chapter Seven – The Marathon