



MADIELINE'S MARVELOUS WEEK

CHAPTER ONE - by Kay Hively

Madeline Fischer was excited as she settled back in her seat. Mama had let her sit by the window so she could see everything as the train puffed all the way to Saint Louis. People were still coming on board and nearly all the seats were full. Mama said everyone on the train was going to the World's Fair.

Papa, who was sitting across the aisle from Mama, said the fair would be the biggest and best thing the world had ever seen. Papa, who called his daughter Maddie, promised that she would never forget her trip to Saint Louis.

From a small bag she had carried, Maddie pulled out a little booklet. On the cover of the booklet she read the words, "Louisiana Purchase Exposition: 1904." Those were big words for Madeline. Papa just called it the World's Fair so that's what Maddie planned to do.

As the train began to move Maddie stared out the big window. She somehow knew this would be the most exciting week in all her 10 years. While Papa was working at the fair, she and Mama would spend the entire week sightseeing. They would try to see everything and even eat at the fair. Maddie liked to eat. She wondered what new and wonderful food she would find.

After three hours of watching out the window, Maddie's eyelids grew heavy. The sun had set and it was very dark outside. Maddie squinched her eyes looking for a light in one of the small towns the train passed through. But there was only darkness all along the trip.

Maddie's father had once said that something called electricity would one day bring light even to the countryside. He said every house in the country would be filled with light, and no one would need a candle or a lantern any more. Papa said that electricity would come into towns and houses on wires. Maddie could hardly believe that - even if her father did say so.

Leaning against the back of her seat, Maddie was lulled to sleep by the "clickity clack" of the train rolling down the track. Mama took a small coverlet from under her seat and covered Madeline. Snug and warm, Maddie dreamed about the World's Fair. For many weeks, Mama and Papa had read newspaper stories to her about the fair. She had also seen pictures of the beautiful buildings and the strange and exotic people who were at the fair. She had even heard that someone had moved an entire desert to Saint Louis. All these things, and many more, crowded into Maddie's dream.

Deep in her dreams, Maddie heard her mother's voice. The voice grew louder and louder. Suddenly Maddie opened her eyes. Mama was gently shaking her. Slowly, Maddie sat up straight and looked out the train window. Her droopy eyes popped wide open as she stared out the window. Never, never in all her life, had Maddie seen anything like the scene before her.



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CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS

Things to Think About and Do

- Maddie was going to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. What is an exposition? What was the Louisiana Purchase?
- Why did Maddie not see many lights as she rode on the train at night? How could people read or work at night when they had no electric lights?

STANDARDS: SS:2; S:8; G1:1; G1:2; G3:5;

Next Week: Chapter Two - A shining city