

Silver and Gold



Chapter Eleven – by Kay Hively

Molly couldn't hold back the tears. Lulu was gone.

Mrs. Hankins put her arms around Molly and told her to be brave. She said that sometimes bad things happen. Animals get lost or die.

Captain Hankins picked Molly up in his arms and put her in her bed. Tucking his daughter under the covers, the captain told her that all might not be lost. He said that in springtime, animals like to roam around at night. He said maybe in the morning Lulu would be on the front porch, waiting for someone to feed her a bowl of milk.

Molly did not like to think that Lulu was roaming around at night. There were wild animals that might chase her.

Captain and Mrs. Hankins kissed their daughter good night and promised to look again tomorrow for Lulu.

Molly cried herself to sleep.

The next morning, Molly went first to the front porch, but Lulu was not there. Molly was so sad that she could not eat. No matter what her parents said, they could not make her feel better.

At school, Molly could not do anything right. Her mind was not on words and numbers. She was thinking about Lulu.

Even though she was not hungry, Molly walked home for lunch. As the family sat down to eat, Captain Hankins said he had been invited to attend the

ceremony when the two railroads met. He said he would be riding a special train up to Promontory Summit where the last spike would be driven.

As Captain Hankins talked about going to the ceremony, the family heard a knock on the door. Mrs. Hankins rose from her chair and opened the door. Standing on the porch was Black Feather with Lulu in his arms. Molly squealed with joy. Black Feather said he had found Lulu in their camp last night. Captain Hankins said the cat must have followed Black Feather's family when they moved out of the fort. He thanked Black Feather for taking care of the cat and bringing it back to Molly.

Setting Lulu on the floor, Molly gave Black Feather a hug. Then she ran to her room and returned with the necklace around her neck. She told Black Feather it was the nicest gift she had ever gotten.

After Black Feather left, Molly returned to the dinner table and began to eat. Then Captain Hankins announced that he would be allowed to take his family to the railroad ceremony if they wished to go. Both Molly and her mother shouted with laughter. Mrs. Hankins said they would wear the new dresses they had worn at the Christmas program. After all, she said, binding a big country together was an important event and they wanted to look their best.

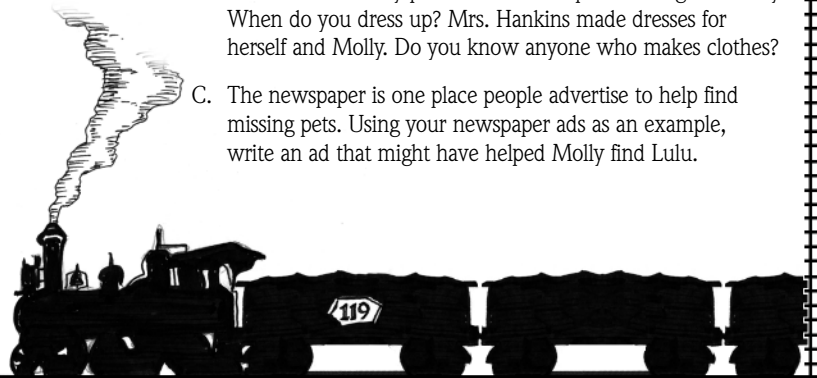
But everyone agreed that Lulu should stay home – locked up in the woodshed. No more roaming around the countryside for her.

Things to Think About and Do

- Have you ever seen a cat roaming outside at night? How can a cat see at night?
- The Hankins family planned to dress up for the big ceremony. When do you dress up? Mrs. Hankins made dresses for herself and Molly. Do you know anyone who makes clothes?
- The newspaper is one place people advertise to help find missing pets. Using your newspaper ads as an example, write an ad that might have helped Molly find Lulu.



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart both live in Neosho, Mo. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2007.



Next Week: Chapter Twelve – The golden spike