



Chapter Three - by Kay Hively

The clock on the fireplace mantel struck 12 times. Mrs. Todd looked outside to see if Emily and her friends were coming down the street. The street was empty except for old Mr. Smothers walking up the front step of his porch.

Stirring the pot of beans that was cooking on her stove, Mrs. Todd began to worry about the children. Once again, she went to the window and looked outside. The children were not to be seen. Mrs. Todd moved her bean pot off the fire and went to get help.

Just a half mile away, in a dark and cold cave, Emily and her friends were in distress. They could not find a way out of the cave. Emily could hardly think because Rose was crying so loudly. John had dropped the torch and could not find it.

The three children held hands and tried to walk through the cave. But it was so dark, they could not find their way. The cave floor was rough and they were stepping on large rocks and running into hard walls. Emily bumped her head. She could feel blood on her forehead.

Then, when it seemed that things could get no worse, Emily felt water in her shoes. Rose began to scream again as all three children were suddenly walking in water up to their ankles. Finally, the children found a big rock. They sat down together, trying to keep their feet out of the water.

Emily's heart sank when she thought about dying. She wished they had never gone into the cave. She wished she was home eating lunch with her mother. She wished her father would come and rescue them.

But none of her wishes came true.

As they sat on the rock, Rose stopped screaming and just cried softly. John called, over and over, for help. Emily just hoped and prayed.

Then, as if her prayer had been answered, Emily heard another voice. All three children began to shout for help. Soon they saw a light coming through the darkness. The children jumped off the rock down into the water and ran toward the light.

Two men, each holding a torch, waited for the children. Emily did not know the men, but they seemed like angels to her. The one with the black bushy beard took her hand while the man in the plaid shirt took Rose's hand. John followed behind.

The men led them out of the water and, soon after that, they could see the opening of the cave.

The men told the children they were safe and they should go home. Emily and her friends ran as fast as they could out of the cave and down the hill toward town. Half way down the hill, Emily saw a group of men. She knew it was a search party, and she also knew there would be big trouble when she got home.



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

Things to Think About and Do

- A. The children walked into water when they were lost in the cave. How does water get into a cave? Talk to an adult about what it would be like to be lost in a cave.
- B. If you had been with Emily and her friends, what would you have done to find a way out of the cave? How would you have felt when you saw the men with torches coming to help you?

Next Week: Chapter Four – Grounded!