



The Sacrifice

Chapter Six – by Russ and Kay Hively

Larry thought to himself about the big league ball waiting at home. That ball was a real prize. It was something he had always dreamed of having. Larry looked at his friends and asked himself what was more important; having a big league ball or playing the game with his friends? Finally, Larry spoke up. He said he had a ball they could use.

The tension in the air shattered. Everyone was happy, knowing they would be able to keep playing with a good ball. As Larry started back to the house, he looked over at his uncle sitting on the porch. Uncle Chuck just smiled at his nephew and gave him an approving nod.

When Larry got back to the field with the ball, the boys took their positions and the game picked up where it had left off. All during the rest of the game Larry thought about the sacrifice he had made. He knew it was the right thing to do, but it still hurt to give up the new ball. He just hoped it wouldn't be damaged in the game.

During the eighth inning, an opposing batter hit a ground ball to the shortstop. The shortstop fielded the ball and tossed it to the second baseman, who then threw it to the first baseman. Larry's team had just turned a double play. The excitement Larry felt as he watched that play erased all the pain he had felt about giving up his new prize. Larry had never seen his team make a double play. He thought only professional ball players could do that.

The boys finished the game before anyone was called home for supper. Larry's team had held their two-run lead and won the game by a score of three to one.

After the game Uncle Chuck motioned for Larry to come over to the porch. Larry had never been in Mr. Williams' yard. He knew who the old man was, but he had never spoken to him.

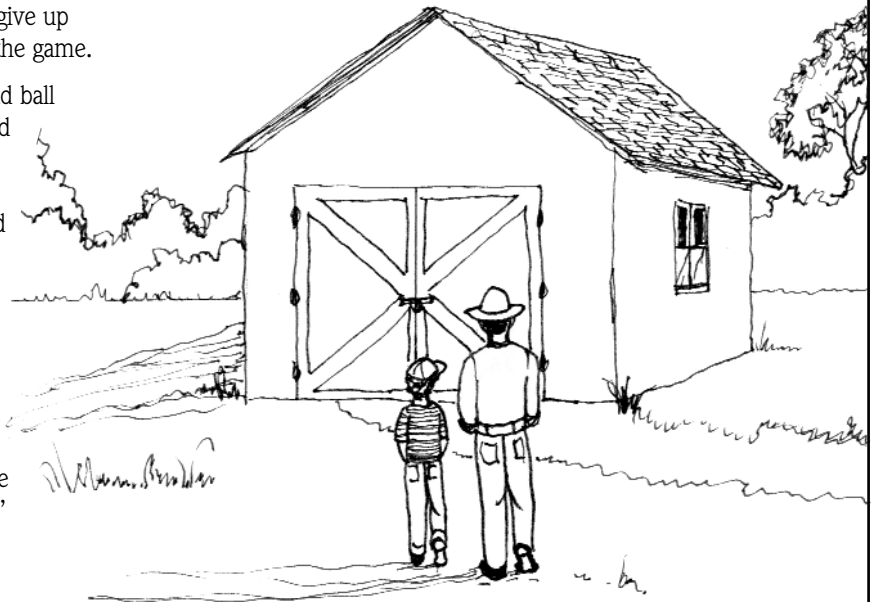
Uncle Chuck introduced Larry and the older man to each other. Mr. Williams said he liked to watch the boys play in front of his house every day. Then he sat back in the swing and said that he had played baseball when he was

a boy. Larry listened politely as Mr. Williams told about playing baseball.

Uncle Chuck had told Mr. Williams where the ball had come from. The old man told Larry that offering a big league ball to his friends was a fine thing. Larry felt a little embarrassed.

Then Mr. Williams said that because Larry had done such an honorable thing he was going to give him something. The old man and Larry walked out to a shed behind Mr. Williams' house and opened the door. The shed was completely full. Larry wondered what the gift was. Then Mr. Williams turned to Larry and told him he could have everything in the shed.

Larry's eyes widened with excitement when he realized what treasure lay before him.



Billie Gofourth Stewart

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Learning Extensions – Things to Think About and Do

- Larry gave up his prize ball. Would you give up one of your favorite things so others could benefit? List some ways people sacrifice for others.
- Larry listened to Mr. Williams tell stories about playing baseball when he was a boy. Is listening to someone part of communicating with them? Do you think Larry learned something when listening?

Next Week: Chapter Seven – Mr. Williams' shed