



Chapter Two | by Russ and Kay Hively

Violet had run down the hillside as fast as she could. She made it to the sheep pen long before the sheep had been driven into the clearing around the farmyard. She was huffing and puffing, trying to catch her breath as she looked up the path for the new flock.

Her bonnet had fallen off the back of her head and was hanging around her neck. Violet knew her mother would be upset if she saw her without her bonnet on, so she hurriedly pulled it back on.

The herd was getting closer to the yard, but she still couldn't see it. Violet could hear Molly yapping at the animals and the sheep bleating as they were pushed forward down the path. The sounds of sheep being moved by a dog were as beautiful as music to Violet.

Suddenly the sheep burst through the trees and spilled into the yard. Violet quickly opened the gate to the pen. Molly

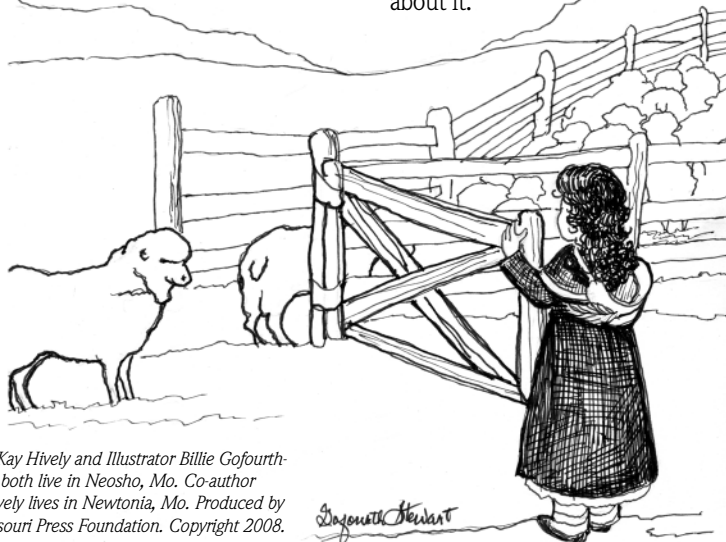
spotted the open gate and knew exactly what to do. As the dog worked the herd toward the pen, Violet held the gate open and waved to her father and brother as they walked behind the flock. Once the last sheep was guided into the pen, Violet and Thomas closed the gate behind them.

Violet ran to her father and gave him a big hug. He picked her up and swung her around in the air and set her down on the top rail of the fence. Violet was glad her father and brother were home. Both men looked tired but she could see they were relieved to be home.

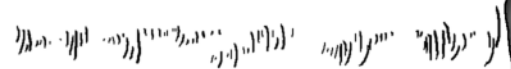
She looked through the fence at the new sheep milling around in the pen. Her father explained this was a breed of sheep called Merino. A man named William Jarvis had brought this breed of sheep to Vermont a few years ago all the way from Portugal. Violet had heard about the country of Portugal, but couldn't remember much about it.

Her father went on to explain these sheep produced some of the finest wool in the world. Violet looked at her father's face and realized he was absolutely beaming with pride as he talked about his new flock.

Violet's mother appeared at the door of the house and waved to her son and husband and told them supper would be ready soon. She smiled at everyone and turned back into the house. Her mother had been worrying about them being gone, and Violet could see she was happy they were home. Violet decided to follow her mother inside. As Violet stepped into the house her mother looked up at her and their eyes locked on each other. Her mother calmly said, "Now it's your turn."



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart both live in Neosho, Mo. Co-author Russ Hively lives in Newtonia, Mo. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2008.



Learn More

- William Jarvis brought Merino sheep to Vermont. Find out who William Jarvis was and what he was doing in Portugal.
- Find Portugal on a world map. What is its capital? What language is spoken in Portugal? Find out what other countries speak this same language and why?
- Merino sheep were new to Vermont. Look through your newspaper for stories or advertisements for something new being introduced in your area.

NEXT WEEK: Chapter 3 – Big News.

