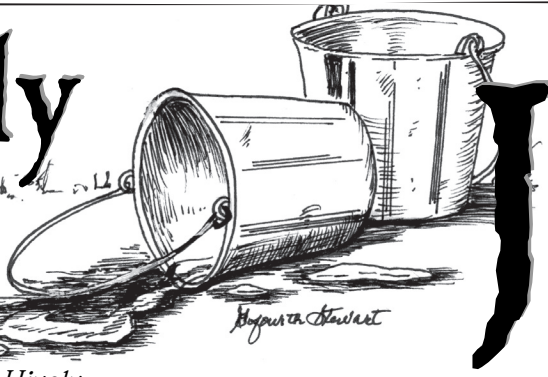


Everybody Loves

Loves



Jack

Chapter Two – by Russ and Kay Hively

Did he actually hear something? Adam was sure he heard a noise in the brush – off to the left of the path.

Hardly breathing, Adam stood perfectly still. Now he couldn't hear anything. Slowly, he continued his walk to the creek and dipped the pails into the water. He thought about just running home, but Mama needed water for cooking and cleaning.

On his way back from the creek, Adam stopped in the same spot as before and listened. This time he really did hear something. Quickly, he set the pails down and ran to the house as fast as he could. Papa was just leaving for the mill.

Adam told his father that something was down the path. Papa went to the woodpile and got his axe. Then Adam and his father ran down the path and stopped by the two water pails. From the nearby brush came a shrill whine.

After telling Adam to stay on the trail, Papa went into the woods. Adam was scared, but he knew Papa was close by. That made Adam feel better. Soon Papa came out of the woods carrying a dog. The dog had cuts and scratches on its face and paws.

As Papa started up the path toward the house, he told Adam to bring the water pails. He said the dog was friendly and they should take it home.

Adam thought the dog looked sad, but his ears would stick up and his tail would wag a little when Papa spoke to him. Adam liked the dog. He was dark brown and really furry. Adam thought it would be nice to have a dog like this. But Papa said he belonged to someone and they would have to find his owner.

When Adam and his father got to the house, Mama had just finished braiding Anna's hair. Papa put the dog down by the warm stove. Adam was excited about the dog. He wanted to stay home to take care of it. Mama could tell what her son wanted, but she smiled at him and said he had to go to school. She said the dog would be waiting for him when he returned in the afternoon.

Mr. Holms told everyone goodbye and started walking up the road to the mill, which was only a mile away. The sun was just rising fully above the tree line.

Adam and Anna got ready for school, but they stayed as close to the dog as possible. Mama cleaned the dog's wounds with some of the water that Adam had carried from the creek. The whole time, the dog just looked at Mama and did not make a sound.

Reluctantly Adam and Anna left the house and started for school.

When they got to the road in front of their house they found something hanging on the little gate. It was something they had never seen before.



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Russ Hively lives in Newtonia, Missouri. Copyright 2005, Missouri Press Foundation.

Things to Think About and Do

- A. Did Adam panic when he heard noise in the bushes? When something happens that you think is not normal, who should you tell? List all the people you could contact in an emergency.
- B. If you find something, should you try to find its owner? Papa said they had to find the dog's owner. Talk about how you think the dog's owner feels about losing his dog?

Next Week: Chapter Three – A mystery