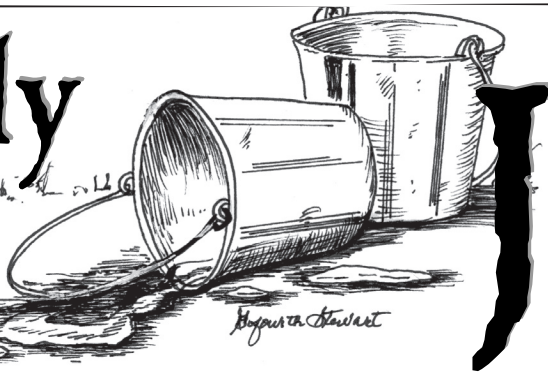


Everybody Loves

Loves



Jack

Chapter Eight – by Russ and Kay Hively

The sight of a man standing next to him startled Adam. Jack sat calmly on the creek bank and just looked at the stranger.

Even though his knees were shaking Adam stood up and faced the strange man standing beside him. The stranger had black hair, dark skin and was wearing moccasins. Adam had never seen him before.

Before Adam could say anything, the man spoke. He said his name was Ben and that he lived in the woods. The stranger asked Adam what his name was. Adam was so scared he could barely answer. Ben said he had come to get his dog. He thanked Adam because his family had taken good care of his wounded dog.

In a soft voice, Ben spoke strange words to the dog. Jack walked over and licked the man's hand. Adam could tell that Jack loved the man, and that the man loved Jack.

Adam had never heard such a strange language before. Ben said the words were in his native language. He said it was Anishinaabeg. Smiling, Ben said many people would use the word Chippewa. That was a word Adam had heard before. He had heard about Chippewa Indians.

Adam said he knew about people using a different language because his parents spoke Swedish and he only spoke English. Ben smiled at the boy.

The stranger then told Adam he was the one who left the bandages and medicine for the dog. He said the medicine came from nature and that nature made good medicine. Ben also said he had left the two birds in the chicken house for the family as a gift.

Adam wanted to ask why Ben had not come to the house to get the dog, but he had been taught not to pry into other people's business, so he kept quiet.

Ben said he had something for Adam. He said it was a gift for helping take care of his dog. Ben reached into a large pouch and pulled out a puppy. Adam could not believe his eyes. The puppy looked just like Jack. Ben said the puppy would one day be a good dog for the Holms family. He said it would help protect them and their animals.

Ben then said goodbye as he and Jack walked off into the woods.

Adam held the puppy in his arms. It licked his face and squirmed around. Then Adam heard someone call his name. It was Papa. Adam ran toward his father with the puppy and told him what had happened.

Papa stroked his beard and smiled. Mr. Holms said he knew Ben, but he had never heard Ben say more than one or two words at a time.

Papa filled the second water pail then started up the path, carrying the water. Adam followed behind with his new dog in his arms. Adam was happy the mysteries had been solved. He knew he would never forget Jack. And that's when he decided that Little Jack seemed like a great name for his new puppy.



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

- Ben wore moccasins on his feet. Draw a moccasin and decorate it in bright colors. What are real moccasins made of?
- A young dog is called a puppy. A baby cow is called a calf. What other animal has a baby called a calf? List five other names for baby animals.