

FREEDOM'S CIRCUS



Chapter Seven – by Kay Hively

The little monkey that came into the lantern room made itself right at home. Sarah and her father were happy to see it. The monkey was very friendly and wanted to shake hands. It made Sarah and Poppa laugh.

Poppa told Sarah the monkey seemed to be trained because it was not afraid of people. He showed Sarah the collar around the monkey's neck. Poppa said it might be a circus monkey or belong to an organ grinder.

After Sarah and her father became friendly with the monkey, Poppa picked it up and started down the steps. Mamma and Gabe were surprised to see what Sarah and Poppa brought downstairs. Poppa said the monkey had climbed up the outside of the lighthouse. By

hanging on to the window sills and to some large bolts, the monkey had no trouble getting up to the gallery. He even had some of Poppa's fresh paint on his tail.



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Produced in partnership with this newspaper and the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2005.

Learning Extensions – Things to Think About and Do

A. Poppa said the monkey might belong to an organ grinder. What is an organ grinder? Why would an organ grinder have a monkey?

Gabe and the monkey quickly became friends. They tumbled on the floor together and even bounced on Gabe's bed.

Before Poppa went back to finish cleaning the storm panes, he brought a big crate out of the shed. He said at night the monkey would have to be in the crate so everyone could sleep.

Sarah and Gabe had fun with the monkey. Gabe gave it a name – Happy. Sarah didn't think that was the monkey's real name because it didn't respond when they called out the name.

As the sun began to set, Sarah stopped playing and helped Mamma fix supper. Happy was soon in the little kitchen, trying to get into the food. Sarah tried to chase him away, but the monkey was determined to get into trouble.

Mamma filled a small bowl with bread and berries. She gave the bowl to Gabe and asked him to feed Happy. Soon the kitchen was quiet again as Gabe and Happy sat in a corner. Happy wanted to grab all the food, but Gabe let the monkey have only one piece at a time.

As Sarah began putting her family's food on the table, Poppa came down the steps. He had finished cleaning the storm panes and had the big light going. Darkness had come so Mamma lit a lamp and put it on the table.

Poppa put Happy in the wooden crate so the family could eat in peace.

Sarah liked supper time when her family sat around the table together. Through the kitchen window she could see reflections of Poppa's light shining out to sea. She thought there was nothing prettier than the light reflecting on the water and on the rocks by the cottage.

Sarah munched on a biscuit and thought about the little boat she had seen. Who could be on the island with them? Was it a pirate? Was it a thief who took Mamma's rugs? And where did Happy come from?

As she watched the light float across the water, Sarah wondered what tomorrow would bring. Oh, she thought, if only Happy could talk!

B. The tower steps at Poppa's lighthouse are 8 inches tall. It is 43 feet from the bottom step to the top step. How many steps must Poppa climb to get to the lantern room?

Next Week: Chapter 8 – Command performance