

Silver and Gold



Chapter Three – by Kay Hively

Molly was very worried now. She knew it was dangerous for her father to be out trying to rescue the kidnapped family. She also knew that her father and his men would have to sleep out in the cold.

Later, after Molly and her mother finished eating, they sat down together to read. Every night Molly practiced reading to her mother. In summer, when the weather was warm, they often read outside because it was light until bedtime. But now that it was fall with winter coming on, Molly practiced reading by the light of a lamp in their family quarters.

As long as she was reading, Molly didn't think about her father. But when it was time for bed, she thought about him again. Mrs. Hankins tucked Molly in and pulled up the covers. As usual, Lulu curled up beside her. Mrs. Hankins told Molly not to worry. She told Molly that her father was a good soldier who would look out for himself and for his men. She also said they should be proud of him for serving his country and trying to help people.

Molly asked why the Indians sometimes attacked the settlers and the railroad men and even the soldiers. Mrs. Hankins told Molly that as more and more settlers came west, they built houses and towns, and they started farming and raising cattle. To the Indians, this was strange. All their lives they had moved freely from place to place, eating the wild fruits and vegetables they found. And they hunted deer and buffalo for meat.

Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart both live in Neosho, Mo. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2007.

The Indians did not understand people who stayed in one place and took large pieces of land as their own.

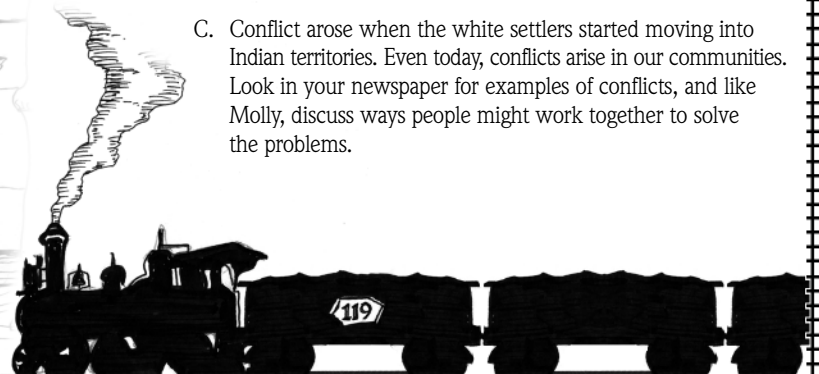
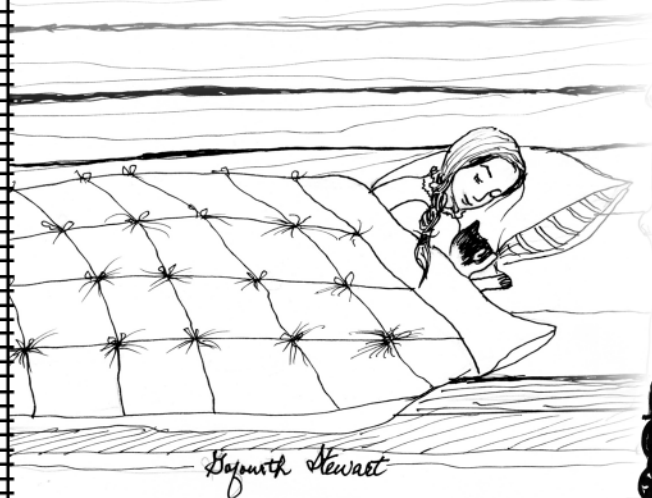
Mrs. Hankins said the Indians did not like the railroad that was being built. They knew it would bring more people to farm and build towns. The Indians felt that all the people who were coming to live in the West were coming to take away the Indian way of life. Many of the Indians did not know what they would do if everything changed. Mrs. Hankins explained that all these things upset the Indians, so sometimes they fought back.

Molly thought for a moment about what her mother said. Then she asked what could be done to make everyone happy and willing to live together. Mrs. Hankins said that was the big question on everyone's mind. But no one had yet found an answer, she explained. Then Molly's mother kissed her sleepy daughter and told her not to worry. She said Captain Hankins would probably be home tomorrow.

Molly hugged her mother and then lay down in her bed to think about her father and about the Indians who were so unhappy. Molly fell asleep wondering what she could do to make people like each other.

Things to Think About and Do

- The Indians ate wild fruits and vegetables. Have you ever picked wild food? Ask an older person if he or she ever picked berries or greens or nuts or other wild food.
- Every night Molly practiced reading. She even read outside on the porch. Keep a chart for a month to record how much you read. Make a check for every 10 minutes you read. Compete with a friend for the most minutes read.
- Conflict arose when the white settlers started moving into Indian territories. Even today, conflicts arise in our communities. Look in your newspaper for examples of conflicts, and like Molly, discuss ways people might work together to solve the problems.



Next Week: Chapter Four – The first snowfall