

Silver and Gold



Chapter Ten – by Kay Hively

Spring finally came and the railroad men returned to work. Even though there was snow in the mountain passes, trains came and went almost every day. Every evening, word came down the line, telling how far the track had been extended. Everyone was guessing when and where the tracks would meet.

The passing of the trains meant more supplies came to the fort. Captain Hankins was very happy to get a newspaper every day. Each night after supper, he read everything in the newspapers.

One morning as Molly got out of bed, she could see a bright sun just above the horizon. She knew that soon all the snow would be gone and flowers would start to bloom. Molly looked forward to picnics, games with her friends and horseback rides. Warm weather also meant the school term would end.

Walking to school that morning, Molly saw Black Feather taking down his teepee. She knew the Indian family would be leaving when their tribe returned. Throughout the winter, she had visited them several times. She played with Sweet Flower and her little brother. On each visit, Molly could see that Red Blanket was getting better.

At noon, when Molly walked home for lunch, the Indian family was gone.

Captain Hankins said they went west of the fort to be with their tribe. Before he left, Black Feather had given gifts to some of the people at the fort. He had a pipe for the colonel, a medicine bag

for the army doctor, and leather belts for the two soldiers who worked with him in the stables.

Then Captain Hankins showed Molly a beautiful leather shirt that Black Feather had given him. Molly thought it was the most beautiful thing she had ever seen. It was soft deer skin with colorful bead work on the front. Many times Molly had seen Red Blanket sewing beads. Molly held her father's shirt up to her face to feel the soft skin.

Then Captain Hankins reached into his coat pocket and brought out a beaded necklace. Molly's eyes widened as her father placed the necklace around her neck. He said it was a gift from Black Feather's family for Molly's friendship.

Molly was so proud of her necklace that she wore it to school that afternoon. Mrs. Nelson said the necklace was a gift of true friendship, and that Molly should take care of it and keep it forever.

That night Molly took the necklace off and laid it on the little bureau in her room. As she lay down to sleep, Molly waited for Lulu to jump up on the bed with her. But then Molly realized she had not seen Lulu all day long. She had been so busy admiring her necklace that she had not even thought of Lulu.

Molly ran to her mother and asked about the cat. Everyone looked for Lulu. They looked all around the house and outside, but Lulu was gone.

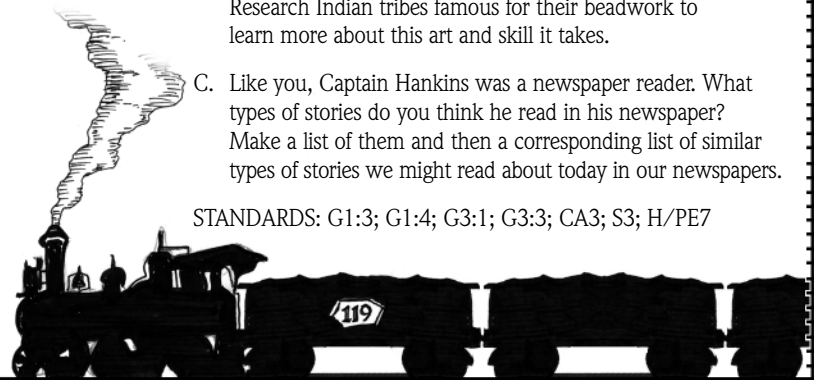


Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Goforth-Stewart both live in Neosho, Mo. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2007.

Things to Think About and Do

- Where do you think Lulu has gone? Write your prediction on paper and save it until you read the next chapter.
- Indians used beads to decorate many types of things. Research Indian tribes famous for their beadwork to learn more about this art and skill it takes.
- Like you, Captain Hankins was a newspaper reader. What types of stories do you think he read in his newspaper? Make a list of them and then a corresponding list of similar types of stories we might read about today in our newspapers.

STANDARDS: G1:3; G1:4; G3:1; G3:3; CA3; S3; H/PE7



Next Week: Chapter Eleven – An invitation