



Chapter Seven - by Kay Hively

For several days the whole town talked about the big robbery. Everyone knew that Emily had led the posse to the money. But Emily did not get to hear very much of the story because she was kept at home by her mother. The sheriff and his posse hunted several days for the robbers. Sheriff Martin finally called off the search, saying the robbers must have escaped down river.

Emily told no one, not even her mother, about seeing the robbers get away on the raft. This was her way of thanking the men for rescuing her and her friends.

At last, on Friday morning, Mrs. Todd told Emily that her punishment was over. Mrs. Todd also told Emily that her father was coming home that day. So, all morning long Emily watched the river. Finally, just after lunch, she saw a familiar riverboat paddling its way up river. Excitedly she grabbed her shawl and called to her mother.

Emily and her mother waited only a few minutes before Captain Todd blew his whistle to announce his arrival. As soon as the boat was tied up, Emily jumped on board and raced up the stairs to see her father in the pilothouse.

Captain Todd scooped up his daughter and whirled her around while he planted a kiss on her cheek. When the boat was docked and tied down securely, they left the pilothouse. Captain Todd hurried ashore to get a welcome home kiss from his wife.

After greeting her husband, Mrs. Todd started back home. Emily always stayed with her father while he got his paperwork in order and secured the boat. Sam, the young boy who had gone down river with Captain Todd, sat on the deck with Emily while she waited for her father.

Both Emily and Sam had stories to share. Emily told Sam about being lost in the cave and how she and her friends were rescued by two strangers. Sam enjoyed every bit of the story. He also enjoyed her story about the robbery and how she had watched the robbers escape on the raft.

Emily made Sam swear not to tell anyone that she had allowed the robbers to escape.

As Emily was telling her stories, Sam wrote rapidly in a little notebook. He told Emily that one day he wanted to be a writer so he wrote down interesting stories. Being lost in a cave and

escaping on a raft were very interesting stories, Sam said, and one day he might use them in a book.

Then Emily asked Sam about his ride on the river and his visit to St. Louis. With a twinkle in his eye, Sam said he had many stories to tell about what happened while he was gone. He said he would start by telling how he had defeated the bloodthirsty river pirates who attacked Captain Todd's boat on its way down stream.



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2005.

Things to Think About and Do

- Captain Todd's job requires him to be gone for several days. Do you think Emily was happy to see him coming home? Was Captain Todd happy to see Emily? Are you happy to see members of your family coming home?
- Do you think Sam is telling the truth about the river pirates? Do you know the difference between a fiction story and a nonfiction story? Tell your classmates a story like the one Sam might tell about riding on the riverboat.