

Three Generals

Chapter 2
by Kay Hively



One morning when Eddie woke up, he could hear rain falling. Looking at his bedroom window he could see streaks of water rolling down the windowpane.

Suddenly Eddie realized his room was cold. He pulled his bedspread up under his chin. But just as he snuggled down and shut his eyes, he heard footsteps outside his door.

Eddie knew it was time to get up. He knew the footsteps in the hall were his father's.

Before he heard the usual knock on his door, Eddie called out to tell his father that he was awake and would dress for school right away.

At the breakfast table, while Eddie poured cornflakes into a bowl, his mother talked about how it had turned cold in the night. Autumn was coming she said. Eddie's father told him to wear a jacket to school.

Mr. Barnes finished breakfast first. He reached for his lunch pail and put on a jacket. As

he opened the kitchen door, Mr. Barnes asked Eddie if he would like to go for a ride on Saturday.

Eddie quickly answered "yes," hoping it would be a trip to their favorite fishing lake. Then Mr. Barnes told Eddie to invite Michael along on the ride.

Without another word, Mr. Barnes stepped out into the rain and shut the kitchen door.

Eddie wiped a trickle of milk off his chin and asked his mother where they were going on Saturday. Mrs. Barnes just smiled and said

everyone would have to wait and see.

By just looking at her face, Eddie could tell his mother knew where they were going. He also knew she would never tell.

Finished with breakfast, Eddie put on a jacket and picked up his books. As he walked out onto the porch, his mother told him to stay out of mud

puddles. Eddie pretended he didn't hear what she said.

Eddie did not get to talk to Michael before school, but they sat together in the cafeteria at lunch break. Eddie told his friend about the trip in the car. Michael said he would ask his parents.

With their lunch break over, Eddie and Michael headed off to their own classrooms. As they parted, Michael said he would be over that night to play army. Then he flashed a big smile and said he had a great new idea on how to win the next game.

That night after Eddie helped his mother wash and dry the supper dishes, he headed

for his bedroom to get the soldiers ready for battle. As he passed through the living room, his father called to him.

Mr. Barnes took the magazine he was reading and showed Eddie the picture on the cover.

As Eddie looked at the man on the magazine cover, Mr. Barnes said this was General Eisenhower. He explained that General Eisenhower was his supreme commander during the war.

Eddie had never thought about how a general looked, especially in a business suit.

Mr. Barnes said that General Eisenhower had retired from the army and was now trying to become President of the United States.

Eddie looked more closely at the man on the cover of the magazine. He was having a hard time thinking about someone who was good enough to be not only a general but a president as well. His father had always said it took good character and good leadership to be a general.

What, Eddie asked himself, would it take to be a general and a president?



Next Chapter: Planning a trip

Things to Think About and Do

- Eddie's father showed him a picture of General Eisenhower. Write a short essay about General Eisenhower in World War II.
- What political party did Eisenhower belong to? Who ran against him for president?
- In your newspaper, find stories about leaders in your community. Make a list of them and a list of characteristics you believe both a general and a community leader would share.

Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Nathan McAlister are both from Neosho, MO. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation, ©2011