



## Chapter 3 by Kay Hively

# Three Generals

**B**efore Mr. Barnes could tell Eddie very much about General Eisenhower, Michael arrived, ready to play army.

As the two boys worked to set up their soldiers, Michael said his parents gave him permission to go for the ride on Saturday.

As they moved their soldiers around, the boys talked about the trip.

They tried to guess where they might go. All Eddie knew about the trip was that they would be gone all day.

Michael liked that idea because that meant he would probably get to eat in a restaurant. He had only eaten in a restaurant a few times. And, to himself, Michael hoped that if they went to a restaurant, he would be allowed to order his meal all by himself. His mother usually ordered for him and made him eat carrots.

If he got to order his own food he would take two hotdogs, covered in chili.

The more the boys talked about the trip, the more they decided that if they were going to be gone all day long, maybe they were going to Kansas City.

Neither boy had ever been there, but they knew it was a big city with movie houses, museums, a baseball team and lots of fancy restaurants.



Just thinking about going to Kansas City was so exciting the boys could hardly keep their minds on their armies. They tried to think of all the places

they would see and what they might get to do in a big city. They were sure they would get to see lots of tall buildings. In their little town, nothing was taller than two stories high — except the grain elevator.

They guessed there would be a building in Kansas City that had at least five stories.

The boys moved their soldiers around on the floor, trying to decide where to put their armies. Finally Eddie asked

Michael if he was ready for the “general” to look at the battlefield.

Michael looked down at his soldiers with a sad face. Being so interested in going to Kansas City, he had completely forgotten about the new military formation he had planned. His soldiers didn’t look much different than they usually did when the boys played their game.

But night was passing quickly, so Eddie called his father into the room.

Mr. Barnes stood, as he always did, with his legs spread wide and his hands on his hips. He looked over both

armies, scratched his chin and hummed to himself.

Eddie and Michael waited until finally Mr. Barnes chose the winning army.

Michael let out a yell of joy. It had been three nights since his army had won, so he really wanted to win this time.

Before his father left, Eddie tried one more time to find out where they were going on Saturday.

The only thing Mr. Barnes would tell the boys was that they were going to spend the day learning about how to be a leader.

Michael asked if that meant they had to go to school on Saturday to learn about leadership.

Mr. Barnes smiled and told the boys they would not be going to a school.

Then he reminded them that learning can take place in many different ways, and that the world is full of teachers who don’t have a desk or a blackboard.

Michael was relieved that he didn’t have to go to school, as that was not his favorite place.

## Next Chapter: Kansas City or Hannibal

### Things to Think About and Do

- If you would eat at a fancy restaurant, what would you order?  
Make a menu with five vegetables, meats, and desserts.
- What did Mr. Barnes mean when he said, “...the world is full of teachers who don’t have a desk or blackboard.”
- Cut stories and photographs from your newspaper of local people who are teachers. Remember, there are many different kinds of teachers. Identify what could be learned from each you find.

Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Nathan McAlister are both from Neosho, MO.  
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