

# CAPTAIN OF THE UNIVERSE

Eddie Hubble was in love with the stars. Every night he dreamed of having a ship that could sail across the sky visiting all the stars and planets. Learn how this dream came true for a little boy who truly did become "Captain of the Universe."

## CHAPTER 1

by Kay Hively

Just as the sun was going down in the western sky, Eddie hurried outside and sat down on the top step of the porch. He crossed his legs "Indian style" and leaned against one of the posts that stood on the edge of the porch.

This was Eddie's favorite time of day. He liked to watch the sun get bigger and bigger as it got lower and lower in the sky. With its last rays of light, the sun decorated the clouds with a golden glow.

Eddie sat very still as the sun began to disappear below the horizon. In the last few moments of the day, the sun seemed to drop very fast. Soon it was gone and all Eddie could see was a bright glow, shining above the earth where the sun had fallen.

It was fun to watch the sun go down every day, but what came next was even better. As the sky began to turn dark, Eddie strained his eyes, looking for the first star to appear.

Eddie was in love with the stars. He often begged to stay up late so he could look at the night sky. Someday he hoped to count all the stars; then he would give them all names.



Very soon Eddie spotted a star. It was in the western sky, not far from where the sun had gone down. He wondered if it was trying to take the place of the sun.

Eddie stared so long at the first star that he forgot to look around.

Finally he turned his head and found five other stars scattered across the heavens.

In just a few more minutes, Eddie had

many stars to look at. They were popping out all around him. He thought all the beautiful stars made the dark night seem like a very happy place.

While he was counting the stars, Eddie heard a door squeak. He smiled when he saw his grandfather step out onto the porch.

This, the summer of 1897, was the first time Eddie had been allowed to come to Springfield and stay with his grandparents. He felt very grown up.

He liked his grandparents very much. One of the best things about staying with them was that Grandpa Hubble liked the stars as much as Eddie.

Grandpa Hubble sat down on the steps. Eddie pointed out the big bright star in the west. He told his grandfather it was the prettiest star in the sky.

Grandpa Hubble looked at the star and rubbed his chin. Then he told Eddie that it looked like all the other stars, but it was really a planet. He said it was called Jupiter.

Turning his eyes back to the west, Eddie looked at Jupiter again. Even if it was a planet, Eddie thought it still looked like a star.

Eddie sat quietly for a while, thinking about what his grandfather had said. Eddie did not know what a planet was. His grandfather seemed to know everything. Someday Eddie hoped to know everything — at least everything about the moon and the stars.



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Produced in partnership with this newspaper and the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2001.

### CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS — THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AND DO

- Using golden colors, make a picture of a sunset. Include some trees in your picture.
- The bright star Eddie saw was called Jupiter. Look in an encyclopedia and learn about Jupiter. Write two paragraphs telling who Jupiter was.

**NEXT  
WEEK  
CHAPTER  
TWO  
Skunk  
in the  
Chicken  
Coop**