

L3-Lewis And Clark(2-1)

Intermediate

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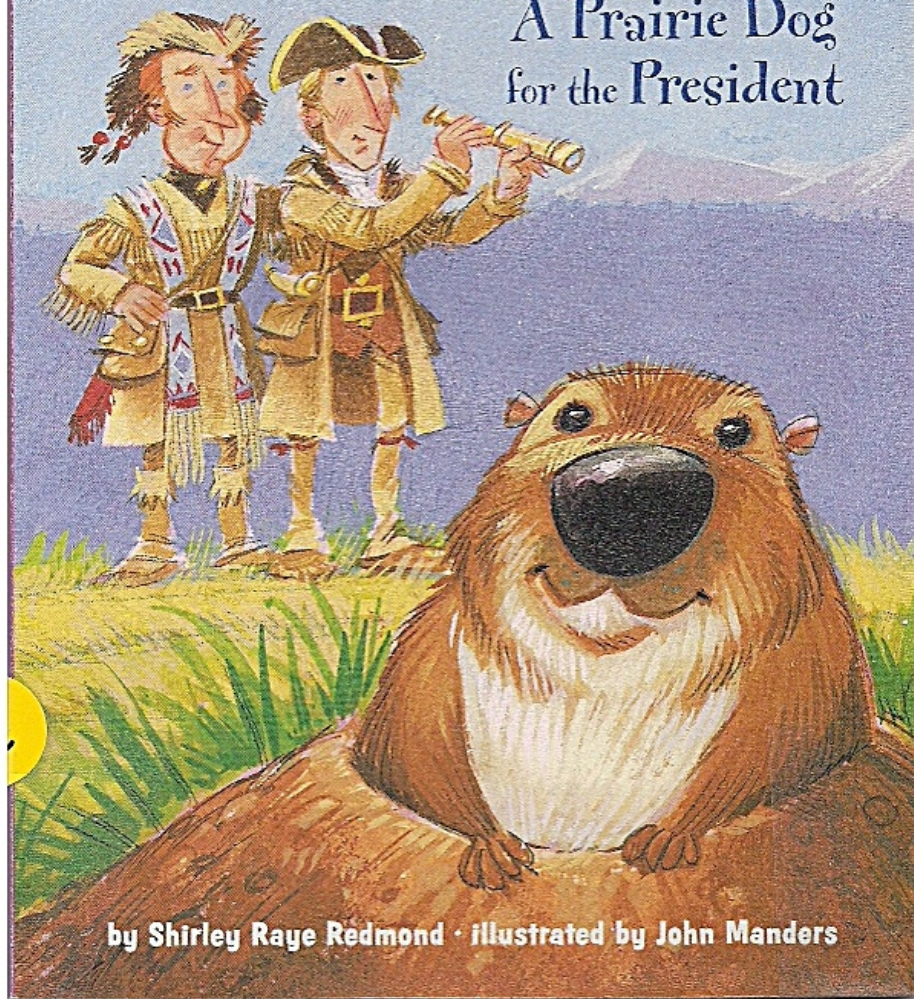
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STEP

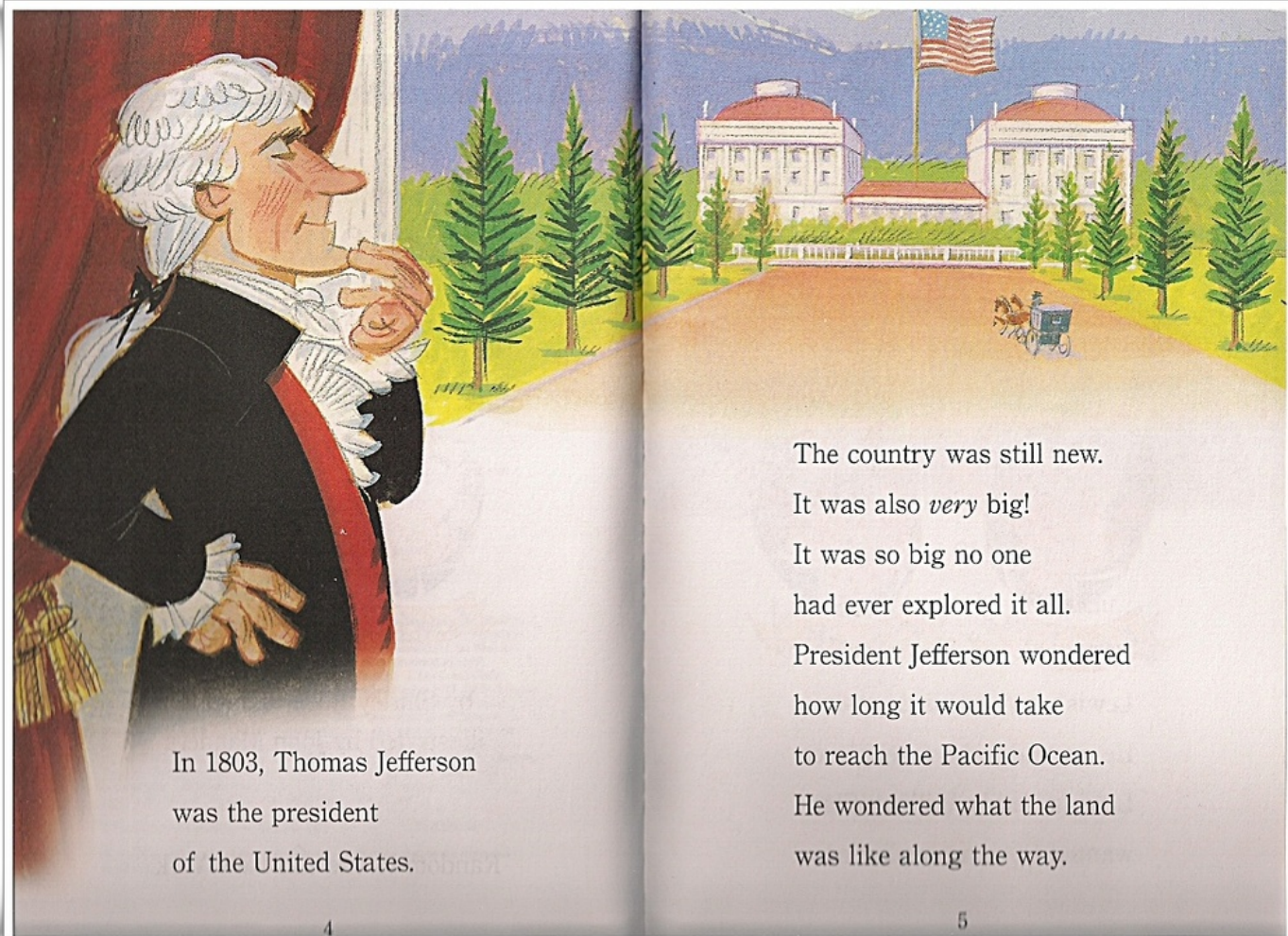
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Lewis and Clark

A Prairie Dog
for the President



by Shirley Raye Redmond • illustrated by John Manders



In 1803, Thomas Jefferson
was the president
of the United States.

The country was still new.
It was also *very* big!
It was so big no one
had ever explored it all.
President Jefferson wondered
how long it would take
to reach the Pacific Ocean.
He wondered what the land
was like along the way.



The president wrote to his friend Meriwether Lewis.



Lewis was a soldier.
He wanted to be an explorer.
Lewis's buddy William Clark
wanted to be an explorer too.



Lewis and Clark
went to see the president.
"I need someone
to explore the West,"
said the president.
"We'll do it!"
said Lewis and Clark.



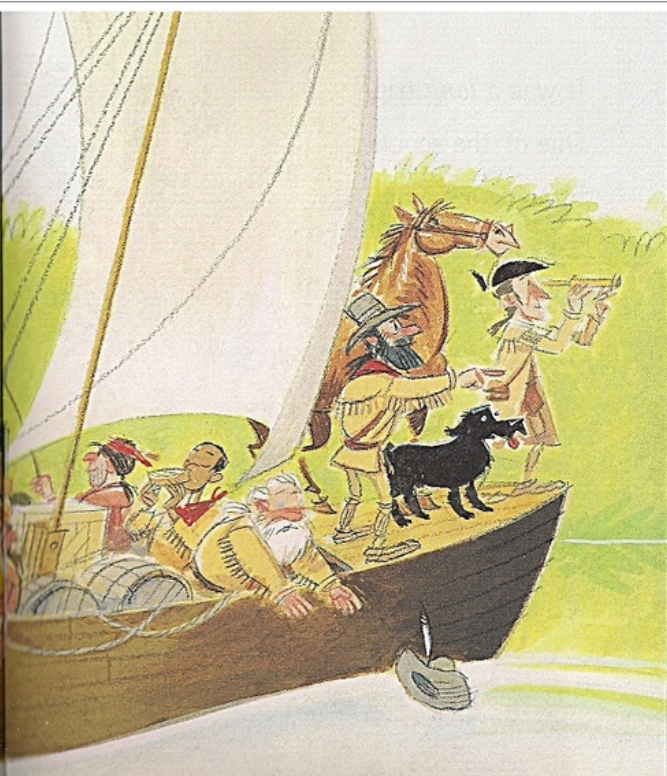
The president told
Lewis and Clark
to make maps
and explore rivers.
He told them to collect plants
and draw wild animals.
Most important,
he told them to send presents!





Lewis and Clark
needed helpers for
their journey.

10



They took soldiers,
scouts, and boatmen.
Lewis even took his dog.

11

It was a *long* trip.
One of the scouts
brought his wife,
Sacagawea
(sack-uh-juh-WEE-uh).
Sacagawea was a big help.
She picked nuts and berries.



She cooked meat and stew.

12



She talked and traded
with the Indians
they met on the way.

13



Out west,
Lewis and Clark made maps.

14



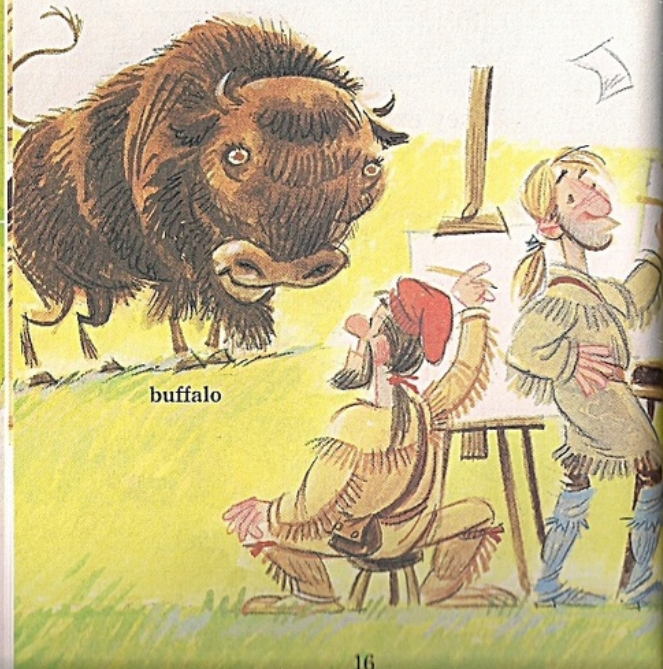
They explored rivers.



They collected plants.

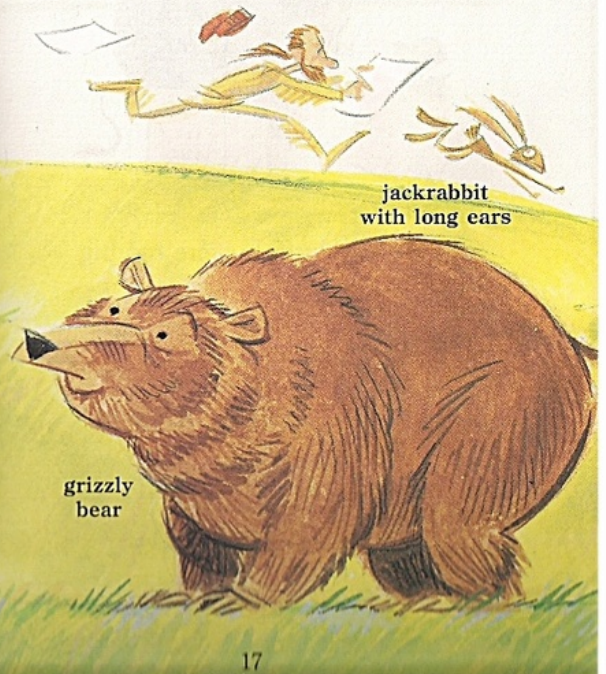
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They saw animals
they had never seen before.
They saw buffalo.
They saw grizzly bears.



16

They saw jackrabbits
with long ears..
They drew pictures
of the animals.



17

They tried to catch
some of the animals
to send to the president.



But the buffalo were too big.



The grizzly bears
were too dangerous.

18



The jackrabbits
were too fast.



"The president will think
we've forgotten him,"
they worried.

19

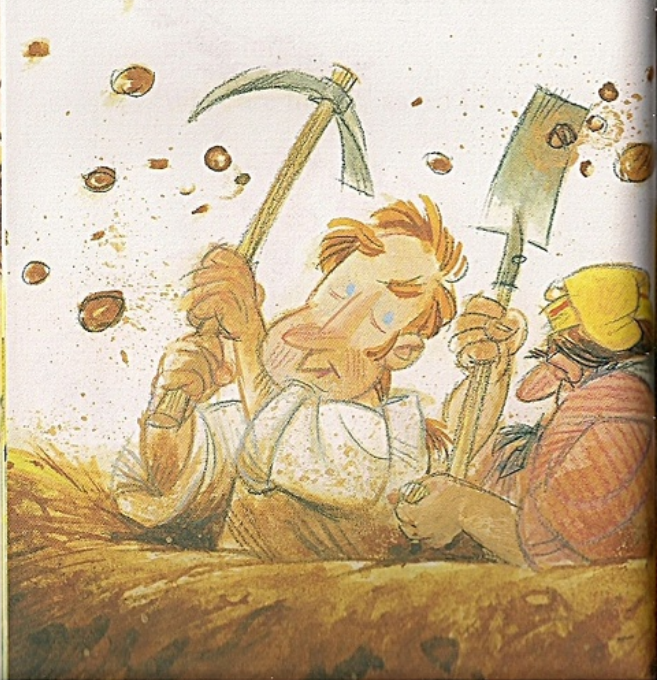
One day, Lewis and Clark
came to a prairie.
The ground was
filled with holes.
A little animal sat
by each hole.
“What are those?” asked Lewis.



Just then
a hawk flew overhead.
The little animals barked.
Then they dived
into their holes.



"Let's catch one of
those rascals," Clark said.
"They are small enough
to send to the president."



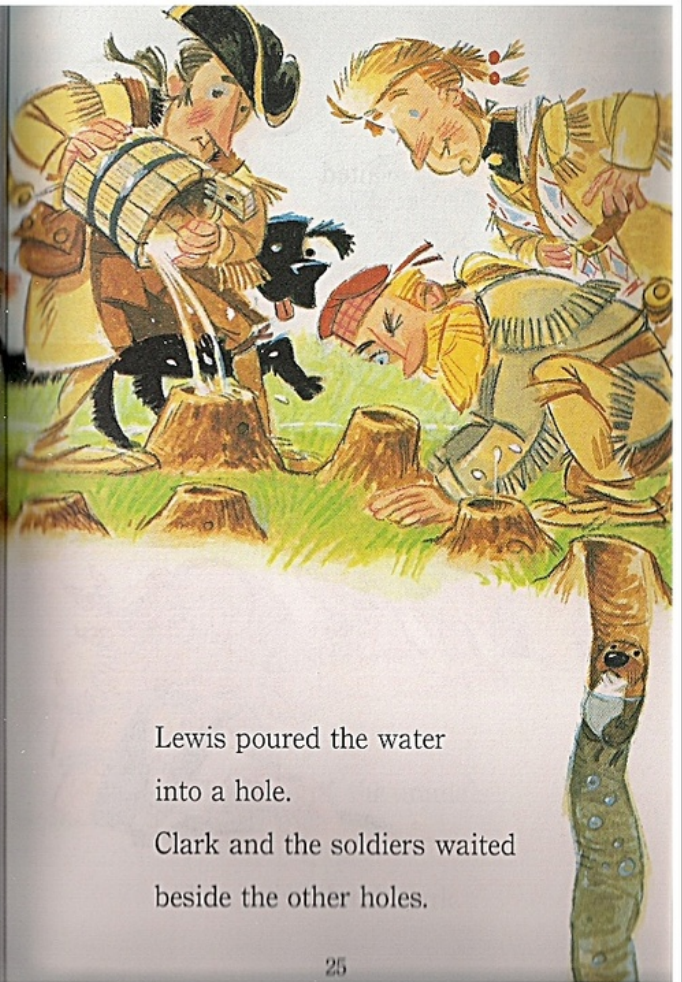
The soldiers
took shovels and picks.
They dug and dug.
But the little animals
were too fast.





"Let's flood them out,"
Lewis said.
The men carried water
from the river.

24



Lewis poured the water
into a hole.
Clark and the soldiers waited
beside the other holes.

25

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They waited



and waited

and waited.

26



Then one of the animals
popped up.

"I've got it!" said Clark.

27

Clark put the animal in a cage.
"I wonder what it is?" he said.
Lewis laughed,
"It is a wet rodent!
You can call it a ground rat."
"No," said Clark.
"It looks like a squirrel.
I'll call it a barking squirrel."

"Squirrels don't bark,"
said a soldier.
"Dogs bark.
We should call it
a prairie dog."
"That's it!"
Lewis and Clark agreed.





Lewis and Clark
picked a scout to take
the prairie dog
to the president.
Clark also gave the scout
some birds to take.
They were called magpies.
Lewis gave the scout a letter
for the president.

30



He gave him plants
that he had collected.
The soldiers gave him
buffalo skins and deer horns.
"Have a nice trip!"
said Lewis and Clark.

31



The scout and the animals
rode a barge down the river.

32



They boarded a big ship
in New Orleans.

33



The ship sailed
around Florida.
Then it sailed north
to Baltimore, Maryland.
Finally, the ship
landed in Baltimore.



The scout put the animals
and the other presents
into the back of a wagon.
He paid the driver
to take everything
to President Jefferson
in Washington, D.C.

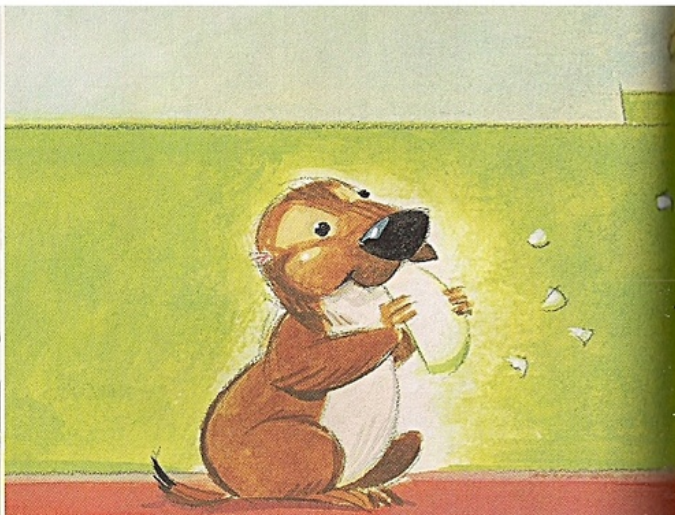


The president met the wagon
at the White House.
He picked up
the prairie dog's cage.
"Is this a gopher?" he asked.
"No," said the driver.
"I think it is a woodchuck."

36

President Jefferson
read the letter from Lewis.
"A soldier named this creature
a prairie dog.
It lives on the Western prairie
and barks like a dog."

37

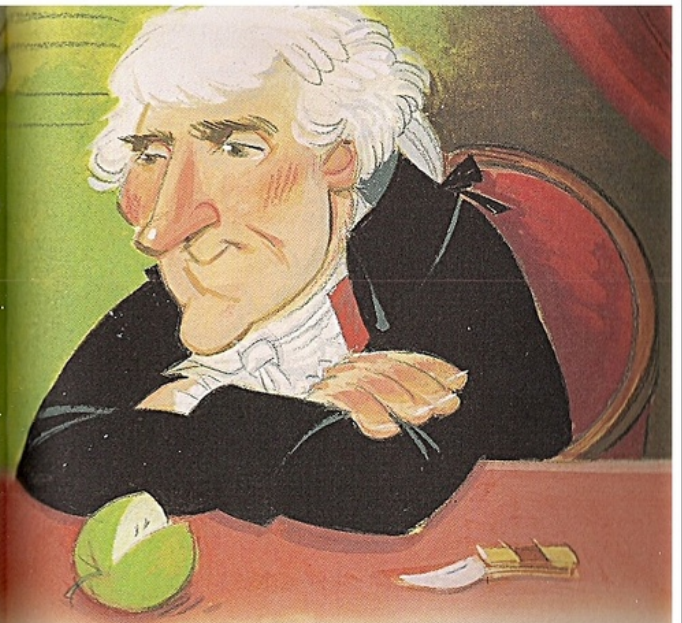


The president gave
the prairie dog
a piece of apple.

Chomp!

The prairie dog
gobbled it right up.

38



The president laughed.

"Americans will want to see
this little fellow," he said.

"I will send these fine presents
to Mr. Peale's museum."

39



Mr. Peale's museum
was in Philadelphia.
The prairie dog
and the other gifts
rode in a stagecoach
to the museum.
It was a very bumpy ride.

40



Mr. Peale loved the presents.
He sent President Jefferson
a thank-you note.
"The prairie dog is
a pleasing little animal.
He is not at all dangerous
like a groundhog," he wrote.

41

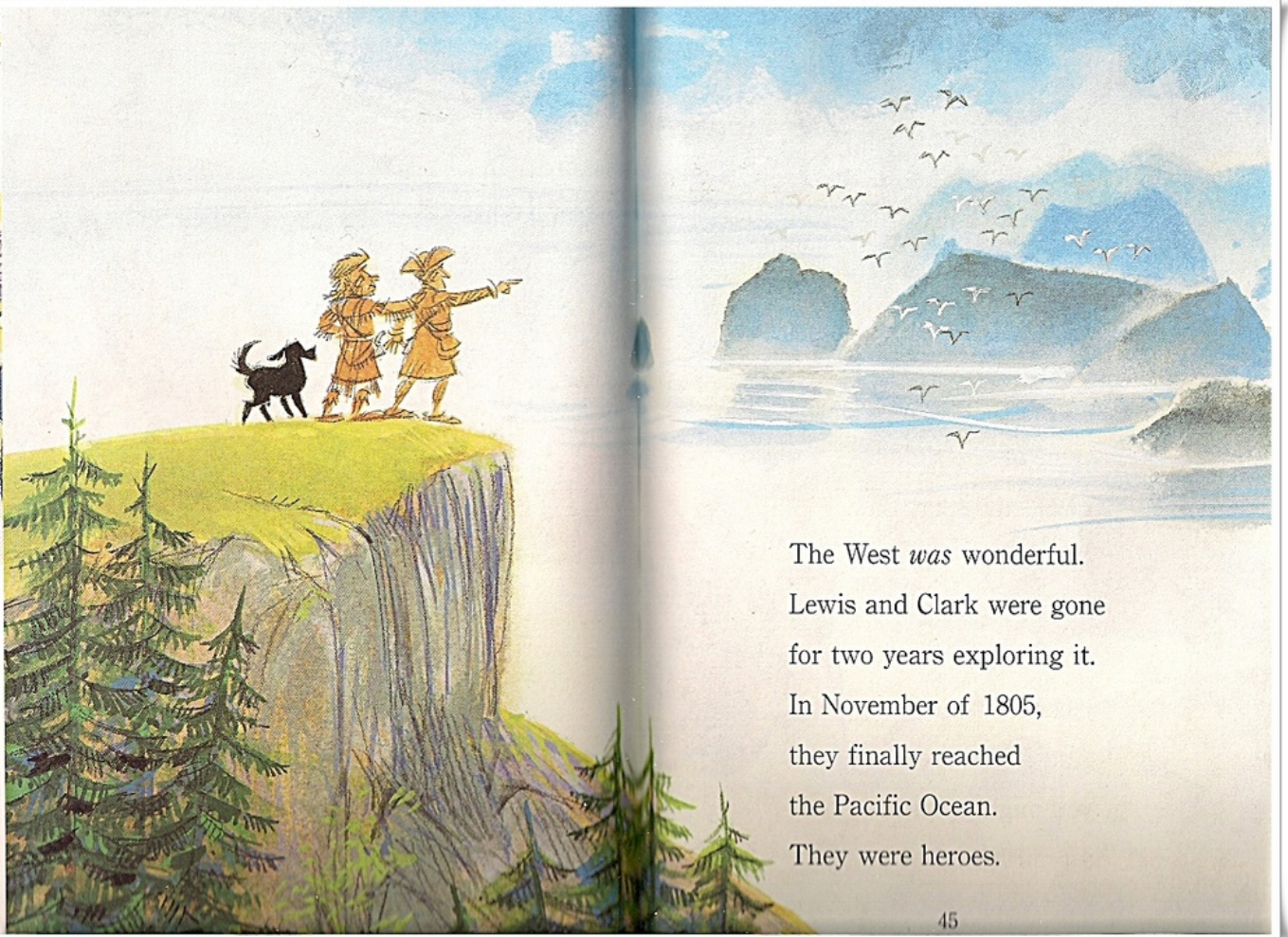


Mr. Peale put the cage
in a sunny room.
Children came
to see the prairie dog.
Artists came
to draw its picture.

42

The visitors touched
the buffalo skins
and the deer horns.
They stared at the magpies.
"The American West must be
a wonderful place," they said.

43



The West *was* wonderful.
Lewis and Clark were gone
for two years exploring it.
In November of 1805,
they finally reached
the Pacific Ocean.
They were heroes.

If you travel west today,
you can still see
some of the sights
Lewis and Clark saw.
You can see
grizzly bears and buffalo.
You can see
jackrabbits and magpies.
And if you are lucky,
you might even see
a prairie dog!

46

