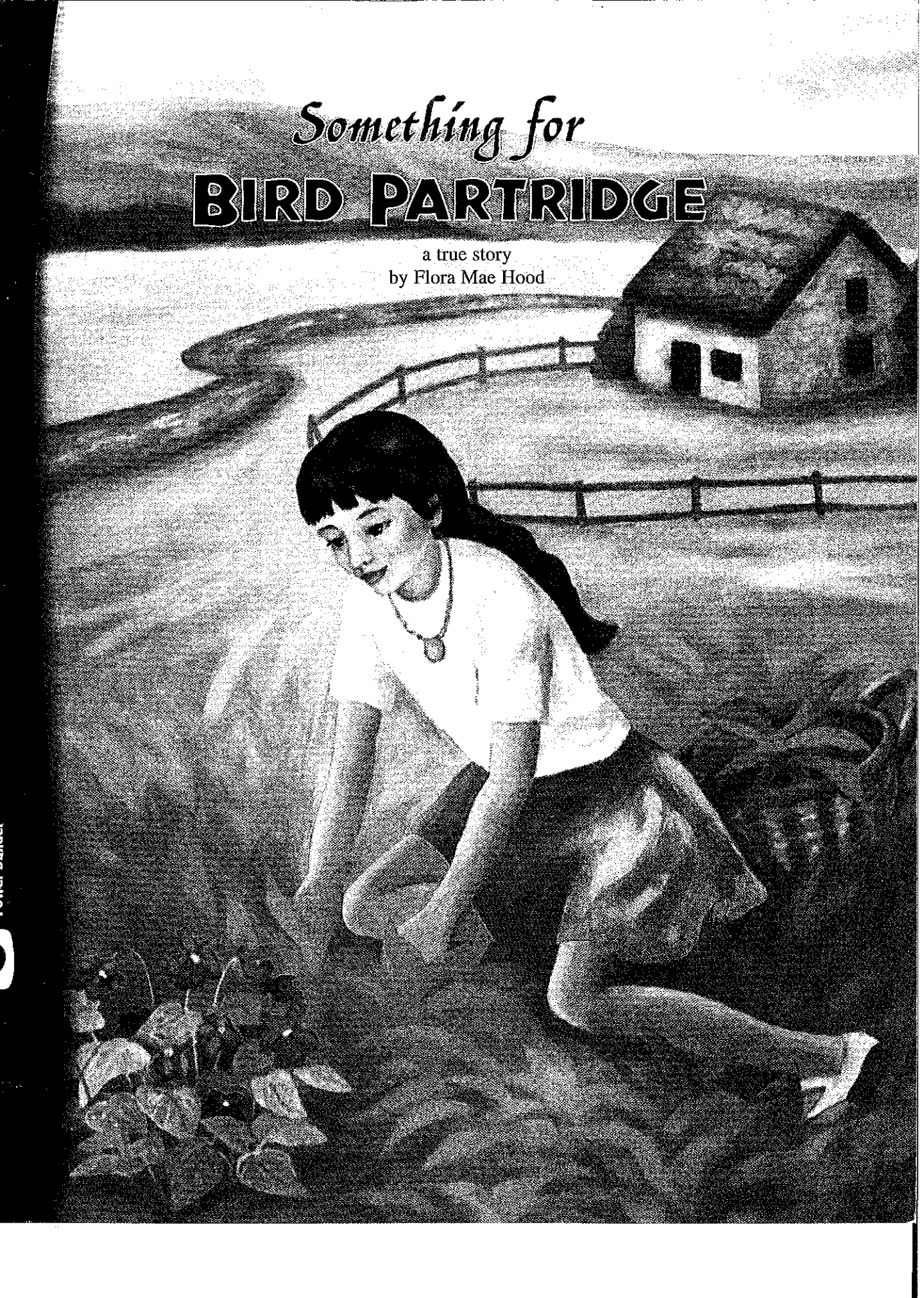


Something for
BIRD PARTRIDGE

a true story
by Flora Mae Hood

FORWARD



1 Every day, the school bus took the Cherokee Indian children home from school. On this day, Ada Armachain sat next to the window, silent. This afternoon, her teacher had said they would visit Bird Partridge tomorrow.

2 Bird Partridge was a very old Cherokee man. He was sick, too sick to walk. He was also very wise. Teacher said everyone should bring him a present—something valuable.

3 Ada turned to the girl next to her on the bus. “What does *valuable* mean?”

4 “I don’t know,” she answered. “Ask the bus driver.”

5 So Ada asked him.

6 “Valuable! That’s a big word for a little girl. What is valuable to me might not be valuable to you.”

7 When Ada got home, she found her mother in the yard. “I need something valuable to take to Bird Partridge,” Ada said. “What is valuable, Mamma?”

8 “Something that is valuable to you is something that you want or need very much. Now go find some wild greens by the creek close to Grandma’s house. Take a basket and get some for supper. While you’re there, ask Grandma what to take for Bird Partridge. She’s very wise and very old. She’ll know.”

9 Ada walked quickly to Grandma’s. On her way, she stopped to pick the greens. Suddenly, she saw a violet.

10 *Here is something valuable, Ada thought. Maybe it would make Bird Partridge feel better to have a little violet.*

11 Ada pulled the plant up by its roots and put it in a little can she found nearby. She decided to ask Grandma if the violet would be valuable to the sick, old man.

12 When Ada got to Grandma’s, she kissed her and gave her half the greens. Then she showed her the violet and told her about tomorrow’s trip.

13 Grandma looked at the violet again. “Yes, my dear, this is a lovely bird’s-foot violet—most valuable. Old Bird Partridge can no longer go to the woods, so your violet will bring the woods to him.”

14 The next day, Ada took her violet to school. The other children had brought jars of peaches, jam, and honey. There were loaves of bread and coffee, too. Now Ada wasn’t sure that Grandma was right about her gift. The other children’s things were more valuable than hers. But it had been the only gift she could find, and now it was too late.

15 The children got into the bus and rode through the woods to the Cherokee reservation where Bird Partridge lived.

16 At Bird Partridge’s house, Teacher knocked, and she and all the others went inside. But Ada stayed on the porch. She didn’t want to take her gift to the old man. She didn’t think he’d like it.

17 After a while, Teacher and the children came out. Teacher put her hands on Ada’s shoulders and said, “Take your gift to Bird Partridge. I told him you brought something valuable. He wants to see it—and he wants to see you, to ask about your grandma.”

18 Ada went in and shyly offered her gift to the sick man.

19 “Why, it’s a bird’s-foot violet!” he said. “I never thought I’d live to see another. Thank you, my child. The beauty of the woods makes my heart glad. You’ve brought me the most valuable gift of all. You’ve brought me spring!”

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COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 1 The most important lesson this story teaches is that
 - a** many valuable things can be found in the woods.
 - b** the best gift to give an old person is a flower.
 - c** different things are valuable to different people.
- 2 In paragraph 6, the words "That's a big word for a little girl" mean
 - a** the word is hard for a child to spell.
 - b** the word is hard for a child to understand.
 - c** a child should never say such a word.

- 3 Ada was unsure of her gift because
 - a** her grandmother was often wrong.
 - b** she knew she should have brought greens instead.
 - c** she thought it probably wasn't worth much.
- 4 Ada brought the woods to Bird Partridge by
 - a** bringing him a plant that grew there.
 - b** telling him what happened to her there.
 - c** drawing a picture of a flower she found there.
- 5 Bird Partridge was happy with Ada's gift because it
 - a** made him think of spring.
 - b** reminded him of childhood.
 - c** made him remember that he was sick.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 quiet; still (1)
- 2 gift (2)
- 3 leaves and stems of plants used for food (8)
- 4 made up her mind (11)
- 5 correct (14)
- 6 bashfully; timidly (18)
- 7 presented; held something out to be taken (18)

C A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning will depend on how it is used.

The *fly* buzzed around the room.
The bird will *fly* to its nest.

Look at each word in **bold type**. Note the paragraph number. Look back at the paragraph. Which meaning does the word have there? Write *a* or *b*.

- 8 **plant** (11)
 - a** buildings and machinery used for making things
 - b** living, growing things



LEARN ABOUT WORDS (continued)

9 trip (12)

- a journey
- b stumble

10 spring (19)

- a season of the year
- b stream of water

THINK ABOUT IT

D Read the sentences. Each one tells about an event in the story. Put the five events in the correct order by writing *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, or *e*.

- 1 Ada picked a bird's-foot violet.
- 2 Teacher said they would visit Bird Partridge.
- 3 Ada asked the bus driver what *valuable* meant.
- 4 Ada gave Bird Partridge a gift.
- 5 Ada got to her grandma's house.

E Read each set of sentences. Which word in **bold type** is the best ending? Write the word.

- 6 Ada rode the school bus silently. She was _____.
angry thoughtful happy
- 7 Grandma saw Ada's violet. She felt _____.
pleased angry silly
- 8 Ada saw the other gifts. About her own gift, Ada felt _____.
happy proud unsure
- 9 Bird Partridge asked to see her. Ada felt _____.
happy afraid shy
- 10 Bird Partridge loved Ada's gift. He felt _____.
tired sick happy

F Writers try to make stories more interesting by using colorful or funny language that doesn't mean exactly what the words say.

The man was *scared to death*.

This sentence means that the man was very scared. It doesn't mean that the man died.

Read the sentences. What does each sentence really mean? Write *a* or *b*.

- 11 Ada "didn't see eye to eye" with the others means Ada
a couldn't see well.
b didn't think the same thing.
- 12 A violet "caught Ada's eye" means it
a poked her in the eye.
b got Ada's attention.
- 13 Bird Partridge was "as old as the hills" means he was
a very old.
b born at the same time as the hills.
- 14 "A cat got Ada's tongue" means Ada
a was very quiet.
b didn't have a tongue.
- 15 You "brought me spring" means you
a brought something cheerful.
b brought warm weather.