

STONE FOX



30th
Anniversary
Edition

JOHN REYNOLDS
GARDINER

• 1 •

GRANDFATHER

ONE DAY GRANDFATHER wouldn't get out of bed. He just lay there and stared at the ceiling and looked sad.

At first little Willy thought he was playing.

Little Willy lived with his grandfather on a small potato farm in Wyoming. It was hard work living on a potato farm, but it was also a lot of fun. Especially when Grandfather felt like playing.

Like the time Grandfather dressed up as the scarecrow out in the garden. It took little Willy an hour to catch on. Boy, did they laugh. Grandfather laughed so hard he cried. And when he cried his beard filled up with tears.

• 3 •

Grandfather always got up real early in the morning. So early that it was still dark outside. He would make a fire. Then he would make breakfast and call little Willy. "Hurry up or you'll be eating with the chickens," he would say. Then he would throw his head back and laugh.

Once little Willy went back to sleep. When he woke up, he found his plate out in the chicken coop. It was picked clean. He never slept late again after that.

That is . . . until this morning. For some reason Grandfather had forgotten to call him. That's when little Willy discovered that Grandfather was still in bed. There could be only one explanation. Grandfather was playing. It was another trick.

Or was it?

"Get up, Grandfather," little Willy said. "I don't want to play anymore."

But Grandfather didn't answer.

Little Willy ran out of the house.

A dog was sleeping on the front porch. "Come on, Searchlight!" little Willy cried out. The dog jumped to its feet and together they ran off down the road.

Searchlight was a big black dog. She had a white spot on her forehead the size of a silver dollar. She was an old dog—actually born on the same day as little Willy, which was over ten years ago.

A mile down the road they came to a small log cabin surrounded by tall trees. Doc Smith was sitting in a rocking chair under one of the trees, reading a book.

"Doc Smith," little Willy called out. He was out of breath. "Come quick."

"What seems to be the matter, Willy?" the doctor asked, continuing to read.

Doc Smith had snow white hair and wore a long black dress. Her skin was tan and her face was covered with wrinkles.

A RACE AGAINST TIME

Little Willy's Grandfather is sick, and it's up to Willy to save their farm from the tax collectors. Their only hope is the prize money from the National Dogsled Race. But a lot of other people want to win the race, too, including Stone Fox, who has never lost a race in his life.

Do Willy and his dog, Searchlight, stand a chance against the toughest racers around? Can they win the race to save the farm—and Grandfather—before it's too late?

"A superb piece of storytelling—without doubt the most exciting and moving book this season."

—*The New Yorker*

*A New York Times Outstanding
Children's Book of 1980*

OVER 3.5 MILLION BOOKS SOLD!

www.harpercollinschildrens.com
BOOK NEWS, GAMES, CONTESTS, AND MORE

US \$5.99 / \$7.99 CAN

ISBN 978-0-06-440132-6



9 780064 401326



HARPER

An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

Ages 7–11

Cover art © 2010 by Wayne McLoughlin

Cover design by Erin Fitzsimmons