

Running with the Wind

Chapter 3

The sound of the rolling thunder got louder as the dust storm came closer. Tom had no idea what could possibly be creating such a big cloud of dust and so much noise.

As Tom stood and watched, at the far end of the field there appeared at first one horse, and then just as quickly, there appeared another, and another. From down in the valley, there were horses galloping up the hill!

Within moments, there were even more horses. One, two, three, four.....and then a whole bunch more. There was a herd of eighteen horses charging across the field. They all seemed to be running as fast as they could go.

Full speed!

The cloud of dust trailing behind them was huge. The noise of their hooves pounding on the ground was very loud.

Tom stood quite still and watched the beautiful horses. In his entire life, he had never seen anything quite so glorious as those horses racing across the field. They reminded Tom of the birds he liked to watch flying across the sky, so free, so happy just to be alive.

Tom had never seen these horses before. In fact, Tom did not even know there were horses down in the valley.

The horses kept charging onward. Within moments, they were all very close to where Tom was standing. The dust cloud was enormous. The noise of them galloping sounded like ongoing claps

of thunder. Another person might have turned and run away, but Tom did not move one muscle. He was not afraid.

The horses were so close now that, in the next few seconds, they were going to stomp Tom into the ground. Still, he was not afraid.

When the horses were right in front of Tom, when they were so close, he could see the whites of their eyes, in that same moment, they stopped running.

They stopped in an instant!

It was almost as if they had some kind of powerful brakes. They all stopped running right there in front of Tom.

They were breathing heavily. They were tired from all of the galloping back and forth across the valley. All of the horses stood quite still and stared at Tom.

Tom stared right back at them.

What a moment!

No one moved a muscle.

Not Tom.

Not one of the horses.

All of the horses and Tom stood and stared at each other.