

THE WEAVERS GIFT

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This is the land of the Navajo people. Long ago, sheep ,were brought here. The Navajo began raising the sheep. They learned to weave with yarn made from the sheep's wool. Girls learned to weave from their mothers. When the girls grew up, they taought their daughters. Men and boys helped too. They raised the sheep. They cut the sheep's wool.

The weaver combed out the wool. She pushed and pulled, using cards with points. Then the weaver spun the wool. She turn the wool into yarn. After that, the weaver gathered plants. Plants were boiled to make the dyes. The dyes were used to color the

yarn. The weaver set up her loom. In her mind she formed a picture of what she would make. She began weaving the picture into her rug. Rugs had many kinds of patterns.

Each pattern held special meaning. A weaver sang as she set the loom. Her songs were woven into her rug. The rug held her thoughts too. It became a part of her. Navajo weaving began long ago. It still goes on today. I know these things because I learned from my Aunt Gloria. She is a weaver. Aunt Gloria came to my school today. Aunt Gloria set up her loom. She showed how she weaves. My classmates tried weaving. Then Aunt Gloria said to the class "Henry has something to show you."

I held up a rug and said "This rug was woven by the grandmother of the grandmother of my mother." Everyone clapped. Then I said, "This rug is part of my family." That is why it is so beautiful to me.