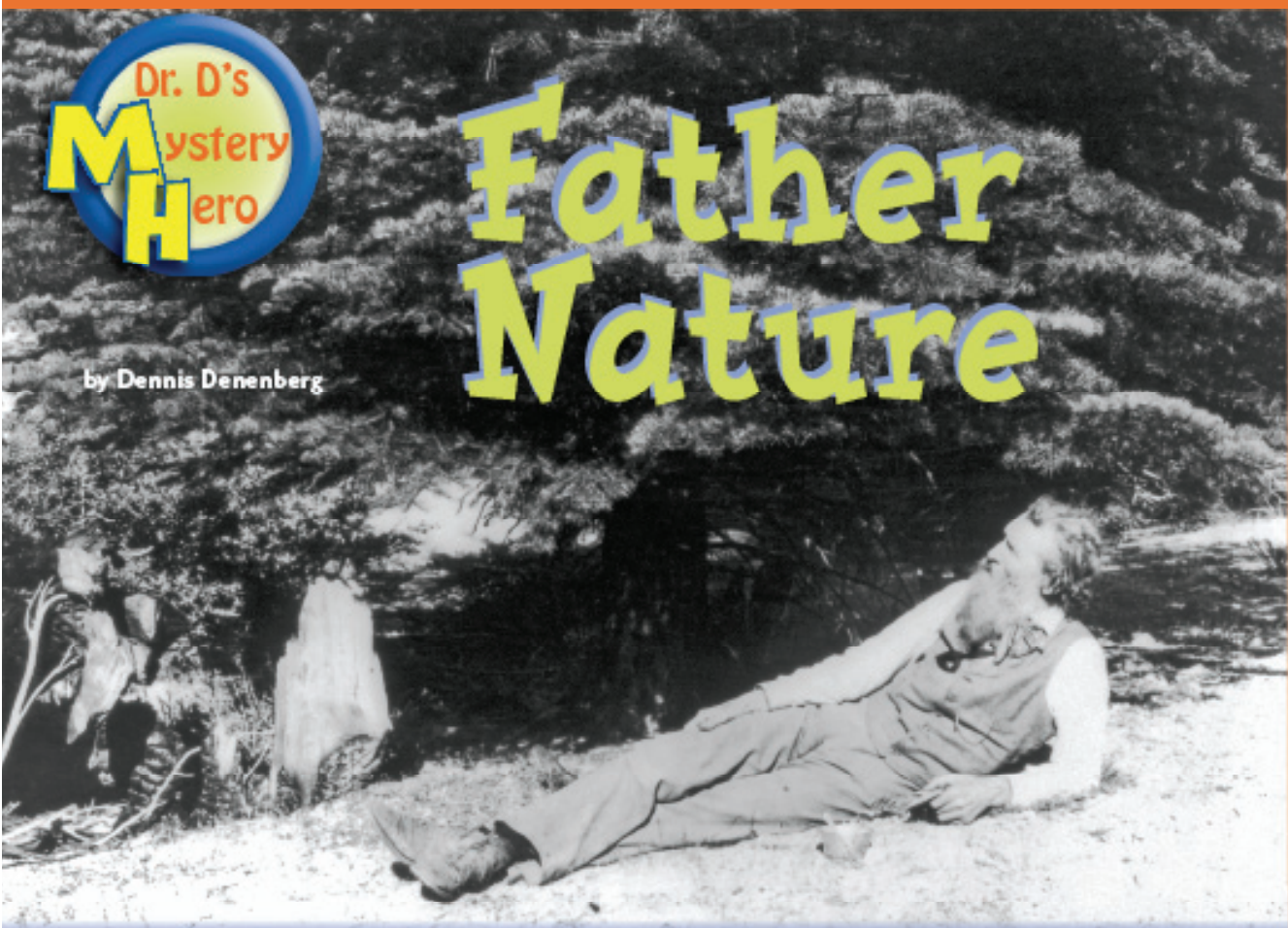


Dr. D's
Mystery
Hero

Father Nature

by Dennis Denenberg



Fredrick Law Olmsted and this month's mystery hero shared a common love—nature! They knew each other, and each admired the other's work. One of the major links between the two men was their love for Yosemite, which is one of our grandest national parks.

Our mystery hero's family moved from Scotland to a Wisconsin farm when he was 11. Our hero began his love affair with nature as a child. He loved to collect birds' nests. One reason he may have been so eager to escape to the woods was his very strict upbringing. His father demanded absolute obedience. Our hero was forced to memorize and recite passages from the Bible. His father used a wooden switch to whip his son when the recitations were not perfect.

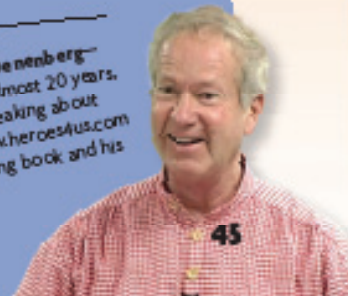
In addition to the rigorous mental training, our young hero worked on the family farm, which often turned into 17-hour days during the spring and summer months. That didn't leave much time for anything else other than eating and sleeping. Our hero often had no time to

read. He convinced his father to permit him to rise early, even inventing an "early-rising machine" to dump him out of bed at 1:00 A.M.!

Was it a childhood interaction with nature that led him to become one of the greatest Americans involved in preserving our nation's awesome natural beauty? The partial answer is yes, but a specific episode in his life—temporary loss of his sight—also played a part. That story is for you to discover once his identity is revealed.

So who was this man who founded the Sierra Club, became known as the "Father of Our National Parks," and was a close friend of President Theodore Roosevelt? Answer on page 48.

"Dr. D"—also known as Dr. Dennis Denenberg—loves history and real heroes. For almost 20 years, he's been writing, teaching, and speaking about heroes all over America. Visit www.heroes4us.com to learn all about his award-winning book and his Hero-Virtue trading cards.



45

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