



The Apprentice – Williamsburg Style

Twelve year-old Henry awoke at dawn on a chilly December morning, reluctant to toss off his warm covers. He slept in the unheated attic of his master's house and he knew the floor would be cold under his feet. Marcy, the housekeeper, was already in the warm kitchen preparing breakfast. Henry knew it was his job to make sure the fires in the rest of the house were lit and rooms warmed before the family awoke.

Henry wriggled out of his long nightshirt and donned his cold clothes. He scampered downstairs and washed his face quickly with some warm water Marcy prepared for him.

"Good morning Henry," she said. "I have a Johnny cake and some hot tea ready for you after you light the fires."

After Henry got the logs burning in the dining and living room fireplaces, he sat down for a quick breakfast in the kitchen with Marcy, a black slave. Henry was an apprentice to Mr. Wilson who was a cabinet-maker. Henry and his parents signed a contract with Mr. Wilson to teach Henry to be a cabinet-maker too.

Henry would live with Mr. Wilson's family until he was sixteen in 1784, promising to be a faithful servant. In exchange for Henry's work, Mr. Wilson would provide Henry with food, lodging, clothing and laundry in addition to teaching him the cabinet-maker's trade. Henry could not leave Mr. Wilson's house without his permission and Henry could not sell any of the merchandise he made.

"Thank you for the breakfast," Henry said to Marcy as he put on his coat. "I need to get the fire lit in the workshop and the tools ready for the day. Today Mr. Wilson will be working on Dame Anderson's new dining table."

Henry scampered off to the workshop which was the small building behind the house. He knew Mr. Wilson would be upset if the shop wasn't ready when it was time to start working.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. How old was Henry?

- a. 12
- b. 14
- c. 16

2. Where did Henry sleep?

- a. A bedroom
- b. The kitchen
- c. The attic

3. Why was Henry awake at dawn?

- a. To eat an early breakfast
- b. To start his work for the day
- c. To go to the workshop

4. Henry was

- a. A servant
- b. A slave
- c. An apprentice

5. Henry was learning to make

- a. Iron goods
- b. Carriages
- c. Furniture

6. Mr. Wilson was supposed to provide Henry with

- a. Food and lodging
- b. Transportation
- c. A small salary

Name: _____ Date: _____

Activities

1. Explain the terms of Henry's apprenticeship contract with Mr. Wilson.
2. Do some research and find out what a Johnny cake is. Do people still eat Johnny cakes?
3. Williamsburg was a city in colonial Virginia. Locate Williamsburg on a map of Colonial America.
4. In what year does this story take place?
5. What was happening in America at the time of this story?
6. Would you like to trade places with Henry? Explain why or why not.
7. Do some research and find pictures of furniture that was made in the late 1700s in Williamsburg.



Halloween Creatures

Uncle Moses is in his fifties and has been a bachelor all his life. He doesn't have any family living in the Middlebury area but somehow everybody around town calls him Uncle Moses anyway.

On Halloween evening Uncle Moses drove the tractor with a hay wagon loaded with kids pulled along behind it. It was a chilly night like Halloween often is. He parked in a dark secluded spot where the fire was ready to be lit. Clouds covered what should have been the bright harvest moon.

After everyone roasted hot dogs and marshmallows, they sat around the warm fire casually chatting. Then Uncle Moses started to speak, recounting folktales of vampires and other monstrous creatures. First he told about the Scottish vampires, the Baobhan Sith. These beautiful young women are always dressed in long green gowns that hide their goat-like feet but sometimes they appear as ravens or crows. After enticing a young man to dance until he is exhausted, the vampire drains the blood from his body.

"Beware of the Russian wampir," Uncle Moses warned in hushed tones. "There may be one sitting among us right now. Wampirs look like normal humans. They use the stinger under their tongues to stun their victims. Then they suck out every drop of blood. Wampirs roam the earth from noon 'til midnight. We might see one yet tonight!"

Everyone giggled at the thought of a Russian vampire invading their Halloween party.

A chilly wind started to blow and the kids moved closer to the fire as Uncle Moses started a tall tale about a ferocious werewolf that attacked unsuspecting humans in the deep dark forests of Transylvania. A couple of kids thought they heard rustling in the leaves nearby but ignored the sounds until someone yelled, "I see yellow eyes coming this way!"

Sure enough, a creature was approaching the campfire; it was just the right size to be a werewolf on Halloween night. A couple of kids screamed and hid their faces with their hands.

Uncle Moses just chuckled and called softly, "Come Sophia and join the party."

Sophia, Uncle Moses' chocolate lab dog, pattered over and started licking the kids. The kids decided they had enough of Halloween stories, put out the fire and hopped back onto the hay wagon for the ride back to the barn.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. How old was Uncle Moses?
 - a. In his forties
 - b. In his fifties
 - c. In his sixties
2. At the Halloween bonfire what did the kids eat?
 - a. Roasted hot dogs
 - b. Hamburgers
 - c. Pizza
3. Scottish vampires have feet like
 - a. Horses
 - b. Crocodiles
 - c. Goats
4. Wampirs are part of the folklore of what country?
 - a. Scotland
 - b. Russia
 - c. Transylvania
5. Sometimes vampires appear as animals, especially
 - a. Ravens
 - b. Wolves
 - c. Snakes

Name: _____ Date: _____

Activities

1. Do you like to watch horror movies with vampires or werewolves? Explain why or why not.

2. Do some research and explain what the harvest moon is.

3. What is a werewolf? If you don't know, look it up in a dictionary or encyclopedia.

4. Where is Transylvania? If you don't know, look it up in a dictionary or encyclopedia.

5. Do some research and write a descriptive essay about the looks and temperament of the Labrador retriever dog.

6. Draw your own picture of a vampire or werewolf.

7. A vampire bat is a real species of mammal. Do some research and write a short report about vampire bats.



The Argument

Mom could hear the girls squabbling all the way in the kitchen. It was the third time this week that the sisters had been arguing over something or fighting about nothing. A few minutes later Maria stormed through kitchen and slammed the door as she left.

"Come back here, young lady," Mom firmly stated in her best mother tone of voice. Maria turned around and came back into the kitchen.

"I can't stand living with Felicia another minute," Maria blurted out. "I don't ever want to talk to her again!"

Mom immediately called out, "Felicia, come to the kitchen right now."

While Felicia was on her way, Mom took two of the kitchen chairs and placed them opposite each other but very close together.

"Maria, you sit here and Felicia you sit there." The girls sat facing each other, knees almost touching. "Now you look each other in the eye for five minutes," Mom ordered while she stood there as a referee.

The sisters squirmed at first but Mom was adamant that they stay staring icily at each other for five minutes, saying something about each minute they didn't make eye contact meant another minute sitting in the chairs. They both wanted out so all they could do was sit there and look at each other.

Felicia looked at Maria's pouting face while Maria looked at Felicia's angry scowl. They each thought the other one looked ridiculous! In reality, they were being ridiculous to fight and be mad at each other over nothing.

Soon Maria couldn't stand it any longer and began giggling and so did Felicia. They giggled and laughed.

Mom wisely didn't say anything except, "Okay girls, you can go now."

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

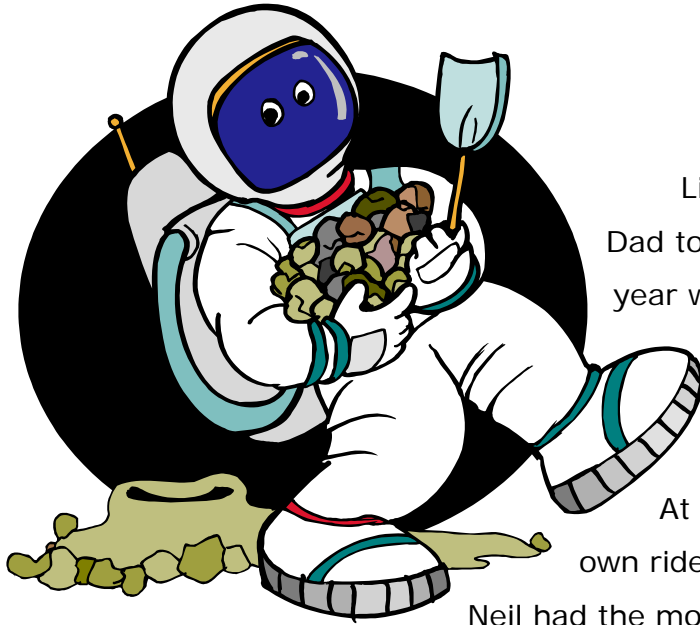
Circle the correct answer.

1. What were Maria and Felicia fighting about?
 - a. Make-up
 - b. Homework
 - c. Nothing
2. Why was Maria leaving the house?
 - a. Because she didn't want to be near Felicia
 - b. It was time to go to school
 - c. She was visiting a friend
3. In what room of the house does the story take place?
 - a. The girls' bedroom
 - b. The kitchen
 - c. The dining room
4. How did Mom place the chairs?
 - a. Side-by-side
 - b. Back-to-back
 - c. Facing each other
5. Sitting there what part of the girls was almost touching?
 - a. Hands
 - b. Knees
 - c. Feet
6. At the end of the story both girls were
 - a. Giggling
 - b. Crying
 - c. Mad

Name: _____ Date: _____

Activities

1. With your classmates, act out this story as a play.
2. Match up with one of your classmates. Try sitting opposite each other. Time how long it is before you start laughing.
3. Have a class discussion about a fight you had with a brother or sister and what you did to resolve it.
4. Define the following conflict resolution terms: communicate, negotiate, arbitrate, and mediate.
5. Describe a conflict that ended in a positive way where everyone involved felt good at the end or things changed for the better as a result.
6. Choose a color or group of colors that you think represents conflict. Write a short essay about why you think these colors represent conflict.
7. Explain how good manners help to avoid conflicts.



Into Space

Little Neil was just two years old when his Dad took him to watch an airplane race. The year was 1932 and in those days air shows featured brightly colored aircraft piloted by daredevils. At that early age Neil was already fascinated with flying.

At age four, Neil went with his Dad for their own ride in an airplane. While Dad was nervous, Neil had the most wonderful time.

Later, Neil spent time making balsa wood model airplanes. Then he graduated to more complicated plastic models. He paid for his models and lots of flying magazines by mowing lawns.

When Neil was thirteen, the family moved to a new town. Neil adapted to a new school, joined the Boy Scouts, and played in the school band. He still flew model airplanes and immersed himself in the night sky using a neighbor's telescope.

The fascination with flying never diminished. Neil was old enough to walk to the nearby airport to watch the planes. As a part-time job he washed planes and made extra money. Then he realized that he wanted to learn to be a pilot himself but lessons cost \$9 an hour. Why, Neil would need to work for 25 hours at his other jobs to afford just one lesson, but it was well worth all the hard work.

Neil asked his parents for permission and, knowing how much he loved airplanes, they agreed that he could learn to fly an airplane. Even though he couldn't get a driver's license for a car, at age 16 Neil had his student pilot's license. When Neil grew up he became a U.S. Navy fighter pilot and then a test pilot for advanced rocket-powered aircraft.

Have you guessed which Neil the story is about? On July 20, 1969 astronaut Neil Armstrong was the first human to set foot on the moon with the famous words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. How old was Neil when he took his first airplane ride?
 - a. 2
 - b. 4
 - c. 16
2. What material were Neil's first model airplanes made from?
 - a. Plastic
 - b. Metal
 - c. Wood
3. Besides model airplanes, what else did Neil like to buy?
 - a. Magazines
 - b. Books
 - c. Toys
4. How much did flying lessons cost when Neil wanted to fly?
 - a. \$9 an hour
 - b. \$25 an hour
 - c. \$125 an hour
5. How old was Neil when he obtained his student pilot's license?
 - a. 12
 - b. 16
 - c. 20
6. Neil was a fighter pilot for the U.S.
 - a. Navy
 - b. Air Force
 - c. Marines

Name: _____ Date: _____

Activities

1. How old was Neil Armstrong when he walked on the moon?

2. Do some research on the Internet and watch the video of Neil Armstrong walking on the moon.

3. Do some research and write a short report about the 1930s National Air Races.

4. Do some research and locate a picture of a biplane. Write a descriptive essay that describes a biplane.

5. Draw your own picture of Neil Armstrong's moon landing.

6. Do you have an interest in a career in aviation? Explain why or why not.

7. Have you ever been on an airplane? Explain what the experience is like.