

Benjamin Franklin - Part One A00115

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This material was adapted by Peter Schmitt from the book “Four Great Americans: Washington, Franklin, Webster, and Lincoln. A book for young Americans.” by James Baldwin. The book is now in the public domain.

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Audio is read by Sibella Denton.

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THE STORY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (His early years)

Nearly two hundred years ago, there lived in Boston a little boy whose name was Benjamin Franklin. When Benjamin Franklin



was a boy there were no great public schools in Boston as there are now. But he learned to read almost as soon as he could talk, and he was always fond of books.

His nine brothers were older than he, and every one had learned a trade. They did not care so much for books. "Benjamin shall be the scholar of our family," said his mother.

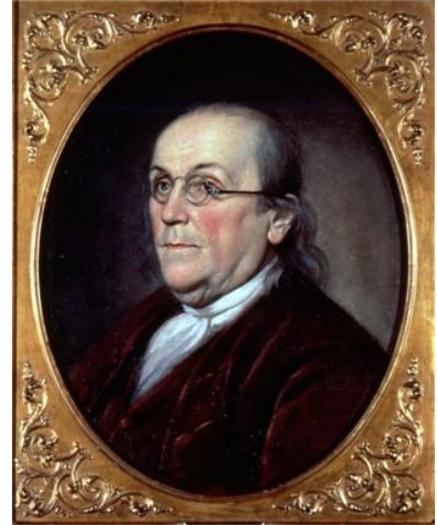
And so, when he was eight years old, Benjamin Franklin was sent to a grammar school, where boys were prepared for college. He was a very apt scholar, and in a few months was promoted to a higher class.

But the lad was not allowed to stay long in the grammar school. His father was a poor man. It would cost a great deal of money to give Benjamin a college education. The times were very hard. The idea of educating the boy had to be given up. In less than a year he was taken from the grammar school, and sent to another school where arithmetic and writing were taught.

He learned to write very well. But he did not care so much for arithmetic, and so failed to do what was expected of him.

When he was ten years old he had to leave school altogether. His father needed his help, and there were many things that he could do.

He never attended school again. But he kept on studying and reading; and we shall find that afterwards became the most learned man in America.



Vocabulary

Lad: Noun- boy or young man

Fond: Adjective: to like someone or something very much

Scholar: Noun- A person with much education.

Apt: Adjective- 1) Exactly right for a situation or purpose. 2) Able to learn or understand quickly.

Learned: Verb- Past of "to learn";
Adjective- Educated

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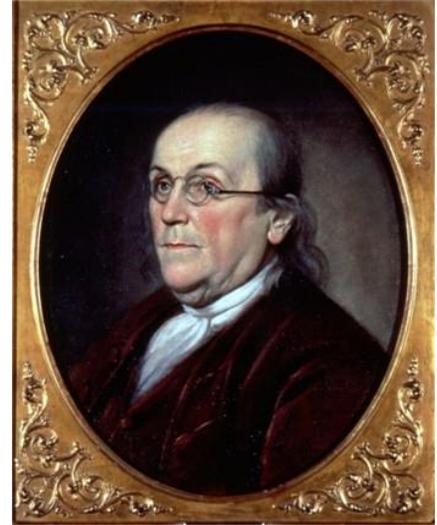
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