

Teacher's Guide

for **The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed**

by Heather Vogel Frederick

Pre-reading:

Before beginning to read **The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed**, research the practice of whaling on the Internet. Write down three interesting facts you learned.

Prediction Guide:

Chapters 1-3

1. Will Patience's father relent, and let her attend Miss Mitchell's school? How do you know?
2. Will Patience and Thaddeus see the two rough-and-tumble sailors again? Why or why not?
3. Will Aunt Anne go to sea with the other Goodspeeds?
4. Will Thaddeus get into further mischief? Predict one possibility.

Chapters 4-6

1. Who will be the first to spot the whale?
2. Will Binyon and Todd be problems throughout the voyage? What makes you believe so?
3. Will they catch more whales? How many? Will they all be so easily taken?
4. Will Patience and Thaddeus go back up on the masthead again during the next whale hunt? Why or why not?

Chapter 7-9

1. Will Patience end up telling her father about what Binyon and Todd did to Thaddeus? Why or why not?
2. Will Patience's father begin teaching her to navigate now or not?
3. Which birthday present will be her favorite? Why?

Chapters 10-12

1. What does Patience see in the storeroom? Will they become important later in the story? How?
2. Will the *Morning Star* survive the storm? How do you know?
3. Will they find Long Tom? Will Cousin Jeremiah recover?
4. Do you think Patience is right in disliking Bridgewater?
5. Do you think Aunt Anne will come along on the next expedition? Why?

Chapters 13-15

1. Is Bridgewater to be trusted? Why or why not?
2. Who are the traitors?
3. Will Captain Goodspeed and Thaddeus be marooned forever?
4. Will the villains catch Ishmael?
5. Will Patience's calculations be correct? Will it matter?

Chapters 16-18

1. Will Patience be able to help gain control of the ship again? How?
2. Whose side is Charlie Fishback on? What makes you think so?
3. Will Todd give away Patience's plan?
4. What will happen to Bridgewater, Binyon, and Todd?
5. Will Captain Goodspeed let Patience navigate more now?
6. Will Patience want to go on the next whaling expedition? Why or why not?

Comprehension Guide/ Quiz Questions for **The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed** by Heather Vogel Frederick

Knowledge:

1. Describe the reasons why Patience does not want to leave Nantucket.
2. Sequence the major events in the book.

Comprehension:

1. Summarize how Patience changes from the beginning of the story to the end.
2. Describe life aboard a whale ship in the early 1800's.

Application:

1. Choose your favorite scene from the book. Reread that part, and then, in a brief journal entry, describe why the writing of it was so compelling.
2. Instruct a friend or a teacher on some interesting tidbit you learned while reading **The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed**.

Analyze:

1. Compare and contrast Patience with her father. How are they alike? How are they different?
2. Research one of the historical events that is mentioned in the book (such as the sinking of the *Essex*).

Synthesize:

1. Compile a list of items you would want to take with you aboard the *Morning Star* for a three-year journey.
2. Write a letter to Patience explaining what you learned while reading her story.

Evaluation:

1. Predict what Thaddeus's career and life will be like as an adult. Defend your answer.
2. Choose your favorite character of the book. Explain why.

Multiple Intelligence Projects for **The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed** by Heather Vogel Frederick

Verbal/ Linguistic:

Write at least three journal entries as if you were Thaddeus Goodspeed. Be detailed enough to prove you read the whole book!

Logical/ Mathematical:

Design a chart that will display the following information: major characters, job aboard ship, relationship to Patience, major roles in each event. Then, design a couple of quiz questions from it to use for preparing for the in-class test!

Visual/ Spatial:

Illustrate your favorite scene from the book in whatever media you choose: collage, paint, black and white, even photography!

Body/Kinesthetic:

Play **The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed** charades. Act out the following scenes from the book, but use absolutely NO words to get the audience to guess which scene you are portraying:

- Boarding the *Morning Star*
- Thaddeus being dunked by Binyon and Todd
- The whaling expedition
- The storm
- The mutiny
- The marooning
- The navigating of the ship by Patience
- Saving her father and brother

Musical/ Rhythmic:

Pretend you are creating the special sound effects for the movie adaptation of **The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed**. With a tape recorder, try to create sounds that would mimic the following sea sounds:

- Ocean waves
- Storm
- Raising of the sails
- Clashing of the mutiny
- The animals aboard the ship

Interpersonal:

(Cooperative Project)

Brainstorm a list of topics that would be appropriate to explore beyond the text. (Discuss what life in America was like during the early 1800's, for instance. What were major ways to earn a living? What was life at home like? Clothing? What were the expectations for young women and men?) Then, have students draw up a list of responsibilities for each team member and how members will be held accountable. Each group must turn in:

1. A poster of their findings
2. At least three unique references in a full bibliography
3. An individual journal discussing their part in the project and how they perceived its success

Intrapersonal:

Being able to recognize when comprehension has broken down is a hallmark of a good reader. Reread any chapter from **The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed** and write a distraction journal (a list of all the nonsense thoughts that distract you from your comprehension of the text). Write about when it was most difficult to pay attention, and when it was easiest and why you got the results you did. In future readings, see if this activity doesn't help you recognize when your comprehension is flagging, and what you might do to improve it!

Teacher's guide provided by: www.TracieVaughnZimmer.com. Visit this children's author's website to learn about more resources for your favorite books!