



LITERATURE LESSON PLANS

Good children's literature
appeals not only to the child
in the adult,
but to the adult in the child.

~ ANONYMOUS ~

BOWDITCH

2

Time: 45 minutes

Reading: Chapter 1: "The Good-Luck Spell"

Goal: Lay a providential view of history as the foundation for teaching this biography.

Review: Biography adds to one's knowledge of truth and inspires the reader for his own life's choices.

Principle: Sovereign God directs the affairs of individuals and nations by His providence for His eternal plan and purposes.

Scripture: God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth ... and giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord (Acts 17:24-27, KJV).

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

fatalistic (adj.) Having the belief that you cannot prevent bad things from happening.

gable (n.) The triangular end of a house from the eaves to the top.

mush (n.) A thick breakfast cereal made by boiling cornmeal and water or milk.

nor'easter (n.) Slang for "northeastern," a type of storm that blows from the northeast Atlantic Ocean to the northeastern coast of the United States with characteristics similar to a hurricane.

pindling (adj.) Puny; small.

shilling (n.) An English silver coin.

sovereign (adj.) Supreme in power; possessing supreme dominion, as the sovereign ruler of the universe.

superstition (n.) An irrational belief (maintained by ignorance) that an object, action, or circumstance not logically related to a course of events influences its outcome.

towhead (n.) A person with very light blond hair.

STUDENT



Key Word:

providence (n.) The overruling hand of God that directs individuals, nations, and nature for the gospel and His good purpose.



Notebook Record:

1. Record the following phrases on your Setting graphic organizer:

Carry On, Mr. Bowditch is set in the years 1779 to 1803 from the Revolutionary War to the birth of the United States.

Historic Salem, Massachusetts:

- A thriving New England seaport founded in 1626
- A great shipping and shipbuilding center in the world in the 1800s



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. Be certain that you have read the entire biography before teaching. For this lesson, reread chapter 1, “The Good-Luck Spell.”
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words before teaching.
3. Gather all the resources needed for the lesson: the biography; student vocabulary card; setting graphic organizers; and coloring page 1, “Essex Street in Salem, 1779.”



Teaching Plan:

1. Distribute student binders.
2. Review how biography adds to one’s knowledge of truth and inspires the reader for his own life’s choices.
3. Pin the student vocabulary word on the bulletin board and define the word for the children. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle for the children.

The word “providence” is derived from two Latin roots: 1) “pro,” which means “before,” and 2) “video,” which means “to see.” Providence literally means “to see beforehand.” God, who does not abide in time or place but in eternity, sees all—in the dimension of time, He knows the end from the beginning—and directs and protects His plan and “provides” for it.

From the Heidelberg Catechism, Questions 27 and 28:

“What do you understand by the providence of God? Providence is the almighty and ever present power of God by which He upholds, as with His hand, heaven and earth and all creatures and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but from His Fatherly hand.

“How does the knowledge of God’s creation and providence help us? We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing will separate us from His love. All creatures are so completely in His hand that without His will they can neither move nor be moved.”

4. Introduce the principle to the children.

Teach them that God, the Creator of the universe, exercises His hand over all His creation. He rules in the affairs of men and nations for His eternal plan and has a plan for each of His children. (Read Psalm 139.) History is “His Story!” Providence is the key to understanding history. A non-providential approach to history only identifies secondary causes

- Called the “Mistress of the Seas” during the peak of the pepper trade, which opened up sea routes for the gospel
2. Color your coloring page with your colored pencils.



Reason Questions:

1. Describe the setting of chapter 1 in *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch*: year, city, and nation.
2. What important event was happening as young Nat was growing up?
3. What did you learn about the Bowditch family? Were they prosperous? Were they happy? Explain your answers.
4. How did Nat think about events and individuals? Did he have a providential view?
5. Describe the difference between believing in God’s providence and believing in good luck spells.
6. Tell the many ways you have experienced God’s providence in your life.

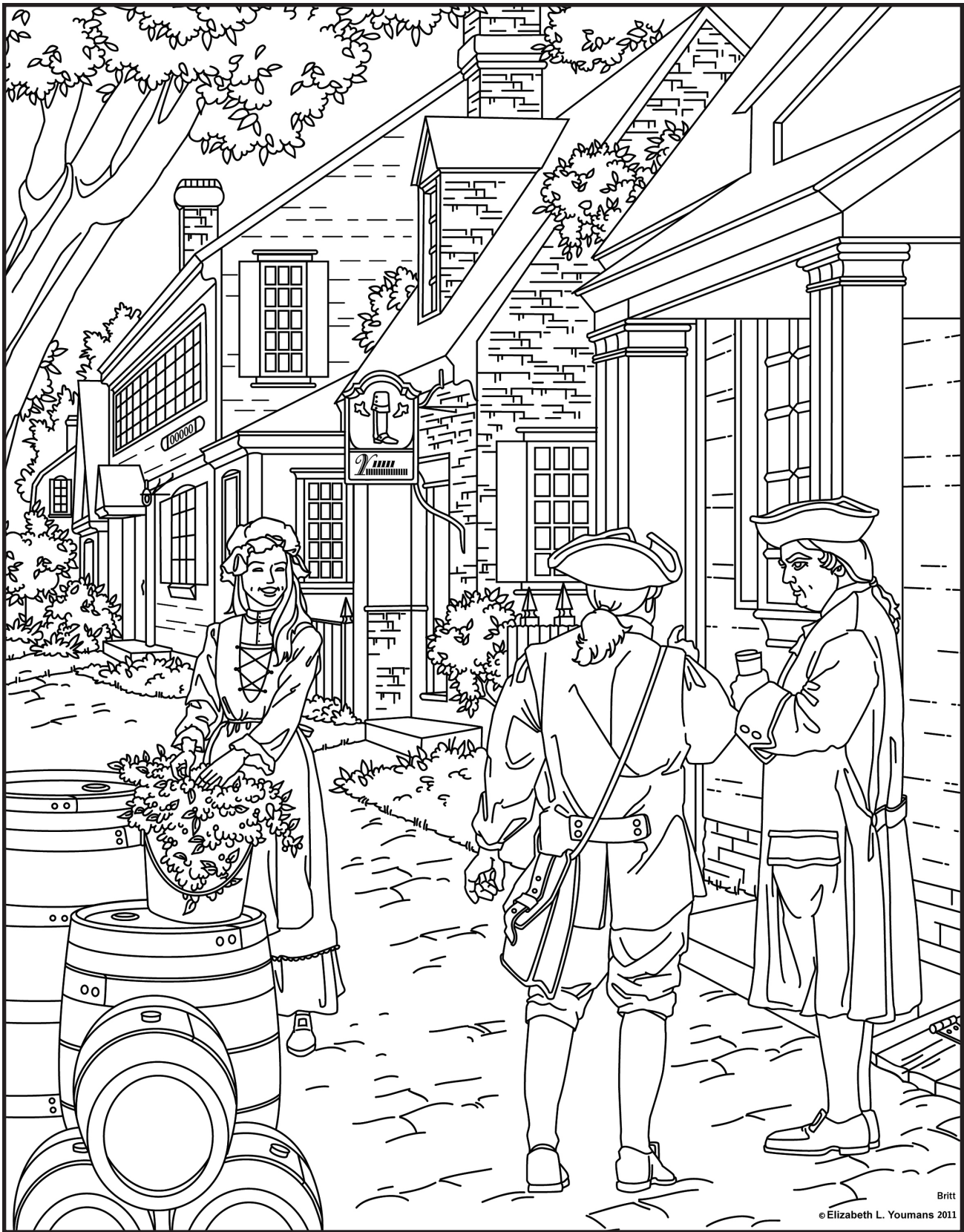


Oral Work:

Memorize these four lines from Longfellow’s poem:

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s
poem “A Psalm of Life”
American poet, 1838

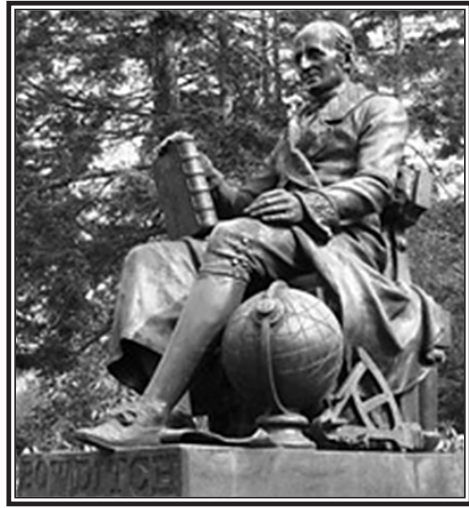


Britt

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Essex Street in Salem, Massachusetts, 1779

Accomplishments of Nathaniel Bowditch



1773 — 1838

"As long as ships shall sail, the needle point to the north, and the stars go through their wonted courses in the heavens, the name of Dr. Bowditch will be revered as one who has helped his fellowmen in time of need, who was and is a guide to them over the pathless oceans, and one who forwarded the great interests of mankind."

— Salem Marine Society Eulogy, 1839

Marbled Paper Book Cover

A project inspired by medieval and colonial book covers

Paper Marbling:

Paper marbling is a method of surface design that produces patterns similar to smooth marble or granite. No two pieces are alike. The patterns are derived by floating colors on plain water and then transferring them onto paper or fabric. Marbled paper has been used for centuries as book covers and endpapers in book-binding and stationery.



Our Project:

Children will marble paper to create a book cover for their Seaman's Log.

Supplies:

- 14 x 8½-inch white paper, the heavier the better, 1 piece per child
- liquid dish soap
- shallow baking pan larger than the paper
- acrylic paint in three colors, thinned to a watery consistency
- pencil and toothpicks

Instructions for Class:

1. Create samples for the children to see.
2. Put 1½ inches of water into the baking pan.
3. Dip a toothpick into paint and drop color across the water. Repeat for each color.
4. Run a pencil back and forth through the water. Then gently swirl the colors to make the marble design.
5. Have each child write his name on the wrong side of his paper.
6. Draw paper into a U-shape and place down on the surface of the water. Make sure all the paper is touching the water. With one end of the paper, remove it from the water and lay it flat on a surface lined with newspapers, color side up.
7. When dry, if the paper is wrinkled you may iron it on a low setting, color side down.
8. Fold in half to make the cover for the Seaman's Log.

