

## Lesson 10: Back Home

### Getting Started

#### ? Big Ideas

- How can words be powerful?
- How can power be used to help people?



#### Facts and Definitions

- A **maxim** is an expression of truth or principle by which to live.

#### ⦿ Skills

- Increase vocabulary by studying author's craft. (LA)
- Read and interpret a variety of texts. (LA)
- Ask questions to get information. (LA)
- Consider the difference among genres. (LA)



#### Materials

✓ *Ben and Me* by Robert Lawson

✓ journal

### Introduction

Tell your child that today she will finish the book *Ben and Me*. Ask her what she has learned from the book and what she has enjoyed most.

### Activities

#### Reading and Questions

Today your child will read Chapter XV. Use the following questions to aid you in a discussion with your child.

1. What did the mice give to Ben for his birthday? Do you think this was a good gift? Why or why not?
  - A new hat. Answers will vary.
2. Do you think Amos should stay home or continue to accompany Ben? Why?
  - Answers will vary.
3. Has Amos shown that he has vision? If so, in what way?
  - Answers will vary.
4. What do you think about Amos's account of Ben's life?
  - Answers will vary.
5. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?
  - Answers will vary.

#### Activity 1: Fact and Fiction

Your child can list a factual and fictional detail from today's chapter on the "Fact and Fiction" page.

### **Activity 2: Ben's Maxims**

Discuss that the book is filled with Ben's maxims. A maxim is an expression of truth or a principle by which to live. They are powerful sayings that can teach people a lot about life. On the page, "Ben's Maxims," are a number of Ben's maxims found in the book. Let your child locate each maxim on the page in context and provide her own interpretation. (They are in all capital letters in the book.) Then ask her to interview adults to get their interpretations. For each maxim, she should list an interpretation from an adult. Encourage her to ask a different adult for each maxim. At the bottom of the page, she will write her own maxim by which children can live.

Note: To extend this activity, let your child research some of Ben's other maxims (or any other maxims). She can record them in her journal and explain how she could apply each one to her own life.

### **Activity 3: Elements of Historical Fiction**

On the page, "Elements of Historical Fiction," your child will find the characteristics of historical fiction that she learned about in Lesson 1. Now that she has finished the book, she can provide examples of events or characters that support each element.

### **Wrapping Up**

Ask your child to describe some of the main events in the book. Ask her if she liked the way the book ended.

# Ben's Maxims



**Directions:** Locate each maxim on the page in context and provide your own interpretation. Then interview adults to get their interpretation. Finally, write your own maxim at the bottom of the page.

<b>Maxim:</b>	<b>Interpretation:</b>	<b>Adult's Interpretation</b>
Waste not, want not.		
The laborer is worthy of his hire.*		
Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.		
The cat in gloves catches no mice.		
Haste makes waste.		
He that goes a'borrowing, goes a'sorrowing.		
Fools make feasts and wise men eat them.		

**Write your own maxim:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Interpretation of your maxim:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*\*This is a biblical quote that Franklin used as a maxim.*

# Elements of Historial Fiction

**Directions:** Think about a historical fiction novel you have read in the past. Fill in examples of characters and events from the book that help qualify it is a historical fiction work. Record your ideas beneath each element.

## Setting

The setting is during a specific time period and in a real geographical location.

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## Theme

Themes are usually life-related themes or good-versus-evil themes.

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## Characters

Charcters may be fictional or real, but all characters behave in realistic ways.

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## Plot

The events in the story include actual historical events as well as fictional events.

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## Descriptions

Events and places are described in detail so the reader can learn more about the events of the time period.

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