

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Classroom Cereal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Story 18

Part 1 of 5

## “Washington’s Lost Treasure”

### Part 1 of 5: Something About Fairview

#### Directions








1. Read the story
2. Find the five errors
3. Mark the errors using the key

On the first warm day of April, Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers sat in the grass looking down at the town of Fairview. Fairview Middle School sat on a hill in the northern part of town. The trio were sitting on the hill’s highest point, the place where Fairview residents liked to whack golf balls onto the fields of Fairview Middle. The spot provided an awesome view of the New Jersey woodlands to the west, the town, the Fairview River, and, on a really clear day, the Atlantic Ocean beyond. Sitting side by side with their arms wrapped around they’re knees, the friends were deep in thought.

Mr. Nitman had launched his campaign to find Washington’s Lost Treasure. Since taking over Mrs. Comstock’s American history classes, he dedicated every period to forcing students to feverishly research George Washington and the future president’s every movement throughout the Revolutionary War. Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers were the only ones who knew what Nitman was up to. They knew Nitman was trying to locate Washington’s Lost Treasure, chests of colonial gold that were last seen at the beginning of the Revolution.

Like Mr. Nitman, the trio suspected Washington’s Lost Treasure could be hidden somewhere in the haunt forest next to Fairview Middle. But why would the treasure be in Fairview? The friends realized that to answer that question they needed to know more about their hometown. But who would teach them? Gazing down at the fields, where in October they had served a Saturday detention picking up golf balls, they suddenly remembered their principal. Principal Mellon had lived in Fairview his entire life, and he mite be just the person to help them.

#### Key

-  - Spelling error
-  - Add punctuation
-  - Capitalize letter
-  - Remove word
-  - Wrong word
-  - Move word
-  - Make letter lower case

#### Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

#### Questions

What do you know about George Washington?  
What was his role during the Revolutionary War?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Classroom Cereal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Story 18

Part 2 of 5

## “Washington’s Lost Treasure”

### Part 2 of 5: The Old Diary

#### Directions

1. Read the story
2. Find the five errors
3. Mark the errors using the key

When the trio entered Principal Mellon’s office after school the next day they found him playing video games.

“Oh, I thought everyone had gone,” Mellon said. “As you can see, I sometimes like to get my *Duck Hunt* on after hours. What can I do for you three?”

“Mr. Mellon,” Cooper began as he, Rodgers, and Malina eased themselves into the cushiony office chairs, “you’ve lived in Fairview your whole life, rite?”

“Sure have,” Mellon replied, snapping the plastic orange gun at the TV screen.

“Do you know much about the history of Fairview?” asked Malina.

“Not really,” said the principal, his eyes fixed on the pixelated duck’s. The trio hung their heads.

“But my grandma did,” Mellon said. “She was really in to Fairview history. Before she died, she gave me a box of old stuff. She always talked about this diary, the diary of the guy who supposedly founded Fairview. I never really read it, but I think I put it on my bookshelf.”

The three eighth graders popped out of they’re chairs. Cooper was the first to reach the bookshelf, and he immediately spotted an old, floppy book that stood out from the rest. He carefully slid it from the shelf. The book was thin and its leather covers, like the skin of an ancient animal, felt soft in Cooper’s hands. With Rodgers and Malina peering over his shoulder, he delicately peeled open the diary. It opened to a page dated Friday, August 30, 1776.

#### Key

- Spelling error
- Add punctuation
- Capitalize letter
- Remove word
- Wrong word
- Move word
- Make letter lower case

#### Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

#### Questions

What adjectives would you use to describe Principal Mellon? Why?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Classroom Cereal

Story 18

Part 3 of 5

## “Washington’s Lost Treasure”

Part 3 of 5: Friday, August 30, 1776

### Directions

1. Read the story
2. Find the five errors
3. Mark the errors using the key

Friday, August 30, 1776

Writing is difficult at present, as my hands has been shaking for many hours. I am currently seated in the parlor of General Washington’s headquarters on the Broad Way. The room is dark, apart from a single candle, and empty, apart from me. The British have attacked on Long Island and they have beaten us badly. But we have escaped. It is morning now and I have spent the nite ferrying troops, ammuniton, and supplys in retreat across the East River to Manhattan. I must have paddled thirty times across, and on my final trip I carried General Washington. “You have rowed with great distinction,” he told me upon landing in Manhattan. “Come with me to the Kennedy Mansion. And please hurry. General Howe is likely in close pursuit.”

In the parlor of the mansion, just a few minutes ago, General Washington presented two large chests filled with golden coin’s. “This is the largest collection of colonial gold in the city of New York,” he said. “We have only narrowly escaped Long Island. The British will surely take the city. We must keep this gold out of British hands. You have proven your merit as a waterman. You must transport the gold.”








“Where, sir?” I asked.

“South,” he replied. “New Jersey. Along the ocean. Hide it somewhere there. The fog is heavy still. Your chance of escaping New York unharmed will be greatest if you leave at once.”

Now I must prepared my boat. Pray I escape the British and deliver General Washington’s treasure to safety.

Thomas

### Key

-  - Spelling error
-  - Add punctuation
-  - Capitalize letter
-  - Remove word
-  - Wrong word
-  - Move word
-  - Make letter lower case

### Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

### Question

Why did General Washington select Thomas for his special mission?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Classroom Cereal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Story 18

Part 4 of 5

## “Washington’s Lost Treasure”

Part 4 of 5: Sunday, September 1, 1776

### Directions

1. Read the story
2. Find the five errors
3. Mark the errors using the key

Sunday, September 1, 1776

*My eye’s hardly remain open. I have spent the last several days rowing south from New York along the New Jersey coast. I have followed General Washington’s orders. His treasure are hidden.*

*I left Manhattan in my rowboat immediately following my last correspondence. Under the cover of fog, I narrowly passed undetected by the British at Staten Island. I passed Sandy Hook on Friday evening and followed the coast southward. This Morning I came upon a small river cutting inland. I followed the river and docked my boat. The solid earth under my feet felt like a gift.*








*The land along the river bank was mostly barren, but I saw a hill to the north. I rested briefly, devouring the last of my bread and emptying my canteen. I then hauled General Washington’s chests from the boat and dragged them up the hill. I came across several saplings, an odd mixture of pine, oak. and walnut. The gold is now hidden.*

*As I write, I am seated in the grass on the hill’s point highest. Even with my weary eyes, I can see the hill provides an exceptionally fair view. I see the river to the south and the Atlantic to the east. I see the woodlands of New Jersey to the west. I am in strong position to witness developments of the colonial cause. I will stay.*

*Perhaps tomorrow I will build a shelter and plant more saplings to better protect the gold.*

Thomas

### Key

-  - Spelling error
-  - Add punctuation
-  - Capitalize letter
-  - Remove word
-  - Wrong word
-  - Move word
-  - Make letter lower case

### Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

### Question

What clues tell you Thomas’s location is present-day Fairview?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Classroom Cereal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Story 18

Part 5 of 5

## “Washington’s Lost Treasure”

### Part 5 of 5: Treasure Hunters

#### Directions

1. Read the story
2. Find the five errors
3. Mark the errors using the key

Back in Principal Mellon’s office, Cooper closed gently the diary. He turned to face Malina and Rodgers. Their mouths were hanging open too.

“Wait,” said Rodgers. “Aren’t saplings baby—”

“Trees,” interjected Principal Mellon. He was still snapping the plastic orange gun at the pixelated ducks on the TV screen. “Saplings are baby trees, right?”

“Thomas buried the treasure in the haunted forest,” said Malina, voicing exactly what Cooper and Rodgers were thinking. “I mean, before it was the haunted forest. Thomas buried the treasure, than he planted the haunted forest around it. To protect it. Those saplings he mentioned, their still there. The treasure might be too.”

“We’ve got to find it,” Cooper said. “Before Nitman does.”

The trio thankful Principal Mellon and raced out of his office. In their excitement, they forgot to take Thomas’s diary with them, leaving it on a table next to Mellon’s bookshelf. They also didn’t notice the window. It was cracked open, letting the warm April breeze inside. Two other eighth graders were crouched outside it, peering into the office. Eric Fincher and Michael C. Livingston had seen and heard everything.

#### Key

- Spelling error
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#### Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

#### Questions

Who was spying on Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers? Why is this important?