

Fishing and Fiddling



A Reader's Theater Script

4 Readers

Narrator

Mother

Father

Young Patrick Henry

Narrator: History was waiting for young Patrick Henry. The Hanover, Virginia, boy didn't know it, but he was made for great things. His mother knew it.

Mother: I knew it.

Narrator: His father knew it.

Father: Yes. I knew it for sure!

Narrator: But Patrick didn't seem to know it.

Patrick Henry: Know what?

Narrator: History was just waiting for young Patrick Henry. But what was he doing? Was he getting ready for his destiny?

Mother: No. Not Patrick.

Father: (SIGH) Certainly not Patrick.

Narrator: What was Patrick doing?

Patrick Henry: Who me?

Mother: Was he studying?

Father: No. Not studying.

Mother: Was he learning?

Father: No. Not much.

Narrator: What was Patrick doing?

Patrick Henry: Who me?

Father: Yes. You.

Mother: Certainly you!

Patrick Henry: I love to fish. I love to fiddle. I love to fish. I love to fiddle.
That's when I'm happy—right in the middle of going fishing and
playing my fiddle.

Mother: Your grades are bad!

Patrick Henry: But I'm not sad.

Father: I wish you'd read. I wish! I wish!

Patrick Henry: I'm going out to catch some fish!

Narrator: So young Patrick Henry kept history waiting, while he went
fishing and played his fiddle. But then something amazing
happened.

Patrick Henry: It did?

Mother: It did!

Father: It did. It certainly did.

Narrator: Patrick Henry found one book that he liked. It was a book about history. He didn't just like it. He loved it.

Patrick Henry: Did you say something?

Mother: Patrick...

Father: Patrick...

Patrick Henry: Did you say something?

Narrator: Patrick gave his books his FULL attention. He read and read and read about history. He became very educated. He learned to love to learn. And then he began to make history.

Father: He did.

Mother: He certainly did!

Narrator: Patrick became a great speaker and a great lawyer and a great father and a great governor. He did many things to make America the great country it is today. So when you think of how nice it is to live in America... and to be free to say what you like...

Mother: ...and to think what you like...

Father: ...and to do what you like...

Patrick Henry: ...even fishing and fiddling...

Narrator: Remember to thank Patrick Henry for getting himself all set and then making history.

Patrick Henry: And thank your Mom and Dad, because when they help you to learn, they help you to get set to make history.

Mother: We did.

Father: We certainly did.

Narrator: And finally, thank good books. Fish for many good books and enjoy reading them. They'll get your mind as fit as a fiddle... and maybe even help you to make history.

Patrick Henry: If I could do it, you can do it, too. It's your turn to be great. You are made for great things.

Mother: You are.

Father: You are!

Patrick Henry: You certainly, certainly are!

Written in honor of and performed for the Patrick Henry Birthday Commemoration at Historic Hanover Tavern, a former home of Patrick Henry, in Hanover, Virginia. Performers included visitors of all ages selected from the audience. This play is now a regular part of the interactive, educational offerings for school groups visiting Hanover Tavern.

*A Reader's Theater Script
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