

9/10 English Summer Read
Benjamin Franklin: The Autobiography - Part 1
Study Questions

Directions: Answer each question as a complete sentence. Points will be deducted for fragments. {FYI - Questions are in the order they appear in the book.}

1. Why does Franklin decide to share "the circumstances of my life" with his son?
2. What is Franklin's view of vanity? How is this view similar/different from yours?
3. Franklin's ancestors "early embraced the Reformation." How did they hide their English bible, and why did they have to hide it?
4. Why did Franklin's father leave England for the American colonies?
5. "That which was not honest could not be truly useful." Explain the circumstances behind Franklin's father sharing that quote with young Ben.
6. How did Franklin view his father? Explain.
7. Describe how Franklin's prose writing developed and improved.
8. Why did Franklin anonymously send his writings to his brother's newspaper? How were these writings received?
9. What is Ben Franklin's prescription for a fever?
10. "A man is sometimes more generous when he has little money than when he has plenty." Do you agree, disagree, or both with this statement? Explain your thoughts and give an example from your own life.
11. Through the relationships with the two ladies and the Quaker lady on the ship to Philadelphia, we see how Ben valued each of those relationships.
 - a.) Explain how he valued the two ladies and the Quaker lady.
 - b.) The Quaker lady pointed out a weakness in Ben's behavior. How do you react when someone points out a weakness in your behavior?
12. a.) Describe Franklin's three "chief acquaintances".
b.) Explain the trick that Ralph played on Osborn and how it turned out.
13. When Franklin sailed to England in order to obtain supplies to set up his own printing house in Philadelphia, what did he find regarding the expected letters of credit from the Governor? Include in your answer the information Franklin found out about the governor.

14. As Franklin was preparing to leave England with Mr. Denham, what offer did he receive from Sir William Wyndham that "struck me so strongly that, had the overture been made me sooner, probably I should not so soon have returned to America"? Why was this offer so enticing to Franklin? How do you think this could have changed history as we know it?
15. Regarding Franklin's principles and morals, what were the three principles that governed his life so completely that he "formed written resolutions...to practise them ever while I lived"?
16. Describe the Junto - the club for "mutual improvement". In your description, include who started the club, the purpose of the club, and the rules for being a part of it.
17. Why does Franklin share with his son about his long hours at work - his industriousness - and how that impressed his neighbors?
18. Explain why and how Franklin "took care not only to be in *reality* industrious and frugal, but to avoid all *appearance* of the contrary".
19. Describe the circumstances surrounding Franklin's marriage.
20. How did the idea of a library come into being?