

Use this passage to answer the next 7 questions.

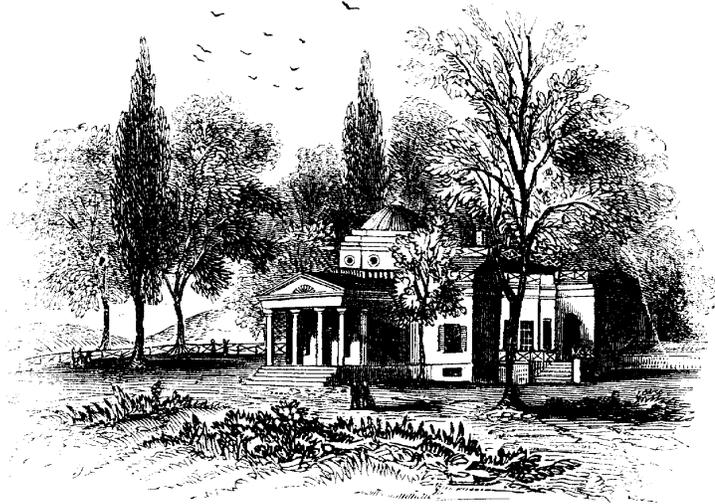
The Day I Met Thomas Jefferson

by Kip Remlinger

- (1) Let me tell you about the time I met Thomas Jefferson. You see, when I was a boy, I fished every creek and pond and stream between Charlottesville and Scottsville. I grew up on a couple acres of woodland just down the mountain from Monticello—Thomas Jefferson's home. This was in the years following the Revolution. It was a time of hope and good feelings.
- (2) All the fish I caught, I turned around and sold to the folks at Monticello. You see, Monticello, has a real nice fish pond right next to the house. They keep it stocked with fish so all they have to do if they want fresh fish for dinner is go out to the pond and pluck one or two out.
- (3) I'd seen Mr. Jefferson from a distance a couple of times. He looked just like what I thought a founding father should look like. Sharp-eyed and strong. Everybody knew he was smart and wise, and, boy, he looked it. One day, it was closing in on evening. The sun had already started to set, and the sky was a lovely red. As I walked toward the house, I saw Mr. Jefferson sitting in a chair, overlooking the slope of the gardens south of the house. He was reading a book by the warm light of sunset.
- (4) "Can I help you?" he asked. His voice was strong, almost magical. It's what I always thought a king would sound like.
- (5) "Y-y-yes, Mr. Jefferson," I stumbled. "I have a dozen or so bullhead catfish and some carp for your pond."
- (6) He peered into my fish pail. "So you're Master Remlinger, the boy who keeps our pond stocked?"
- (7) "Yes, sir. That's me. Everybody calls me Kip," I said.
- (8) He shook my hand. His hand was rough and calloused, a working hand. "Well, Kip, you are well met. Put these in the pond. I'll pay you on your return," he said.
- (9) When I came back, Mr. Jefferson paid me for the fish, and asked me to take a seat on the grass next to him.
- (10) "You seem happy," he said. "It's a good day to be a fisherman, I suppose."
- (11) "Yes, sir. It is. But that's not all," I said. "It's not everyday I sit with a founding father. I'll never forget this day as long as I live."



- (12) He smiled. "Do you have a minute? I'd like to share a word of wisdom."
- (13) "Sure," I said, leaning forward.
- (14) He held up his book and pointed to it. "Your memory," he said, "is a book in which every act of your life is written. Each day a blank page is turned and the day's history is written on it. At the end of your life, it is what this book holds that helps you decide your life was happy or miserable. Do you understand?"
- (15) "I think so," I said.
- (16) "An act done," he continued, "is done forever. That time is forever behind you. The page has been written. The book has been sealed. You may feel bad for some of your actions, but all you can do is act better in the future. Nothing can erase them."
- (17) "Mr. Jefferson," I said. "Do you have things you would like to erase, too?"
- (18) "Certainly. It's only human. We all have acts that we would like to erase. I have pages in my book that open themselves to me daily. If I could erase them, I would be most thankful. But I cannot erase them. All I can do is learn from these pages of memory. That's all any of us can do—learn from our mistakes."
- (19) He stood up and said, "It's almost dark. You should be on your way."
- (20) "Yes, sir. It's been real nice talking with you Mr. Jefferson. This is going to be one heck of a page in my memory book."
- (21) He laughed and said, "The pleasure's been mine. Remember, Kip, to strive always to keep the pages of your memory free of bad deeds. Guard the hand writing there as you would guard your most beloved friends! But if a bad deed appears, learn from it. Learn all you can."
- (22) I've followed Thomas Jefferson's words of wisdom my whole life. I'm an old man now, and my record book is full of memories. Memories of friends and enemies, of good times and bad, of ups and downs. But I've made the most of my memories. I've learned from them all. And I've led a good life.



L.4.4a

1. In paragraph 5, the word stumbled means that Kip is —

- A falling down.
- B smiling proudly.
- C **having a hard time speaking.**
- D moving and talking too quickly.

RL.4.2

2. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A Get paid for your hard work.
- B Write down everything you do.
- C **Learn from your experiences.**
- D Thomas Jefferson was a smart man.

RL.4.3

3. Based on events in this passage, Thomas Jefferson can *best* be described as —

- A **thoughtful.**
- B unpleasant.
- C crazy.
- D excited.

RL.4.2

4. This story shows how Kip Remlinger —

- A starts a lifelong friendship with Thomas Jefferson.
- B never has any luck when he goes fishing.
- C **learns an important lesson from Thomas Jefferson.**
- D helps Thomas Jefferson with a book he is writing.

RL.4.1

5. The meeting between Thomas Jefferson and Kip is *most* like the relationship between —

- A two brothers.
- B **a teacher and a student.**
- C two old friends.
- D a father and a son.

RI.4.6

6. Which line from this story is supported by a fact from “The Sage of Monticello”?

- A** This was in the years following the Revolution. It was time of hope and good feelings.
- B** You see, Monticello, has a real nice fish pond right next to the house.
- C** I'd seen Mr. Jefferson from a distance a couple of times.
- D** “Your memory,” he said, “is a book in which every act of your life is written.”

RI.4.6

7. Which line from this story is supported by a fact from “The Sage of Monticello”?

- A** Everybody knew he was smart and wise, and, boy, he looked it.
- B** You see, when I was a boy, I fished every creek and pond and stream between Charlottesville and Scottsville.
- C** I'm an old man now, and my record book is full of memories.
- D** When I came back, Mr. Jefferson paid me for the fish, and asked me to take a seat on the grass next to him.