

Source Text

Davy Crockett Saves the Day

Retold by Lori Verstegen

Let me tell you about an American legend from the backwoods of the great state of Tennessee. His name is Davy Crockett. As a youngster, Davy spent all his time roaming the wilderness. He delighted in chasing bears, and it is known everywhere east of the Mississippi that he killed his first grizzly when he was only three. He excelled at hunting, too, and I'll prove to you just what I mean. One day while hunting, Davy spotted a flock of geese in the sky and a buck in the meadow. Since he had a double-barreled shot gun, he aimed it so that with one pull of the trigger he hit both. The force of the shot was so great that he fell back into the river where his pockets filled with all kinds of flopping fish. Being so weighted down, his shirt pulled at its buttons. Two of them popped off with enormous force, like bullets. One hit and killed a nearby squirrel and the other a bear. Davy headed home with enough food to last a month—all from one shot!

Davy liked to brag, too. Sometimes his boasting got him into trouble, though. One such time occurred in a thunderstorm in the middle of a dense forest. He had been hiking for miles and miles, so he was mighty hungry. *Well*, he thought, *I'll just have to find me a meal*. He began poking and prodding around the forest when he spotted two big bright eyeballs glaring at him out of the pitch-black darkness. "Hello, there," he bellowed, "I'm Davy Crockett, the greatest hunter in the land. I'm real hungry, so that's bad news for you!"

Just then a lightning bolt revealed that the eyes belonged to an enormous panther surrounded by piles of bones. He was licking his lips because he too was

hungry. Davy backed up and attempted to beg the beast's pardon, but the panther growled, ground its teeth, and raised its razor-sharp claws. It leapt at Davy. Well, a whirlwind of a fight erupted and grew into a hurricane of a fight until Davy grabbed the beast by the tail and hurled it at the ground over and over again. The cat begged for mercy, but Davy could not leave it to menace the forest animals. He decided to take it home, civilize it, and make it his pet.

Well, eventually Davy grew up. He was so loved by the people of Tennessee that they elected him to the United States House of Representatives. He rode all the way to Washington D.C. on the back of a massive bear. He hoped to impress the highfalutin society folks in the capital city. He got his chance because everyone there was in a panic.

“We'll all be killed!” a woman screamed.

“There's no hope,” a man despaired.

“Somebody must do something!”

They were staring at the sky. Davy looked up, too. What do you suppose he spotted? A monstrous comet with a long, icy tail was zooming straight for the earth! A collision would be disastrous.

Davy knew just what to do. He skedaddled up the nearest mountain and leapt into the sky. He grabbed that comet by the tail. Then, with all of his might, he twirled it 'round and 'round and 'round over his head like a lasso. Then, he let it loose. It sailed far into outer space where it belonged. The town was saved! Davy was a hero!

These are just a few of the stupendous feats of Davy Crockett. He did many more, too many to tell in this short tale. But suffice it to say that Davy Crockett is an esteemed American legend.

Sample Paragraphs

This sample paragraph is about Davy Crockett, whom we read about in Lessons 28–29.

Character Analysis

[Topic] [1] Davy **Crockett** is a bit of a **braggart** and **show** off [Restriction] who enjoys astonishing others with his lofty antics. [Illustration] [4] Being elected to the U.S. Congress, he ostentatiously heads for Washington D.C. on the back of a bear. [1] The narrator states, “He hoped to impress the highfalutin society folk of the capital city.” [Analysis] [3] Clearly, his thoughts were not on how he could help or serve his country although he did do just that. [2] In that moment his thoughts and desires were on how he could gain more glory. [6] He focuses on himself. [Clincher] [5] Although Davy **Crockett** appears to **exalt** himself, his purpose was to amuse and **entertain**; therefore, it is difficult to fault him.