

WEEK 3

EDUCATION IS THE FRIEND OF LIBERTY



So, the winter Nat was thirteen, he started a new notebook:
NAVIGATION: Nathaniel Bowditch His Book
By spring, the notebook was filled.
Carry On, Mr. Bowditch

Now the LORD is the Spirit: and where the
Spirit of the LORD is, there is liberty.
2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

NAT BOWDITCH—AUTODIDACT

As an indentured servant, young Nat had a great deal to learn. Instead of sulking at his misfortune, he began to use his time to learn absolutely everything he could about ship chandlery, sailing, and other aspects of the maritime business. He created an almanac when he was about fifteen years old.

How did he learn? He taught himself by using the notebook method—the very same method that you are using! Nat was an autodidact—a self-taught person. He could not attend Harvard, but he was determined to use his “get-up-and-get” to study everything he could. He was encouraged in his studies by mentors like Sam Smith, Dr. John Prince, and Dr. William Bentley who helped him get started but after that, he had to learn by his own power.

READING ALOUD TOGETHER

Chapter 7: “The Almanac”

1. What did Nat learn about sailing while working at the chandlery?
2. Nat makes practical use of his mathematical skills. What new notebooks did Nat begin? Can you name them?
3. Was Ben Meeker a good influence on Nat? How did Nat respond to Ben? Was Sam Smith a good influence on Nat? How?
4. What is an almanac? What was Nat’s almanac like? Why did Nat make an almanac?
5. What is an autodidact? Why do we call Nat an autodidact?

Chapter 8: “Lock, Stock, and Bookkeeper”

1. Who visited Salem? How was he greeted?
2. Why did Dr. Bentley give Nat a copy of Newton’s *Principia*? What obstacle did Nat overcome to read it? How did Nat teach himself Latin?
3. How did Nat respond to the sale of the chandlery? What does this say about his character?

Chapter 9: “Anchor to Windward”

1. Sailing is very dangerous. Why did Mary not want to marry David?
2. Nat’s “expectation” from the Pilgrim is providentially returned to him. Explain.
3. What does “anchor to windward” mean? What helped Nat “like a good anchor to windward?”

WORDS TO KNOW

<i>conscientious</i>	doing what is right
<i>gabled roof</i>	a sloping side of the roof that meets to form a ridge
<i>mercantile</i>	commercial trade or commerce
<i>mentor</i>	a friend that gives advice and wisdom
<i>caulking</i>	filling the seams of a ship with pitch and other materials to make it watertight
<i>cordage</i>	all ropes and lines used on board a vessel
<i>“hank of yarn”</i>	a length of yarn tied in a knot, unwound for knitting and weaving
<i>auction</i>	public sale of property to the highest bidder

COMPOSITION: "How to Sail by Ash Breeze"

Let's review our story from last week. Can you use some of the phrases from the story? Record these questions and answers in your notebook.

1. *What does it mean to "sail by ash breeze"? "get up and get"?*
2. *What did this mean to Nat?*
3. *Who tried to discourage him? Who encouraged him?*
4. *How was Nat going to "sail by ash breeze"?*
5. *Have you ever been becalmed? What would you do if you were becalmed?*

THE CLASSIC: SETTING

Record this description on your "Setting" page.

1. *"The men of Salem were proud of their city."*
2. *"Salem had doubled in size."*

THE CLASSIC: CHARACTERIZATION "Nathaniel Bowditch"

Read this description of Nat and record it: *"he was writing swiftly, filling page after page with his fine scrawl."* Record these questions, and answer each one.

1. *What words describe Nat?*
2. *Is this pointing to internal or external characteristics?*
3. *Can you find other examples of his character to record?*

ETYMOLOGY

Complete a Word Pattern Chart.

1. *almanac*
2. *astronomy*
3. *astronomer*
4. *autodidact*
5. *import*
6. *export*

SYNTAX

Record each sentence leaving a line after each one. Find the sentence pattern.

1. *Elizabeth studied Nat gravely.*
2. *He opened a New Testament in Latin.*
3. *Nat repeated the opening verse of John.*
4. *The rope makers were proud of their work.*
5. *The notebook was filled with figures.*
6. *The fife and drums grew louder.*
7. *The church bells clanged.*



REMEMBER!

Read the chapters for
your Book Review.
Practice memorizing
"Inscription at Mt.
Vernon."

