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These letters, stories, speeches, journals, memoirs, articles, poems, songs, and documents are building blocks of the history of America. They are called original sources because they were written on the spot, as history happened. To learn history, we look both to historians who came after to describe and interpret events and to the recorded words of the people that made the history themselves—the people who were there.

We are indebted to the people who preserved these original sources: archivists of the United States government, newspapers that filed and preserved past editions, families that saved letters and journals, librarians who did not throw away all the books that looked old and tattered, and museum curators who skillfully preserved important documents. Thousands of original source materials have been lost to floods and fires, careless handling, and the trash can. We should be thankful to the people who realize that history is important—that a letter, article, or speech that seems commonplace and unimportant now will someday be history, something for people like us to read in order to understand the past.

These readings will remind you that American history is the story of real people. Like you, each boy and girl, man and woman who lived, worked, learned, loved, ate, slept, and played here in the United States is part of the story of our country. Most of the people who wrote the story of history never got their names in a book.

The ordinary people we call the Pilgrims looked from their ship toward the shore of Massachusetts, not knowing how their new life was going to be.

Families from Plains nations celebrated their favorite holiday traditions and told stories.

Founding fathers like George Washington were once young boys who had to copy their school lessons into a notebook.

John Jay, after he was the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was an old man who had a loving family that came to visit him for Christmas.

Travelers during the 1800s were thrilled to see the same places we get excited about today, like Niagara Falls and Yellowstone.

Real husbands, fathers, and brothers bravely stood their ground at the Alamo, not knowing how it was going to turn out.

Women just like your mother waited day after day for a letter from their husbands fighting in the Civil War.

Susie Taylor King wrote about her experiences growing up in slavery and about her life as a free woman during and after the war.

People across the country eagerly devoured the newspaper article describing their bachelor president’s White House wedding.
American housewives carefully followed the government’s instructions to use less fat, sugar, and meat in their cooking so that millions of starving people in Europe would have enough after World War I.

Young men from every walk of life serving in World War II soberly read the letter that their beloved General Eisenhower wrote to them before they made a brave and heroic invasion on D-Day.

Grieving Americans looked to their president for words of comfort after seven astronauts perished as their space shuttle was taking off.

And you, part of a movement to bring education back home, learn from your parents and other American historymakers. We’re all everyday Americans, making American history—a few big events and lots of everyday life. As you learn the great story, may you be inspired to make a positive impact on the history of America. I hope you will enjoy getting acquainted with great Americans, the famous and the ordinary, in the pages of We the People.

Bethany Poore

Songs in We the People

Homeschooled students, graduates, and their families have recorded the songs included in We the People. Enjoy listening to these recordings at notgrass.com/absongs.

A Note about Illustrations

Photographs, illustrations, and artifacts teach us about the past, too. Some of the photographs in We the People are modern, and some are historic. If an image is historic, it has a shadow behind it. If it is a modern photo, it does not. Be sure to enjoy the illustrations and read the captions as you enjoy these words from we the people.

Girls at an Independence Day celebration in Takoma Park, Maryland, on July 4, 1922

A modern photograph of the Wright Brothers National Memorial at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina.
Dr. Benjamin Rush was one of America’s founding fathers. In the 1760s, he helped to convince John Witherspoon to come to America to serve as the president of the College of New Jersey, which later became Princeton University. Rush signed the Declaration of Independence, as did Witherspoon. Rush was personally acquainted with many founding fathers. In this excerpt from a letter he wrote to fellow founder John Adams, Dr. Rush tells of his trust in the Bible.

Philadelphia Jany 23rd. 1807.

My dear friend

I have been waiting like Horace’s Clown till the Stream of my business should so far lessen that I could pass over it, in order to acknowledge the receipt of your interesting letter upon the Subject of the perfectibility of human nature, but as that Stream, from adventitious currents pouring into it, rather encreases, than lessens, I have seized a few moments merely to testify my gratitude for that letter, and to assure you that I subscribe to every sentiment contained in it. By renouncing the Bible, philosophers swing from their moorings upon all moral Subjects. Our Saviour in speaking of it calls it “Truth,” in the Abstract. It is the only correct map of the human heart that ever has been published. It contains a faithful representation of all its follies, Vices & Crimes. All Systems of Religion, morals, and Government not founded upon it, must perish, and how consoling the thot!—it will not only survive the wreck of those Systems, but the World itself. “The Gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.”—

. . . All my family join in love to you & yours with Dear Sir, your grateful & Affectionate friend

Benjn. Rush

Dr. Benjamin Rush by Charles Balthazar Julien Févret de Saint-Mémin
We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.
A few months after George Washington died, Mason Locke Weems published a book about Washington’s life, knowing that Americans were eager to know more about their beloved hero. In a later edition, Weems included the following story of young George Washington. It has become one of the most famous stories about Washington, read by schoolchildren for generations. Weems said that the story was told to him by a woman who was a distant relative of Washington, but no one has found other evidence for this tale. Perhaps Weems invented the story to make Washington look noble even as a boy. Nonetheless, it has instructed and entertained Americans for over two hundred years.

When George was about six years old, he was made the wealthy master of a hatchet! Of which, like most little boys, he was immoderately fond, and was constantly going about chopping every thing that came in his way. One day, in the garden, where he often amused himself hacking his mother’s pea-sticks, he unluckily tried the edge of his hatchet on the body of a beautiful young English cherry-tree, which he barked so terribly, that I don’t believe the tree ever got the better of it. The next morning the old gentleman, finding out what had befallen his tree, which, by the by, was a great favorite, came into the house; and with much warmth asked for the mischievous author, declaring at the same time, that he would not have taken five guineas for his tree. Nobody could tell him any thing about it. Presently George and his hatchet made their appearance.

“George,” said his father, “do you know who killed that beautiful little cherry tree yonder in the garden?”

This was a tough question; and George staggered under it for a moment; but quickly recovered himself and looking at his father, with the sweet face of youth brightened with the inexpressible charm of all-conquering truth, he bravely cried out, “I can’t tell a lie, Pa; you know I can’t tell a lie. I did cut it with my hatchet.”

“Run to my arms, you dearest boy,” cried his father in transports, “Run to my arms. Glad am I, George, that you killed my tree; for you have paid me for it a thousand fold. Such an act of heroism in my son is more worth than a thousand trees, though blossomed with silver, and their fruits of purest gold.”
When George Washington was 14 or 15 years old, he copied by hand 110 rules for polite living. These maxims originated in France in the 1600s. They reflect the good manners, respectfulness, and kindness that Washington was known for in his adult life. A selection of the rules is below.

Every action done in company ought to be with some sign of respect to those that are present.

If you cough, sneeze, sigh or yawn, do it not loud but privately, and speak not in your yawning, but put your handkerchief or hand before your face and turn aside.

Shake not the head, feet, or legs; roll not the eyes; lift not one eyebrow higher than the other, wry not the mouth, and bedew no man’s face with your spittle by approaching too near him when you speak.

Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for ’tis better to be alone than in bad company.

Speak not injurious words neither in jest nor earnest; scoff at none although they give occasion.

The title of this 1896 painting by Howard Pyle is Washington and Nellie Custis. George and Martha Washington adopted Nellie and her younger brother whom they called Wash. Nellie and Wash were the children of Martha’s son, John Parke Custis.
Think before you speak, pronounce not imperfectly, nor bring out your words too hastily, but orderly and distinctly.

When another speaks, be attentive yourself and disturb not the audience. If any hesitate in his words, help him not nor prompt him without desired. Interrupt him not, nor answer him till his speech be ended.

Be not curious to know the affairs of others, neither approach those that speak in private.

Undertake not what you cannot perform but be careful to keep your promise.

Speak not evil of the absent, for it is unjust.

Being set at meat scratch not, neither spit, cough or blow your nose except there’s a necessity for it.

Put not another bite into your mouth ’til the former be swallowed. Let not your morsels be too big for the jowls.

If others talk at table be attentive, but talk not with meat in your mouth.

When you speak of God or His attributes, let it be seriously and with reverence.

Honor and obey your natural parents although they be poor.

Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience.
During their long, loving marriage, John and Abigail Adams wrote hundreds of letters to each other. They were frequently apart due to John Adams’ service to his country at home and abroad while Abigail stayed in Massachusetts to run their farm. John Adams wrote the following letter upon his arrival in New York City (then the nation’s capital) as the new vice president. Adams’ spelling and capitalization are retained.

My dearest Friend

This is the first Moment I have been able to Seize, in order to acquaint you of my Arrival and Situation. Governor Clinton The Mayer of New York, all the old officers of the Continental Government, and the Clergy, Magistrates and People, have seemed to emulate the two houses of Congress, in shewing every respect to me and to my office. For Particulars I must refer you to the public Papers. Yesterday for the first time I attended the Senate. Tomorrow or next day, The President is expected. Mr. Jay with his usual Friendship, has insisted on my taking Apartments in his noble house. No Provision No arrangement, has been made for the President or Vice P. and I see, clearly enough, that Minds are not conformed to the Constitution, enough, as yet, to do any Thing, which will support the Government in the Eyes of the People or of Foreigners. Our Countrymeens Idea of the “L’Air imposant” [nobleness, grandness] is yet confined to volunteer Escorts, verbal Compliments &c.

You and I however, are the two People in the World the best qualified for this situation. We can conform to our Circumstances. —And if they determine that We must live on little, we will not spend much.—every Body enquires respectfully for Mrs. A. of her affectionate

J. A.
O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
    And of the news that came to them from angels in the air.
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today;
    Of Jesus’ birth and peace on earth the angels sing alway.

O sing a song of Nazareth, of sunny days of joy;
    O sing of fragrant flowers’ breath, and of the sinless Boy.
For now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow;
    Now spreads the fame of His dear Name on all the winds that blow.

O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,
    Of Him Who walked upon the sea and bade the waves be still.
For though like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll,
    When faith has heard the Master’s Word, falls peace upon the soul.

O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay,
    Of Him Who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away.
For He Who died on Calvary is risen from the grave,
    And Christ, our Lord, by Heaven adored, is mighty now to save.

The American Colony in Israel took these photographs between 1898 and 1946.
They show (from left to right) Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, and the place that is possibly Calvary.
Daniel Boone went on his last hunt in 1817 at age 83. He lived a colorful life, but the legends about him are even more colorful. A legend is a story that may be based in fact, but parts of the story are imagined or exaggerated. People began writing stories about Boone while he was still alive. Kentucky pioneer John Filson wrote Discovery, Settlement, and Present State of Kentucke in 1784 when Boone was 50 years old. He included an appendix that was written as if it had been written by Boone himself. It was called “The Adventures of Col. Daniel Boon, Formerly a Hunter: Containing a Narrative of the Wars of Kentucky.” Boone probably didn’t really write the appendix of Filson’s book, but he did know about it and liked it. The book was read in America and Europe. This excerpt from the book will tell you what it was like to be a longhunter.

It was on the first of May, in the year 1769, that I resigned my domestic happiness for a time, and left my family and peaceable habitation on the Yadkin River, in North-Carolina, to wander through the wilderness of America, in quest of the country of Kentucke . . . . We proceeded successfully, and after a long and fatiguing journey through a mountainous wilderness, in a westward direction, on the seventh day of June following, we found ourselves on Red-River, where John Finley had formerly been trading with the Indians, and, from the top of an eminence, saw with pleasure the beautiful level of Kentucke. Here let me observe, that for some time we had experienced the most uncomfortable weather as a prelibation of our future sufferings. At this place we encamped, and made a shelter to defend us from the inclement season, and began to hunt and reconnoitre the country. We found every where abundance of wild beasts of all sorts, through this vast forest. The buffaloes were more frequent than I have seen cattle in the settlements, browsing on the leaves of the cane, or cropping the herbage on those extensive plains, fearless, because ignorant, of the violence of man. Sometimes we saw hundreds in a drove, and the numbers about the salt springs were amazing.
In this forest, the habitation of beasts of every kind natural to America, we practised hunting with great success until the twenty-second day of December following. . . .

To conclude, I can now say that I have verified the saying of an old Indian . . . . Taking me by the hand . . . “Brother,” said he, “we have given you a fine land, but I believe you will have much trouble in settling it.” My footsteps have often been marked with blood, and therefore I can truly subscribe to its original name. . . . Many dark and sleepless nights have I been a companion for owls, separated from the cheerful society of men, scorched by the summer’s sun, and pinched by the winter’s cold—an instrument ordained to settle the wilderness. But now the scene is changed: peace crowns the sylvan shade.

What thanks, what ardent and ceaseless thanks are due to that all-superintending Providence which has turned a cruel war into peace, brought order out of confusion, made the fierce [native people] placid, and turned away their hostile weapons from our country! May the same Almighty Goodness banish the accursed monster, war, from all lands, with her hated associates, rapine and insatiable ambition! Let peace, descending from her native heaven, bid her olives spring amid the joyful nations; and plenty, in league with commerce, scatter blessings from her copious hand!

This account of my adventures will inform the reader of the most remarkable events of this country. I now live in peace and safety, enjoying the sweets of liberty, and the bounties of Providence, with my once fellow-sufferers, in this delightful country, which I have seen purchased with a vast expense of blood and treasure: delighting in the prospect of its being, in a short time, one of the most opulent and powerful states on the continent of North America; which, with the love and gratitude of my countrymen, I esteem a sufficient reward for all my toil and dangers.

Fayette county, Kentucke.
DANIEL BOON
The year before Thomas Jefferson died, a father wrote to him asking Jefferson to write a letter to his baby son, whom he had named Thomas Jefferson Smith. Jefferson wrote the following letter. The poem he included is a song based on Psalm 15 written by Nicholas Brady and Nahum Tate. At the end is a list of personal mottoes Jefferson acquired or developed during his life. He sent a similar list of mottoes in a letter to his granddaughter.

Monticello
February 21, 1825

This letter will, to you, be as one from the dead. The writer will be in the grave before you can weigh its counsels. Your affectionate and excellent father has requested that I would address to you something which might possibly have a favorable influence on the course of life you have to run, and I too, as a namesake, feel an interest in that course. Few words will be necessary, with good dispositions on your part. Adore God. Reverence and cherish your parents. Love your neighbor as yourself, and your country more than yourself. Be just. Be true. Murmur not at the ways of Providence. So shall the life into which you have entered, be the portal to one of eternal and ineffable bliss. And if to the dead it is permitted to care for the things of this world, every action of your life will be under my regard. Farewell.

The portrait of a good man by the most sublime of poets, for your imitation.

Lord, who’s the happy man that may to thy blest courts repair;
Not stranger-like to visit them but to inhabit there?
’Tis he whose every thought and deed by rules of virtue moves;
Whose generous tongue disdains to speak the thing his heart disproves.
Who never did a slander forge, his neighbor’s fame to wound;
Nor hearken to a false report, by malice whispered round.
Who vice in all its pomp and power, can treat with just neglect;
And piety, though clothed in rags, religiously respect.
Who to his plighted vows and trust has ever firmly stood;
And though he promise to his loss, he makes his promise good.
Whose soul in usury disdains his treasure to employ;
Whom no rewards can ever bribe the guiltless to destroy.
The man, who, by his steady course, has happiness insured.
When earth’s foundations shake, shall stand, by Providence secured.
A Decalogue of Canons for observation in practical life.

1. Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day.
2. Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.
3. Never spend your money before you have it.
4. Never buy what you do not want, because it is cheap; it will be dear to you.
5. Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst and cold.
6. We never repent of having eaten too little.
7. Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.
8. How much pain have cost us the evils which have never happened.
9. Take things always by their smooth handle.
10. When angry, count ten, before you speak; if very angry, an hundred.
Ready to Set Out, May 20, 1804, by Meriwether Lewis

The morning was fair, and the weather pleasant. At 10 o’clock a.m. agreeably to an appointment of the preceding day, I was joined by Captain Stoddard, Lieutenants Milford and Worrell, together with Messrs. A. Chouteau, C. Gratiot, and many other respectable inhabitants of St. Louis, who had engaged to accompany me to the village of St. Charles; accordingly at 12 o’clock after bidding an affectionate adieu to my hostess, that excellent woman the spouse of Mr. Peter Chouteau, and some of my fair friends of St. Louis, we set forward to that village in order to join my friend, companion and fellow laborer Captain William Clark who had previously arrived at that place with the party destined for the discovery of the interior of the continent of North America. The first 5 miles of our route laid through a beautiful high, level, and fertile prairie which encircles the town of St. Louis from northwest to southeast. The lands through which we then passed are somewhat broken up fertile. The plains and woodlands are here indiscriminately interspersed until you arrive within three miles of the village when the woodland commences and continues to the Missouri. The latter is extremely fertile. At half after one p.m. our progress was interrupted [by] the near approach of a violent thunder storm from the northwest and concluded to take shelter in a little cabin hard by until the rain should be over; accordingly we alighted and remained about an hour and a half and regaled ourselves with a cold collation [light meal] which we had taken the precaution to bring with us from St. Louis.

The clouds continued to follow each other in rapid succession, insomuch that there was but little prospect of its ceasing to rain this evening; as I had determined to reach St. Charles this evening and knowing that there was now no time to be lost, I set forward in the rain. Most of the gentlemen continued with me. We arrived at half after six and joined Captain Clark. Found the party in good health and spirits.
Winter on the Pacific, December 27, 1805, by William Clark

Rained last night as usual and the greater part of this day. The men complete chimneys and bunks today. In the evening a chief and 4 men come of the Clotsop Nation, Chief Co-ma-wo. We sent out R. Fields and Collins to hunt and order Drewyer, Shannon and Labiach to set out early tomorrow to hunt; Jo Fields, Bratten, and Gibson to make Salt at Point Addams; Willard and Wiser, to assist them in carrying the Kitties and the rest to the ocean, and all the others to finish the pickets and gates. Warm weather. I saw a mosquito which I showed Captain Lewis. Those Indians gave us a black root they call Shan-na-tah que, a kind of licorice which they roast in embers and call Cul ho-mo, a black berry the size of a cherry and dried which they call Shel-well. All of which they prize highly and make use of as food to live on, for which Captain Lewis gave the chief a cap of sheep skin and I his son, ear bobs, piece of ribbon, a piece of brass, and 2 small fishing hooks, of which they were much pleased. Those roots and berries, are grateful to our stomachs as we have nothing to eat but poor elk meat, nearly spoiled; and this accident of spoiled meat, is owing to warmth and the repeated rains, which cause the meat to taint before we can get it from the woods. Mosquitoes troublesome.
On the Return Journey, July 12, 1806, by Meriwether Lewis

We arose early and resumed our operations in completing our canoes which we completed by 10 a.m. About this time two of the men whom I had dispatched this morning in quest of the horses returned with seven of them only. The remaining ten of our best horses were absent and not to be found. I fear that they are stolen. I dispatch two men on horseback in search of them. The wind blew so violently that I did not think it prudent to attempt passing the river. At noon Werner returned having found three others of the horses near Fort Mountain. Sergeant Gass did not return until 3 p.m. not having found the horses. He had been about 8 miles up Medicine River. I now dispatched Joseph Fields and Drewyer in quest of them. The former returned at dark unsuccessful and the latter continued absent all night. At 5 p.m. the wind abated and we transported our baggage and meat to the opposite shore in our canoes which we found answered [performed] even beyond our expectations. We swam our horses over also and encamped at sunset. Mosquitoes extremely troublesome. I think the river is somewhat higher than when we were here last summer. The present season has been much more moist than the preceding one. The grass and weeds are much more luxuriant than they were when I left this place on the 13th of July 1805. Saw the brown thrush, pigeons, doves &c. The yellow currants beginning to ripen.

Returning to St. Charles, September 21, 1806, by William Clark

Rose early this morning. Collected our men. Several of them had accepted of the invitation of the citizens and visited their families. At half after 7 a.m. we set out. Passed 12 canoes of Kickapoos ascending on a hunting expedition. Saw several persons, also stock of different kinds on the bank which revived the party very much. At 3 p.m. we met two large boats ascending. At 4 p.m. we arrived in sight of St. Charles. The party rejoiced at the sight of this hospitable village. Played [rowed] their ores with great dexterity and we soon arrived opposite the town. This day being Sunday we observed a number of gentlemen and ladies walking on the bank. We saluted the village by three rounds from our blunderbuts [guns] and the small arms of the party, and landed near the lower part of the town. We were met by great numbers of the inhabitants. We found them excessively polite. We received invitations from several of those gentlemen, a Mr. Proulx, Taboe, Decett, Tice, Dejonah, and Quarie and several who were pressing on us to go to their houses. We could only visit Mr. Proulx and Mr. Deucett in the course of the evening. Mr. Querie undertook to Supply our party with provisions and the rest. The inhabitants of this village appear much delighted at our return and seem to vie with each other in their politeness to us all. We came only 48 miles today. The banks of the river thinly settled etc.
The Little Mice

Once upon a time a prairie mouse busied herself all fall storing away a cache of beans. Every morning she was out early with her empty cast-off snake skin, which she filled with ground beans and dragged home with her teeth.

The little mouse had a cousin who was fond of dancing and talk, but who did not like to work. She was not careful to get her cache of beans and the season was already well gone before she thought to bestir herself. When she came to realize her need, she found she had no packing bag. So she went to her hardworking cousin and said:

“Cousin, I have no beans stored for winter and the season is nearly gone. But I have no snake skin to gather the beans in. Will you lend me one?”

“But why have you no packing bag? Where were you in the moon when the snakes cast off their skins?”

“I was here.”

“What were you doing?”

“I was busy talking and dancing.”

“And now you are punished,” said the other. “It is always so with lazy, careless people. But I will let you have the snake skin. And now go, and by hard work and industry, try to recover your wasted time.”

The Rabbit and the Elk

The little rabbit lived with his old grandmother, who needed a new dress. “I will go out and trap a deer or an elk for you,” he said. “Then you shall have a new dress.”

When he went out hunting he laid down his bow in the path while he looked at his snares. An elk coming by saw the bow.

“I will play a joke on the rabbit,” said the elk to himself. “I will make him think I have been caught in his bow string.” He then put one foot on the string and lay down as if dead.

By and by the rabbit returned. When he saw the elk he was filled with joy and ran home crying, “Grandmother, I have
trapped a fine elk. You shall have a new dress from his skin. Throw the old one in the fire!” This the old grandmother did.

The elk now sprang to his feet laughing. “Ho, friend rabbit,” he called, “You thought to trap me; now I have mocked you.” And he ran away into the thicket.

The rabbit who had come back to skin the elk now ran home again. “Grandmother, don’t throw your dress in the fire,” he cried. But it was too late. The old dress was burned.

**THE PET DONKEY**

There was a chief’s daughter once who had a great many relations so that everybody knew she belonged to a great family.

When she grew up she married and there were born to her twin sons. This caused great rejoicing in her father’s camp, and all the village women came to see the babes. She was very happy.

As the babes grew older, their grandmother made for them two saddle bags and brought out a donkey.

“My two grandchildren,” said the old lady, “shall ride as is becoming to children having so many relations. Here is this donkey. He is patient and surefooted. He shall carry the babes in the saddle bags, one on either side of his back.”

It happened one day that the chief’s daughter and her husband were making ready to go on a camping journey. The father, who was quite proud of his children, brought out his finest pony, and put the saddle bags on the pony’s back.

“There,” he said, “my sons shall ride on the pony, not on a donkey; let the donkey carry the pots and kettles.”

So his wife loaded the donkey with the household things. She tied the tepee poles into two great bundles, one on either side of the donkey’s back; across them she put the travois net and threw into it the pots and kettles and laid the skin tent across the donkey’s back.
But no sooner done than the donkey began to rear and bray and kick. He broke the tent poles and kicked the pots and kettles into bits and tore the skin tent. The more he was beaten the more he kicked.

At last they told the grandmother. She laughed. “Did I not tell you the donkey was for the children?” she cried. “He knows the babies are the chief’s children. Think you he will be dishonored with pots and kettles?” and she fetched the children and slung them over the donkey’s back, when he became at once quiet again.

The camping party left the village and went on their journey. But the next day as they passed by a place overgrown with bushes, a band of enemies rushed out, lashing their ponies and sounding their war whoop. All was excitement. The men bent their bows and seized their lances. After a long battle the enemy fled. But when the camping party came together again—where were the donkey and the two babes? No one knew. For a long time they searched, but in vain. At last they turned to go back to the village, the father mournful, the mother wailing. When they came to the grandmother’s tepee, there stood the good donkey with the two babes in the saddle bags.
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