

TEACHER NOTES for American Colonial Slang

- Objectives:
 - Using context clues to figure out new words, figurative language
 - Proper use of quotations and formatting dialogue
 - Learn the structure of “Compare” in informative writing

- Before the first read:
 - [Use the Slideshow](#) before the first read
- First read
 - Read as a whole class
 - Underline all of the figurative language in each
 - Take the “Test Questions” Quiz
- Second Read
 - Re-read and ask student what they notice about the dialogue
 - Students should notice there is one paragraph per voice
 - Quotations are used
 - Commas are used
 - Capital letters are used at the beginning of the quotes and the beginning of the sentences

Name: _____

Date: _____

Colonial Conversations

"Good evening, Mr. Carter," called the merchant as he entered the tavern. "The house is full tonight. We haven't seen that in a while."

Mr. Carter chuckled and pointed toward a corner table. "Aye, and there sits old Mr. Briggs. He is deep in his cups and telling everyone he could have commanded a whole regiment himself."

Just then, young Samuel stepped through the doorway carrying a basket of provisions.

"Father, the blacksmith says our wagon wheel will be repaired before morning."

"Very good," Mr. Carter replied. "Run along now. See that the horses are fed."

The boy tipped his cap and hurried home.

The merchant watched him leave. "Your apprentice is becoming a fine young man."

"He works hard," said Mr. Carter. "He's always makes hay when the sun shines."

The merchant nodded. "He will be a good man. There is much curiosity in that lad."

Mr. Carter smiled with pride. "If he grows into an honest man, that will be a feather in your cap, won't it?"

The merchant laughed softly and leaned across the table.

"Speaking of young men, did you spy the fellow who rode through town this afternoon? Powdered wig near as tall as a church steeple, silk stockings, and a walking cane with a silver head."

Mr. Carter gave a snort. "Aye, I saw him. 'Such a macaroni!'"

Old Mr. Briggs, though deep in his cups, lifted his mug and called out, "A macaroni man! Ha!"

"Aye," said Mr. Carter, raising his mug, "I hope he stays out of these parts and his *fashion* doesn't rub on my boys."

Modern Conversations

"Yo, Mr. Carter!" the manager called as he walked into the bar. "This place is packed tonight. It's buzzing like a beehive in here. We haven't seen a crowd like this in forever."

Mr. Carter laughed and pointed toward a corner table. "For real. And there's old Mr. Briggs, totally gone. Bro's been yapping that he could've led an entire army by himself."

Just then, Samuel pushed through the doorway carrying a basket of supplies.

"Dad, the mechanic said our car gonna be fixed before morning.."

"Bet," Mr. Carter replied. "Run along now. Make sure the car is gassed up."

Samuel gave a quick nod and took off like an arrow.

The manager watched him go. "That student of yours is turning into a solid young man."

"He stays locked in," said Mr. Carter. "The kid doesn't waste daylight. He knows you've got to be hustling every day.."

The manager smiled. "He's always asking questions. That curiosity burns. The boy's got a sharp mind."

Mr. Carter grinned with pride. "If he grows up to be an honest man, that'll be a pretty big W for everyone who helped raise him. That's the kind of thing that sticks with you."

"Speaking of young guys, did you see that dude who rolled through town this afternoon? Fresh haircut, designer clothes, shiny sneakers, and enough cologne to fill the whole street."

Mr. Carter let out a laugh. "Yeah, I saw him," and rolled his eyes.

"I just hope he stays away from my boys. I don't need them showing up looking like internet influencers."

Name: _____

TEST QUESTIONS

1. What does the phrase "He is deep in his cups" most likely mean?

- A. He is carefully washing dishes.
- B. He is drinking too much.
- C. He is hiding under a table.
- D. He is carrying many cups.

2. In the modern passage, what does the slang expression "absolutely cooked" most nearly mean?

- A. Hungry
- B. Tired or not thinking clearly
- C. Excited to leave
- D. Ready to work

3. Which phrase from the modern passage has nearly the SAME meaning as "make hay when the sun shines"?

- A. "took off like an arrow"
- B. "stays locked in"
- C. "doesn't waste daylight"
- D. "pretty big W"

4. What does the figurative expression "a feather in your cap" suggest?

- A. A person owns many hats.
- B. A person should decorate their clothing.
- C. A person should be proud of an accomplishment.
- D. A person has traveled a long distance.

5. Which statement is BEST supported by BOTH passages?

- A. Hard work and curiosity help people become successful.
- B. Talking loudly makes people good leaders.
- C. Crowded taverns are dangerous places.
- D. Children should avoid asking questions.

6. How do both passages show that Samuel is becoming a responsible and hardworking young man? Use one detail from each story and include at least one direct quote from each text to support your answer. Write your answer in 2–4 sentences.

TEST QUESTIONS ANSWERS

7. What does the phrase "He is deep in his cups" most likely mean?

- A. He is carefully washing dishes.
- B. He is drinking too much.**
- C. He is hiding under a table.
- D. He is carrying many cups.

8. In the modern passage, what does the slang expression "absolutely cooked" most nearly mean?

- A. Hungry
- B. Tired or not thinking clearly**
- C. Excited to leave
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9. Which phrase from the modern passage has nearly the SAME meaning as "make hay when the sun shines"?

- A. "took off like an arrow"
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- C. "doesn't waste daylight"**
- D. "pretty big W"

10. What does the figurative expression "a feather in your cap" suggest?

- A. A person owns many hats.
- B. A person should decorate their clothing.

C. A person should be proud of an accomplishment.

D. A person has traveled a long distance.

11. Which statement is BEST supported by BOTH passages?

A. Hard work and curiosity help people become successful.

B. Talking loudly makes people good leaders.

C. Crowded taverns are dangerous places.

D. Children should avoid asking questions.

12. How do both passages show that Samuel is becoming a responsible and hardworking young man? Use one detail from each story and include at least one direct quote from each text to support your answer. Write your answer in 2–4 sentences.

Both passages show that Samuel is becoming a responsible and hardworking young man because he listens to adults and completes his duties. In the colonial passage, Mr. Carter says, "He always makes hay when the sun shines," which shows that Samuel works hard and does not waste time. In the modern passage, Mr. Carter says, "The kid doesn't waste daylight," showing the same idea. Both stories also explain that Samuel is curious and asks thoughtful questions, which suggests he

will continue to grow and succeed.