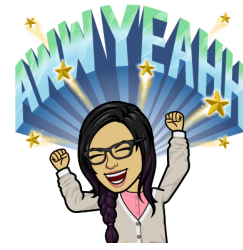


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## Carry On, Mr. Bowditch

What does it mean to “sail by ash breeze?” The book *Carry On Mr. Bowditch* tells us the meaning of this question. *Carry On Mr. Bowditch* is an autobiographical, fictional book, written by Jean Lee Latham. This book is based on the daring, drawing, dynamic life of Nathaniel Bowditch. It is inspiring and shows that perseverance leads to accomplishment.

Nat is a brilliant-minded man with many skills. He lives in New England at the time of the Revolutionary War. Nat lives with his 2 sisters, 2 brothers, his mother and father, and his grandmother. Sadly, Nat’s family has bad luck with sailing.

However, later in the story, Nat is indentured to work in a chandlery, which means he will not go to school. He wants to go to college, but his family does not possess enough money to do so. But Nathaniel is never “becalmed.” He perseveres and learns on his own. Nat learns Latin to read *Newton’s Principia*. He also learns to speak French and Spanish. He learns on his sailing trips how to work lunars, and comes up with occulting a star. He also helps educate the deckhands.

Nat discovers that there are errors in Moore’s *Navigator*, so he decides to correct them. But some people are not very pleased with the idea of book sailing. But when Nat finds out that his friend Lem has died from a mistake in Moore, Nat wants to write his own book. The book is called *American Practical Navigator*. But Lem is actually able to survive. When Nat’s ship, the *Henry*, is stuck in fog, he uses a compass to navigate back home before Christmas is over. Nat’s skill and intelligence in writing about navigation save many lives.

The best part about this book is seeing Nat’s life unfold before us; Latham really shows

what it was like for a navigator and a sailor. Nat did go through many hard, heartbreaking horrors, and his sister Mary and his wife Polly were the only members of his family who lived to see his accomplishments. The book *Carry On Mr. Bowditch* teaches people that no matter where they come from, they can always learn. This is a brilliant, successful, and heartfelt book.