

BURIED TREASURE

O'Henry

Task 1. You are going to read the extract from the story "Buried Treasure". Six paragraphs have been removed from the story. Choose from paragraphs (A–G) the one which fits each gap (1–6). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.

We were getting ready to cross the river, which was little more than a shallow creek there, and explore the many sharp peaked cedar covered hills on the other side.

1 ...

"Score one against culture", said I. "I'll know it when I see it". Goodloe was looking at old Rundle's document when he ripped out a most uncollegiate swearword.

"Come here", he said, holding the paper up against the sunlight.

"Look at that", he said, laying his finger against it.

On the blue paper — a thing I had never noticed before — I saw stand out in white letters the word and figures: "Malvern, 1898".

"What about it?" I asked.

"It's the watermark", said Goodloe. "The paper was manufactured in 1898. The writing on the paper is dated 1863. This is a palpable fraud".

2 ...

"By your ignorance", said he. "Twice I have discovered serious flaws in your plans that a commonschool education should have enabled you to avoid. And", he continued, "I have been put to expense that I could ill afford in pursuing this swindling quest. I am done with it".

3 ...

After I had washed the dishes and staked the horses on new grass, I crossed the shallow river and made my way slowly through the cedarbrakes up to the top of the hill shaped like a packsaddle.

4 ...

I investigated the hill shaped like a packsaddle from base to summit. I found an absolute absence of signs relating to buried treasure.

There was no pile of stones, no ancient blazes on the trees, none of the

evidences of the three hundred thousand dollars, as set forth in the document of old man Rundle.

5 ...

And there I was started to see what I took to be a wild man, with unkempt beard and ragged hair, pursuing a giant butterfly with brilliant wings.

“Perhaps he is an escaped madman”, I thought; and wondered how he had strayed so far from seats of education and learning.

6 ...

She straightened up and looked at me. For the first time since I knew her I saw her face — which was the color of the white keys of a new piano — turn pink. I walked toward her without a word. She let the gathered flowers trickle slowly from her hand to the grass.

“I knew you would come, Jim”, she said clearly. “Father wouldn’t let me write, but I knew you would come”.

A. It was a wonderful June day. Never in my life had I seen so many birds, so many butterflies, dragonflies, grasshoppers, and such winged and stinged beasts of the air and fields.

B. And then I took a few more steps and saw a vinecovered cottage near the small stream. And in a little grassy glade I saw May Martha Mangum plucking wild flowers.

C. “My good Ulysses”, said Goodloe, slapping me on the shoulder while I was washing the tin breakfastplates, “let me see the enchanted document once more. I believe it gives directions for climbing the hill shaped like a packsaddle. I never saw a packsaddle. What is it like, Jim?”

D. He gathered his personal traps, climbed into the mailwagon, adjusted his glasses nervously, and flew away in a cloud of dust.

E. The result was that Goodloe Banks and I, rivals in love, became companions in adventure. We went to Chico by stage from Huntersburg, the nearest railroad town.

F. I came down the hill in the cool of the afternoon. Suddenly, out of the cedarbrake I stepped into a beautiful green valley where a tributary small stream ran into the Alamito River.

G. “Oh, I don’t know”, said I. “The Rundles are pretty reliable, plain, uneducated country people. Maybe the paper manufacturers tried to perpetrate a swindle”.

Task 2. Fill in the correct word(s) from the text

- 1) ... to cross the river
- 2) ... the ... document
- 3) ... the sunlight
- 4) ... fraud
- 5) ... country people
- 6) ... of dust
- 7) ... beasts
- 8) ... of sings
- 9) ... beard
- 10) ... cottage
- 11) ... a swindle
- 12) ... grassy glade
- 13) ... small team
- 14) ... flaws

Task 3. Fill in the correct proposition

- 1) to slap smb ... the shoulder
- 2) never ... 's life
- 3) to give directions ...climbing
- 4) pile ... stones
- 5) to hold the paper ... against the sunlight
- 6) the document ... old man
- 7) to climb ... the mailwagom
- 8) to step ... a beautiful green valley
- 9) up to the top ... the hill
- 10) to walk ... smb