



A Familiar Face

Companion Teaching Activities to the historical fiction serialized story "A Familiar Face"

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A Familiar Face

Elementary Teacher's Guide

Created By: Jennifer Hawkins
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“A Familiar Face,” by Kay Hively, is historical fiction at its finest. The story is packed with many great teaching opportunities involving President Truman and the newspaper. The following Constructed Response Items and Performance Tasks were written to assist teachers and parents. The questions are suitable for most elementary students and can be adapted to other grade levels.

A Familiar Face
Chapter 1-8
Writing Prompt

Name _____
Date _____

PROMPT

What do you know about Harry S. Truman?
What would you like to find out? Complete the
KWL Chart as you read “A Familiar Face.”
Then, write a short essay describing President
Truman’s greatest contributions to the United
States.

Harry S. Truman

“A Familiar Face”

K What I Know	W What I Want to Know	L What I Learned

A Familiar Face
Chapter 1-8

Name _____
Date _____

Make Your Own Book

Use the following directions to compile “A Familiar Face” into your own booklets.

Page 1

Title Page—Have students write the title, author, and illustrator on card stock with a picture that illustrates the title.

Page 2

Table of Contents—As you read each chapter, record the chapter name on this page.

Pages 3-10

The Story—Cut each chapter from the newspaper. Then, glue it to a piece of paper. Arrange the pages in sequential order.

Pages 11-13

Glossary—Complete the glossary of terms. As you read each chapter, locate unknown words. Discuss possible meanings by using context clues. Look up the words in the dictionary, and write the appropriate definition on the glossary page.

Page 14

Back Cover—Use a piece of card stock for the back cover, then staple all of the pages into a booklet. You could also use a binder, rings, or yarn to attach the pages.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: _____

Chapter 2: _____

Chapter 3: _____

Chapter 4: _____

Chapter 5: _____

Chapter 6: _____

Chapter 7: _____

Chapter 8: _____

Glossary

airlift

aroma

atomic bomb

attitude

bomber

caption

cargo

clerk

commander-in-chief

dedicate

defeat

eager

establish

exhibit

exhibition

guard

pangs

scene

second-class

segregation

senator

A Familiar Face
Chapter 1

Name _____
Date _____

Directions: Read chapter 1 of “A Familiar Face,” then answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. How did Scotty feel about his homework project? Use details from the story to explain your answer.

2. If you could choose any topic to research, what would it be? Why would you choose that topic?

3. What is the *problem* in this story so far?

Predict how the problem will be solved.

4. What is Scotty’s favorite food?

Search for your favorite foods in the grocery ad insert of the newspaper. Cut and paste five of them on a separate piece of paper, then describe why you like each.

A Familiar Face
Chapter 2

Name _____
Date _____

Directions: Read chapter 2 of “A Familiar Face,” then answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. Use context clues from the story to describe what *downhearted* means.

2. Compare Scotty to President Truman. Name at least two ways they are alike.

3. Scotty read the sign that said, “The Buck Stops Here.” What do you think that means. Explain your answer.

4. Scotty finds many things that he has in common with President Truman. Skim through the newspaper to find pictures of people that have characteristics in common with you. Cut and paste them on a separate piece of paper, then describe what you have in common with each.

*****Writing Prompt:** Write a paragraph comparing yourself to a president. Name at least two ways you are alike and two ways you are different.

A Familiar Face
Chapter 3

Name _____
Date _____

Directions: Read chapter 3 of “A Familiar Face,” then answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. Why were Fridays special to Scotty and his classmates? Use at least two details from the story to explain your answer.

2. Where did Scotty visit to find out about his community?

Where would you go to find out more about your community? Why?

3. Look through the newspaper for pictures of people who could someday be famous enough to have their pictures hung in a museum. Then complete the chart below.

Name	Reason for Fame

4. Scotty said he could add without using a piece of paper. Cut numbers from the newspaper that YOU can add mentally. Glue the numbers in number sentences on a separate piece of paper. Write the sums.

*****Writing Prompt:** Pretend that you are a tour guide of your community’s city museum. What would you show the visitors? What would you tell them?

A Familiar Face
Chapter 4

Name _____
Date _____

Directions: Read chapter 4 of “A Familiar Face,” then answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. List facts and opinions about Harry S. Truman in the chart below.

Facts	Opinions

2. If you could get your picture taken anywhere, where would it be?
Why?

3. Name two things President Truman did for our country.

1. _____
2. _____

4. What effect did the explosion of the first atomic bomb cause?

5. Search through the newspaper for names of politicians. List their names and positions in a T-chart.

A Familiar Face
Chapter 5

Name _____
Date _____

Directions: Read chapter 5 of “A Familiar Face,” then answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. Locate Lamar, Missouri on a map. How many miles is Lamar from your town? Use the map scale to calculate the distance.

2. Why did Jimmy use a wooden bat? Name at least two reasons from the story.

3. What simile does the author use to describe President Truman’s house in Lamar? What does it mean?

Write your own simile to describe the house.

4. Locate the final scores of a sporting event in the newspaper. Calculate the difference of the scores. Show your work in the box below.

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A Familiar Face
Chapter 6

Name _____
Date _____

Directions: Read chapter 6 of “A Familiar Face,” then answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. Do you think it was unusual for Scotty to read all night in his room? Use details from the story to support your answer.

2. Name at least two details from the story that prove Scotty is a baseball fan.

3. What was the Berlin Airlift? Use details from the story to explain your answer.

4. How would you feel if you lived in Berlin in 1948? Why?

4. Scotty was proud that President Truman helped the people of Berlin. Cut out pictures of people helping others in the newspaper. Paste the pictures on a piece of paper to form a collage with the title “Helping Others.”

A Familiar Face
Chapter 7

Name _____
Date _____

Directions: Read chapter 7 of “A Familiar Face,” then answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. What is segregation? How do you feel about segregation? Explain.

2. The word segregation has the “tion” suffix. Find three other words from the newspaper with the “tion” suffix. Paste the words below then write the base word in the chart.

“tion” word	Base Word
1.	
2.	
3.	

3. How have Scotty’s feelings about President Truman changed? Use details from the story to support your answer.

4. Are there times when people are segregated today? Explain your answer.

5. Predict how the story will end.

A Familiar Face
Chapter 8

Name _____
Date _____

Directions: Read chapter 8 of “A Familiar Face,” then answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. What other title, mentioned in this chapter, does the president hold? What does the title mean?

2. The story mentions that, “Mr. Truman believed that the buck stopped at the president.” What do you think that means? Use details from the story to explain your answer.

3. What is the most interesting thing YOU learned about Harry S. Truman? Why do you find it interesting?

4. Do you think Scotty’s classmates will like his paper? Why?

A Familiar Face

Upper Elementary/Secondary

Teacher's Guide

Created By: Jennifer Wirthwein
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The format of this guide includes six interactions for each chapter:

- **Discussion**—which is designed to elicit responses from the entire class, allowing students to hear various viewpoints and respond appropriately
- **Personal Reflection**—which can be used as a journal topic, a small group discussion, or a daily prompt used as part of the anticipatory set
- **Constructed Response**—these are questions similar to those that students may see on standardized tests
- **Good Character**—this section focuses on character education and specific traits for students to identify
- **Using the Newspaper**—which encourages the students to use various sections of the newspaper for specific information
- **Write it**—this section engages students in various types of writing used in the newspaper

A Familiar Face

Chapter 1

Discussion: As Scotty is getting ready to write this research paper, he is gathering information. How do you prepare for a big assignment? What types of projects do you like best? Why does Scotty think the assignment would be boring? Do you think his feelings will change?

Personal Reflection: It is obvious that Scotty is not anxious to write the paper. Have you ever had to do something you didn't think you would enjoy? How did you cope with the situation?

Constructed Response: "Being weighed down with books made his walk up the alley seem longer than usual." What does this sentence mean? Use details to support your answer.

Good Character: Mrs. Brown offered Scotty some words of encouragement as she listened to the details of his assignments. What words of encouragement would you say to Scotty? Can you think of someone in your family that needs encouragement? How could you encourage them?

Using the Newspaper: Scotty was delighted to see his mother had made a cake. Newspapers are often a source of great recipes. Can you find a recipe in the newspaper? Multiply the recipe to be certain you have enough to share with everyone in your class. Next, use the newspaper to find advertisements that feature some of the necessary ingredients.

Write it: Choose a favorite family recipe that you would like to see in the newspaper. Write a brief description of the recipe, or perhaps some of the history or tradition associated with it. Next, write a detailed account of the recipe, including careful instructions.

A Familiar Face

Chapter 2

Discussion: Scotty wasn't sure what "The Buck Stops Here" meant. What do you think it means? Why do you think the president chose that particular sign for his desk? How is Scotty's attitude beginning to change? Why is he becoming more interested in his project?

Personal Reflection: It seems that Scotty is beginning to realize that this research paper may not be so bad after all. Have you ever dreaded something only to realize it was not as bad as you thought it would be? What did you dread? How did your perception change? What caused the change?

Constructed Response: List two specific examples that define Scotty's current attitude about the research project.

Good Character: Scotty enjoyed looking at Truman's life in pictures. Imagine your life story would be captured in photographs and displayed in books. What would the readers see in the photographs? What experiences do you think are the most important?

Using the Newspaper: Scotty enjoyed seeing the various jobs that Truman had completed in his lifetime. Newspapers are a great source for locating employment opportunities. Find three jobs that look interesting to you. What education is needed? What personal skills or experience is required? What salary could one expect to make at this job?

Write it: Pictures often entice readers. Therefore, it is important to have informational and accurate captions. Study some of the captions located under the pictures in your newspaper. Next, choose a personal picture that you would like to share and write a newspaper-style caption – called a cutline. Share the results with your classmates.

A Familiar Face

Chapter 3

Discussion: Scotty learned a lot on his field trip to the museum. How did this experience motivate Scotty? Have you ever been on a field trip to a museum? What other types of field trips can provide educational experience, as well as fun and motivation?

Personal Reflection: What type of museum would you like to visit? Why?

Constructed Response: What is the main idea of this chapter? How do you know? Support your answer with details from the story.

Good Character: What does it mean to volunteer? The volunteer at the museum had a positive attitude. How did her attitude contribute to the field trip? Do you think the students would have been as inspired and motivated if she did not have a positive attitude? How can your attitude inspire others?

Using the Newspaper: In this chapter, Scotty visited a museum and saw Truman, as a state senator, in front of the courthouse when it was a new building. Newspapers have current events articles about a variety of topics. Can you find the following three items in your newspaper: a new building, a state senator, and a courthouse? Give the details of your scavenger hunt to the class.

Write it: Newspapers often feature reviews, which give some facts and opinions about such things as: books, movies, restaurants, etc. If Scotty would write a review of the museum, it would probably be very flattering. Imagine you had the chance to write a review for the newspaper. What would you review? Write your review and share it with the class.

A Familiar Face

Chapter 4

Discussion: Scotty and his grandfather discuss some pretty serious issues on that porch swing, from the honor of guarding President Truman, to the pains of war. If you were Scotty, what would you have asked Grandpa? Why?

Personal Reflection: Getting into mischief seems pretty typical for Scotty and his grandfather. What do you do that can get you into trouble? How can you avoid this issue or change this behavior?

Constructed Response: Summarize this chapter into one paragraph.

Good Character: Grandfather Edwards was a mentor to Scotty; he gave him a lot of guidance and support. Who is a mentor in your life? What have they taught you? How can you be a mentor?

Using the Newspaper: Scotty's grandpa loved to follow President Truman's activities in the newspaper. Many people depend on the newspaper—whether they enjoy current events, fashion, entertainment, sports, etc. Create a list of 10 reasons why a person would enjoy reading the newspaper. Next, find an example of something that would encourage someone to read a newspaper (ex: an interesting story, a funny comic, an important advice column) and share that item with the class.

Write it: The Berlin Airlift helped to fight famine. How would you end famine if you were president? What can you do now to help fight famine? Write an editorial for your newspaper that encourages others to follow your plan to fight famine.

A Familiar Face

Chapter 5

Discussion: A lively game of baseball with friends provided a much needed study break for Scotty. What do you enjoy doing with your friends? How do Scotty and his friends support each other?

Personal Reflection: Scotty seems pretty capable of balancing free time with productive time. How do you ensure you'll have time with friends, relaxation, and still complete homework and chores? Why is it important to learn time management?

Constructed Response: What do you think Scotty will do in the next chapter? Why? Support your prediction with details from the story.

Good Character: Name three ways that Scotty showed responsibility in this chapter. How do you show responsibility? Who is the most responsible person that you know?

Using the Newspaper: Newspapers often feature information about entertainment, such as baseball. Look through the newspaper and find words, pictures, and articles that are about entertainment. (ex: advertisement for a game, a movie review, a television guide, a sports article, etc.)

Write it: The Sports section has a lot of lively writing. Look through your newspaper to read examples of stories in the sports section. Write a news story about a school sporting event or an athlete or coach at your school. Share your article with the class.

A Familiar Face

Chapter 6

Discussion: What do you think of the Berlin Airlift? Compare and contrast it to our experience with Iraq.

Personal Reflection: Scotty seemed to view the Berlin Airlift as a positive aspect of a very difficult time in history. It made him appreciate all of the things he had readily available at his fingertips. How has a negative experience made you appreciate a positive aspect about your life?

Constructed Response: Scotty's teacher instructed the students to write about one important part of their topic's life. If you were writing a research paper about Truman, what one area would you emphasize? Why?

Good Character: Truman ordered the Berlin Airlift to help those in need. Think of a time when someone has helped you. What can you do to help others in need?

Using the Newspaper: Newspapers often feature people who help others in need. For example, schools or businesses may raise money for a group or agency. A community may have a fundraiser for a family in need. There may be an article about volunteers who help in the community. Look through your newspaper to find examples of people helping others in need. How many examples can you find in just 15 minutes? Compare your results with the class.

Write it: Editorial cartoons can make very powerful statements. They are often thought-provoking and center around current events. Imagine you were a journalist during the Berlin Airlift. What would you have drawn in a political cartoon? Design a cartoon for an issue that you think is important today. Display your cartoons as a class.

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Chapter 7

Discussion: How did Scotty react when he learned the meaning of segregation? How did he learn the meaning of the word? How do you think this will impact his research paper?

Personal Reflection: Scotty and Jimmy involved themselves in a detail oriented task to take their minds off of their studies. What do you like to do on a study break? Do you think study breaks help you? Why?

Constructed Response: List four main events in this chapter in chronological order. How does each event impact the story?

Good Character: It is important to be considerate of others. There are many examples of consideration in this story. List three examples of consideration in this chapter. How can you show consideration to others?

Using the Newspaper: Building model airplanes was an enjoyable hobby for Scotty and Jimmy. The newspaper often features many examples of hobbies, such as advertisements for sporting goods stores and hobby shops, features about local artists and musicians, etc. Create a poster about hobbies using the newspaper. Be sure to include words and pictures. Be creative and have fun!

Write it: Advertisements attract the readers' attention in many ways—pictures, bold text, and creative placement. Study the ads in your local paper. Finally, design an ad for a hobby that you enjoy.

A Familiar Face

Chapter 8

Discussion: Scotty began this story dreading his research assignment in fear that it would be boring. What changed? What do you think he wrote in his essay?

Personal Reflection: “The Buck Stops Here” means that you take responsibility for your choices and actions. How do you demonstrate responsibility? How could you improve?

Constructed Response: What is the tone of this chapter? Give examples to support your decision.

Good Character: Truman is often associated with personal responsibility because of his famous quote. How did Truman demonstrate responsibility? If you were asked to create a slogan to encourage others to be responsible, what would it be?

Using the Newspaper: Scotty felt proud of the decisions that Truman made. Look through the newspaper to find articles about our president or a local leader in your community. Read the article and describe how this individual made you feel proud.

Write it: Truman faced many difficult decisions in his life and in his presidency. Newspapers often feature advice columns to assist individuals seeking guidance. Read some sample advice columns. Next, pretend you are the “expert.” What advice would you give the reader?