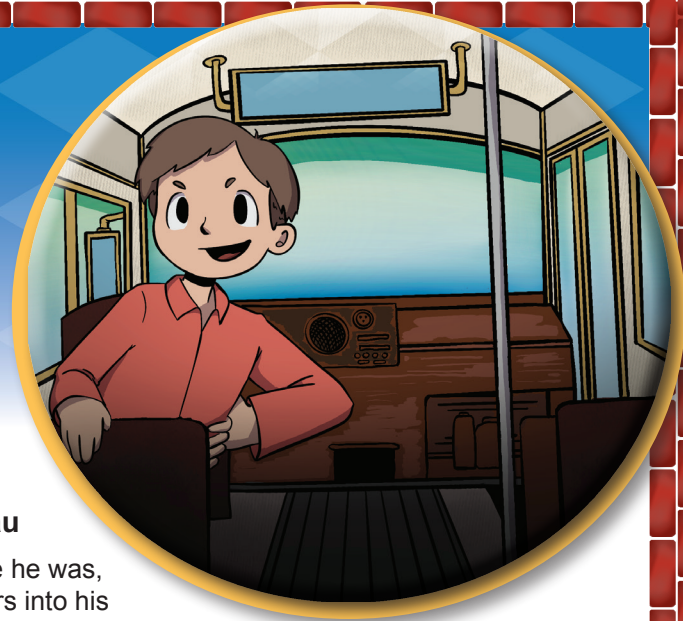


# An Adventure in Arrow Rock

## Chapter One

### On the Bus

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The bus flew down Highway I-70. Charlie looked out the window and watched the farm fields go by. Behind him, the bus was filled with rows of his fifth-grade students, but the only sounds were the thump of the tire wheels and the whistle of the wind around the bus.

“Does anyone know *why* Arrow Rock was named Arrow Rock?” Charlie stood up, asking the students in his loudest teacher voice.

*Silence.*

Charlie could see a few students glance up with bored expressions, but most didn't even look at him. They were all staring into the glowing abyss of their phones.

“Anyone? Anyone?” Charlie asked. “OK, I'll tell you!” he boomed enthusiastically. “Arrow Rock was named after the bluff near the town, along the Missouri River. The Missouri and Osage tribes used the flint found there to knap arrow tips.”

“Cool, Mr. P,” someone muttered. But most didn't even look up.

Charlie tiredly slumped back into his seat and stared at the fields out his window. When Charlie was a fifth grader, he lived a great adventure. On a field trip to the Missouri Capitol Building, he became trapped overnight and experienced the museum and the history within it come alive.

That fateful night ignited Charlie's passion for history. His newfound interest led to AP History courses in high school and a History degree in college, where he wrote his thesis about Missouri's role in the Civil War. Charlie wanted to share his love of history, so he went to graduate school and got his Master's in Education.

Here he was, five years into his dream job, teaching history to a gaggle of fifth graders. He remembered how he felt about history before and after his Capitol visit. His goal each year was to help his students become enthusiastic explorers of history.

But students are different now. They are obsessed with phones, tablets and laptops. If the kids aren't texting each other, they're on TikTok. Instead of homework, they play video games or chase virtual cartoon characters. Their enthusiasm for history is...lacking.

But today would be different.

Today, Charlie was taking his class on a field trip to the historic village of Arrow Rock, Missouri—a hop, skip and a jump from their school in Columbia. He hoped walking the cobblestone streets of Arrow Rock and seeing real, living history would help the students appreciate the stories of their state.

But he wasn't so sure.

He heard the telltale swoosh of a text message being sent as the brakes squealed and the bus pulled into a dusty parking lot.

“Welcome to Arrow Rock!” the bus driver shouted, opening the double doors.

“OK,” Charlie thought. “Here we go.”



## NEWSPAPER CONNECTIONS

Many school districts are considering banning cell phones in their schools.

Check your local newspaper to see if that is a possibility in your area.

Express your opinion on the topic to school district administrators.

