

An Adventure in Arrow Rock

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Chapter Five

Governor Meredith Miles Marmaduke

Charlie and his students exited the George Caleb Bingham House into the heat.

"Libations and sustenance sold," Henry muttered, repeating the newest clue. "Libations and sustenance sound good right now."

Charlie looked at his students, who were enthusiastic, but with waning energy.

"Let's break for lunch while we decipher this next clue," he suggested.

The students agreed, so Charlie led them to a restaurant called the J. Huston Tavern. A placard read, "Founded 1834: Oldest Restaurant West of the Mississippi."

The kids slid into their seats, appreciating the air conditioning. As they passed around menus, their banter was interrupted by a clanging sound coming from the kitchen. With lunch on their minds, they ignored the noise, but as time passed, the situation started to seem odd.

"There's no staff here," Henry declared. "No other guests. And what's that banging?"

Henry jumped up and headed toward the kitchen.

"Henry!" Charlie yelled. "Stay together!"

The teacher ran after him, and the students raced to follow.

"Hello? Anybody in here?" Henry called as he pushed into the kitchen.

Clang! Bang! Crash!

A shimmering man was in the kitchen, rummaging around, pulling out pots and pans!

Oldest restaurant west of the Mississippi, Henry remembered, a gathering spot, well-known and incredibly old.

"The clue to our next stop!" Henry shouted. "And I found another ghost!"

Spinning around, this ghost was fancy, with a stuffy high collar, long mutton-chop sideburns and jowls.

"Um, hi," Henry said. "Who are you? And are you, uh, looking for something?"



"Oh, hello!" He greeted them cheerily. "I am Meredith Miles Marmaduke! Pleased to make your acquaintance."

"I was one of the original planners of this fair village!" he boasted "My father-in-law and I! His name was Dr. John Sappington. Invented a treatment for malaria!

"We ran successful businesses before I took the leap into politics and eventually became..."

Marmaduke paused for dramatic effect.

"Governor!", he said shining with pride.

"Are you enjoying Arrow Rock?" he asked.

"Oh, yes," Samantha answered. "Very much."

"Tis wonderful," Marmaduke said as his face fell. "But as history tells, it's not all...perfect here."

"There's a shadowy past, too," he noted. "I bought slaves at auctions held on the tavern's steps, I'm ashamed to say. Slaves labored on my plantation, making me rich on the backs of real people. Shameful."

Marmaduke hung his head and began searching again.

"Aha!" he shouted.

He set another pottery piece on the table, just in front of Henry. "It's up to you to set things right," he told them. "Learn the full story. Always."

And then he was gone.

Zuri called, "Quick! Read the clue!"

Search next to a celebration of song and dance,

A place where stars perform and enchant.



NEWSPAPER CONNECTIONS

Use your local newspaper to compile a list of famous or important people who lived in your hometown.