

HENRY STARR

A play based on *The Diary of Henry Starr*

SCORE: History/Social Studies

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Settings: Henry's home; Roscius' home

Characters:

Narrator Henry

Mother Father

Florry Roscius

Narrator: It is summer vacation time in Rockford, Illinois. One early morning, Henry, his two sisters and brother jumped up from a good night's sleep, washed, dressed and sat at the breakfast table.

Henry: Mother, what will we be studying this morning?

Mother: First, let's eat our breakfast, Henry. Then, at nine o'clock, we will review the grammar rules you learned yesterday.

Henry: Yes, Mother. Those rules were difficult, but once I understood them, I enjoyed the challenge.

Narrator: As mother fed the children, Mr. Starr quickly walked into the dining room, to say goodbye to the children.

Father: Children, be very good while I am away.

Henry: Yes, Father. Where are you going, Father?

Father: To New York, Henry, to purchase supplies for the winter sales in our store.

Henry: When will I be able to go with you, Father? *I am 12 years old!*

Father: Well, it seems to me that you will probably be old enough to join me on my trip next year.

Henry: I should like that very much, Father. I can hardly wait!

Narrator: After breakfast, the children ran to the play room. Henry was a very good student but sometimes he was more interested in toys than his studies. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a number of coins.

Henry: I wonder what I should buy with my 60 cents? I wish I had some ice skates but the weather is too warm for the lake to freeze.

Florry: Roscius always has fun toys. Why don't you ask him?

Henry: Thanks, Florry. That's a great idea.

Narrator: Henry had an hour to spare before the 9 o'clock study class with Mother, so he ran over to Roscius' house. Roscius excitedly greeted Henry at the door.

Roscius: Henry, quick! Come up to my room and see what I have! It's called a penograph. It copies pictures perfectly!

Henry: How does it work?

Roscius: I'll show you how it works. First, you take a piece of blank paper and place it next to a picture you want to copy. Then you put a sharp pencil at one end of the penograph. Next, you pick up this pointed tool that's attached to the other end of the penograph and trace the picture. See! As I move the pointed tool, the pencil marks the paper with the exact same lines I'm tracing. I can even make the picture smaller or larger depending on adjusting the end holding the pencil. What do you think of it?

Henry: I think it's amazing! I'd love to have one.

Roscius: Would you be interested in buying this one?

Henry: Well, I'll have to think about it, Roscius. Oh... what time is it?

Roscius: 8:45. Do you have to go?

Henry: Yes. Mother is schooling us this summer so I shouldn't be late. Thank you for showing me your penograph. I'll let you know if I decide to buy it.

Roscius: Don't forget to stop by this afternoon. Bring your knives so we can sharpen them. Then I'll show you how to carve a sail boat the way my Uncle Jack taught me. I'm anxious to try some of Uncle Jack's carving tricks.

Henry: All right! I'll see you later.

Narrator: Henry ran home to his lessons not a second too soon. Mother was at the dining room table helping Florry with a punctuation rule. As Henry sat down, his mother spoke.

Mother: Henry, since you learned this lesson yesterday, you are free from lessons for the rest of the day.

Henry: Thank you, Mother. May I go back to Roscius' house? He's going to show me how to carve a sail boat.

Mother: Yes, Henry. Just be careful with your knives.

Narrator: Henry was so pleased that his hard work studying allowed him to have a full day of freedom. As his father always said, "Hard work really pays off!"