



“A, B, C’s: Actions Bring Consequences”

Lesson 3: Consequences

Vintage Classroom

The theme for this lesson is ‘consequences,’ which is a result that happens when you do or do not act in a certain way. Children must learn their ‘A, B, C’s: Actions Bring Consequences.’ If you do something good, you will have positive consequences. If you do something bad, you will have negative consequences.

As we learned in lesson two, children in 1895 were expected to do a lot of chores to help their families. Children were taught that there were consequences for not doing what they were told. Parents and teachers were often concerned that children would skip school, skip chores, or not be where they were supposed to be, so lessons were designed to teach children the dangers of such behavior. Someone was called a *truant* when they were someplace they were not supposed to be, or behaving in a way that was disrespectful or disruptive.

Children were expected to behave like small adults and take their responsibilities seriously. This would help them grow into adults who knew how to work hard. Hard work was considered its own reward. Boys and girls often had different kinds of chores because they would grow up and do different kinds of work. Boys might work outside, building, working in farm fields or with animals, or get a job outside the home. Girls would be expected to stay home and help their mothers, learning to cook, sew, clean, look after younger children, and other household chores.

In a one room schoolhouse the boys and girls would already be sitting separately from one another. The teacher would divide the lesson, teaching the boys first while the girls read. When she was done with the boys, she would give them a new assignment and teach the girls. Today you are going to read both short stories and answer the following questions:

1. Both Amy and James do something wrong, what was it?
2. What were the consequences for Amy? For James?
3. Did anyone punish Amy or James? Or, was the consequence of their actions punishment enough?
4. What lesson was Amy supposed to learn? What lesson was James supposed to learn?
5. List three ways you are expected to behave in school. What are the consequences if you do not behave?

The Money Amy Didn't Earn

1. Amy was a dear little girl, but she was too apt to waste time in getting ready to do her tasks, instead of doing them at once as she ought.
2. In the village in which she lived, Mr. Thornton kept a store where he sold fruit of all kinds, including berries in their season. One day he said to Amy, whose parents were quite poor, "Would you like to earn some money?"
3. "Oh, yes," replied she, "for I want some new shoes, and papa has no money to buy them with."
4. "Well, Amy," said Mr. Thornton, "I noticed some fine, ripe blackberries in Mr. Green's pasture to-day, and he said that anybody was welcome to them. I will pay you thirteen cents a quart for all you will pick for me."
5. Amy was delighted at the thought of earning some money; so she ran home to get a basket, intending to go immediately to pick the berries.
6. Then she thought she would like to know how much money she would get if she picked five quarts. With the help of her slate and pencil, she found out that she would get sixty-five cents.
7. "But supposing I should pick a dozen quarts," thought she, "how much should I earn then?" "Dear me," she said, after figuring awhile, "I should earn a dollar and fifty-six cents."
8. Amy then found out what Mr. Thornton would pay her for fifty, a hundred, and two hundred quarts. It took her some time to do this, and then it was so near dinner time that she had to stay home until afternoon.
9. As soon as dinner was over, she took her basket and hurried to the pasture. Some boys had been there before dinner, and all the ripe berries were picked. She could not find enough to fill a quart measure.
10. As Amy went home, she thought of what her teacher had often told her - "Do your task at once; then think about it," for "one doer is worth a hundred dreamers."

DEFINITIONS- 1. Tasks, *work which one has to do*. 2. Season, *proper time of the year*. 4. Quart, *the fourth part of a gallon*. 7. Figuring, *computing, calculating*. 9. Hurried, *went rapidly*. Measure, *vessel*.

The Truant

1. James Brown was ten years old when his parents sent him to school. It was not far from his home, and therefore they sent him by himself.
2. But, instead of going to school, he was in the habit of playing truant. He would go into the fields, or spend his time with idle boys.
3. But this was not all. When he went home, he would falsely tell his mother that he has been to school, and had said his lessons very well.
4. One fine morning, his mother told James to make haste home from school, for she wished, after he had some back, to take him to his aunt's.
5. But, instead of minding her, he went off to the water, where there were some boats. There he met plenty of idle boys.
6. Some of these boys found that James had money, which his aunt had given him; and he was led by them to hire a boat, and to go with them upon the water.
7. Little did James think of the danger into which he was running. Soon the wind began to blow, and none of them knew how to manage the boat.

8. For some time they struggled against the wind and the tide . At last, they became so tired that they could row no longer.
9. A large wave upset the boat, and they were all thrown into the water. Think of James Brown, the truant, at this time!
10. He was far from home, known by no one. His parents were ignorant of his danger. He was struggling in the water, on this point of being drowned.
11. Some men, however, saw the boys, and went out to them in a boat. They reached them just in time to save them from a watery grave.
12. They were taken into a house, where their clothes were dried. After a while, they were sent home to their parents.
13. James was very sorry for this conduct, and he was never known to be guilty of the same thing again.
14. He became regular at school, learned to attend to his books, and above all, to obey his parents perfectly.