



AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY

DEAR PARENTS,

Each year the elementary school students at Valley Christian Academy prepare a speech depicting the life of a great American man or woman. The speech is written in the first person and should include the character's birth, death, and major accomplishments. Parents should feel free to help their children write these speeches. A good way to write the speech is to find a child's biography and follow the story line as you construct the speech. This will make for a more interesting speech rather than a mere recitation of facts from the encyclopedia. Students will be awarded extra points for including spiritual application in their speeches.

Please adhere to the following **time limits**.

- K-1 Speeches must be 1-3 minutes in length with a minimum of 175 words.
- 2-3 Speeches must be 2-5 minutes in length with a minimum of 350 words.
- 4-6 Speeches must be 3-10 minutes in length with a minimum of 525 words.

Students will give their speeches in class. They should be sure to have their speeches **memorized** well enough so they do not need any prompts. Please be aware that students who need frequent prompting will receive a low grade. Also, any student with a speech that doesn't meet the minimum requirement will receive a "D" or "F."

Students must portray a different character each year. One of the goals of this assignment is to help our children learn about different men and women who have made America great. Help your child choose characters from whom they can learn much, and look for spiritual applications that can be learned from the person's life. Characters must have been dead for at least 25 years except for the Presidents and their wives. Any characters not on the list must be approved.

On American Heritage Day, students will dress up in **homemade costumes** as their characters. There will be a parade and costume judging competition, followed by the speech finals. Students in the speech finals will not be selected to be in the costume finals. Neither will students in rented costumes be chosen to be in the costume finals.

American Heritage Day is an exciting day! Please plan to come to see the costumes and hear the speech finals. You will be amazed at what these elementary-aged children can do with public speaking. It takes work to write and memorize their speeches, but it pays tremendous dividends to those who put the necessary effort into the project. As in any area of life, you get out of an activity what you put into it. Make this a worthwhile learning experience by putting much effort into it. You will be gratified to see the results.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher Maples".

Christopher R. Maples
Principal/Administrator

American Heritage Day List of Characters

Great American Women

All President's Wives
Jane Addams
Louisa May Alcott
Priscilla Alden
Marian Anderson
Susan B. Anthony
Clara Barton
Catharine Beecher
Elizabeth Blackwell
Nellie Bly
Evangeline Booth
Anne Bradstreet
Laura Bridgman
Pearl S. Buck
Abbie Burgess
Annie Cannon
Rachel Carson

Mary Cassatt
Prudence Crandall
Fanny J. Crosby
Emily Dickinson
Dorothea Dix
Amelia Earhart
Emma Edmonds
Sarah Edwards
Fannie Farmer
Virginia Hall
Anne Hutchinson
Mahalia Jackson
Helen Keller
Juliette Gordon Low
Sybil Luddington
Mary Mahoney
Helen Martini

Biddy Mason
Anna Maxwell
Christa McAuliffe
Edna St. Vincent Millay
Lottie Moon
Julia Morgan
Lucretia Mott
Annie Oakley
Mary Connolly Owens
Cecilia Payne
Pocahontas
Judith Resnik
Emily Warren Roebling
Betsy Ross
Sarah Royce
Sacajawea
Deborah Sampson

Betty Stam
Anna Elizabeth Steele
Harriet Beecher Stowe
Anne Sullivan
Harriet Tubman
Sojourner Truth
Diana Vreeland
Mary Edwards Walker
Mercy Warren
Ida Wells
Phillis Wheatley
Margaret Bourke White
Narcissa Whitman
Laura I. Wilder
Emma Willard
Brownie Wise

Great American Men

All U.S. Presidents
Samuel Adams
Frances Asbury
Crispus Attacus
John Audubon
Benjamin Bannecker
Henry Ward Beecher
Alex Graham Bell
Jonathan Blanchard
Hiram Bingham
Daniel Boone
Gail Borden
William Borden
Nathaniel Bowditch
Jim Bowie
William Bradford
David Brainerd
Louis Braille
William Brewster
Jim Bridger
William J. Bryan
Luther Burbank
Admiral Richard Byrd
Andrew Carnegie
Charles Carroll
Kit Carson
George Washington Carver
George Rogers Clark
William Clark
Henry Clay
"Buffalo Bill" Cody
Russell Conwell
Davy Crockett
Henry Crowell
General Custer

John Deere
Lee DeForest
Walt Disney
David Douglas
Abner Doubleday
George Eastman
Thomas Edison
Albert Einstein
Jonathan Edwards
Jim Elliot
Charles Finney
Henry Ford
Amos Fortune
Benjamin Franklin
John C. Fremont
Robert Fulton
Thomas Garrett
Lou Gehrig
Geronimo
Robert Goddard
Ulysses S. Grant
Adolphus Greely
Nathan Hale
Alexander
Hamilton
John Hancock
Patrick Henry
Milton Hershey
Oliver W. Holmes
Sam Houston
Gridley Howe
John Hyde
Washington Irving
Stonewall Jackson
William Jackson

Chief Joseph
Bob Jones, Sr.
John Paul Jones
Adoniram Judson
Francis Scott Key
Martin Luther King
Jason Lee
Robert E. Lee
Meriwether Lewis
Henry W. Longfellow
Nat Love
Thaddeus Lowe
Douglas MacArthur
J. Gresham Machen
Francis Marion
George Marshall
Chief Massasoit
Jan Matzelinger
Mayo Brothers
Elijah McCoy
Cyrus McCormick
William H. McGuffey
Donald McKay
Enos Mills
Dwight L. Moody
Samuel Morse
John Muir
William Osler
Irving Overholtzer
Quanah Parker
General Patton
William Penn
J.C. Penny
General Pershing
Stephen Poxton

Charles Price
Walter Reed
Bass Reeves
Paul Revere
John R. Rice
Jackie Robinson
John D. Rockefeller
Knut Rockne
Benjamin Rush
Haym Salomon
Nate Saint
Harry Saulnier
C.I. Scofield
Sequoyah
Sitting Bull
John Smith
Samuel Smith
Squanto
John Stam
Miles Standish
Levi Strauss
J.E.B. Stuart
Peter Stuyvesant
Billy Sunday
T. DeWitte Talmadge
Tecumseh
Jim Thorpe
Booker T. Washington
Eli Whitney
Daniel Webster
Noah Webster
Marcus Whitman
Roger Williams
Wright Brothers