



## UNIT 20 – Western Expansion

### □ Lesson A: Discussion

- Review the History Overview (Handbook) to understand philosophy and ideas behind this week's lesson.
- Read these (required)
  - *Captains Courageous* (excerpt below) by Rudyard Kipling

### □ Activity A: Composition

- Review the instructions with your student and have your student complete the composition.

### □ Activity B: Map Activity

- With your student, review the map activity and then have your student complete the activity.

### □ Activity C: Timeline

- With your student, review the timeline of important events and people in the unit and have your student complete the timeline activity.

## Lesson A ~ Discussion

### Lesson Goals:

- That students come to know Christ
- That students relate to the humanity of past peoples through a specific topic – Frontiersman and Merchants
- That students begin to understand the deep ramifications of human choice and the implications of the Incarnation for the course of Western Civilization
- Introduce the students to the story of the character Harvey Cheyne and the situation in America around the time of the Western Expansion

### In Class:

1. Read the selection, indicated above, aloud to the class.
2. Class Discussion—Questions to get the discussion moving!
  - When is the story set?
  - Who are the characters we have just met? What do we know about them?
  - In what situation do we find Harvey Cheyne?
  - What do you think about him?
  - What do the other characters think of him?
  - How do you think he thinks of himself?
  - What kind of manners do we see in the conversation?
  - Is there mention of manners?
  - How does the author want us to think about rich Americans? About poor Americans? About Americans in general?

## Captains Courageous by Rudyard Kipling

The following excerpt comes from the book *Captains Courageous* by Rudyard Kipling (public domain text), who wrote the novel while staying in Vermont for a time. The author writes of this novel in his autobiography thusly:

Now our Dr. [James] Conland had served in [the Gloucester] fleet when he was young. One thing leading to another, as happens in this world, I embarked on a little book which was called *Captains Courageous*. My part was the writing; his the details. This book took us (he rejoicing to escape from the dread respectability of our little town) to the shore-front, and the old T-wharf of Boston Harbour, and to queer meals in sailors' eating-houses, where he renewed his youth among ex-shipmates or their kin. We assisted hospitable tug-masters to help haul three- and four-stick schooners of Pocahontas coal all round the harbour; we boarded every craft that looked as if she might be useful, and we delighted ourselves to the limit of delight. ... Old tales, too, he dug up, and the lists of dead and gone schooners whom he had loved, and I revelled in profligate abundance of detail—not necessarily for publication but for the joy of it. ...I wanted to see if I could catch and hold something of a rather beautiful localised American atmosphere that was already beginning to fade. Thanks to Conland I came near this.

Like modern television series, this book first appeared as a serialization in *McClure's*, published later in its full form. Let us now be introduced to the book.

THE WEATHER DOOR of the smoking-room had been left open to the North Atlantic fog, as the big liner rolled and lifted, whistling to warn the fishing-fleet. "That Cheyne boy's the biggest nuisance aboard," said a man in a frieze overcoat, shutting the door with a bang. "He isn't wanted here. He's too fresh."

A white-haired German reached for a sandwich, and grunted between bites: "I know der breed. Ameriga is full of dot kind. I dell you you should imbort ropes' ends free under your dariff."

"Pshaw! There isn't any real harm to him. He's more to be pitied than anything," a man from New York drawled, as he lay at full length along the cushions under the wet skylight. "They've dragged him around from hotel to hotel ever since he was a kid. I was talking to his mother this morning. She's a lovely lady, but she don't pretend to manage him. He's going to Europe to finish his education."

"Education isn't begun yet." This was a Philadelphian, curled up in a corner. "That boy gets two hundred a month pocket-money, he told me. He isn't sixteen either."

"Railroads, his father, aind't it?" said the German.

"Yep. That and mines and lumber and shipping. Built one place at San Diego, the old man has; another at Los Angeles; owns half a dozen railroads, half the lumber on the Pacific slope, and lets his wife spend the money," the Philadelphian went on lazily. "The West don't suit her, she says. She just tracks around with the boy and her nerves, trying to find out what'll amuse him, I guess. Florida, Adirondacks, Lakewood, Hot Springs, New York, and round again. He isn't much more than a second-hand hotel clerk now. When he's finished in Europe he'll be a holy terror."

"What's the matter with the old man attending to him personally?" said a voice from the frieze ulster.

"Old man's piling up the rocks. 'Don't want to be disturbed, I guess. He'll find out his error a few years from now. 'Pity, because there's a heap of good in the boy if you could get at it."

"Mit a rope's end; mit a rope's end!" growled the German.

Once more the door banged, and a slight, slim-built boy perhaps fifteen years old, a half-smoked cigarette hanging from one corner of his mouth, leaned in over the high footway. His pasty yellow complexion did not show well on a person of his years, and his look was a mixture of irresolution, bravado, and very cheap smartness. He was dressed in a cherry – coloured blazer,

knickerbockers, red stockings, and bicycle shoes, with a red flannel cap at the back of the head. After whistling between his teeth, as he eyed the company, he said in a loud, high voice: "Say, it's thick outside. You can hear the fish-boats squawking all around us. Say, wouldn't it be great if we ran down one?"

"Shut the door, Harvey," said the New Yorker. "Shut the door and stay outside. You're not wanted here."

"Who'll stop me?" he answered, deliberately. "Did you pay for my passage, Mister Martin? 'Guess I've as good right here as the next man."

He picked up some dice from a checkerboard and began throwing, right hand against left.

"Say, gen'elmen, this is deader'n mud. Can't we make a game of poker between us?"

There was no answer, and he puffed his cigarette, swung his legs, and drummed on the table with rather dirty fingers. Then he pulled out a roll of bills as if to count them.

"How's your mama this afternoon?" a man said. "I didn't see her at lunch."

"In her state-room, I guess. She's 'most always sick on the ocean. I'm going to give the stewardess fifteen dollars for looking after her. I don't go down more 'n I can avoid. It makes me feel mysterious to pass that butler's-pantry place. Say, this is the first time I've been on the ocean."

"Oh, don't apologize, Harvey."

"Who's apologizing? This is the first time I've crossed the ocean, gen'elmen, and, except the first day, I haven't been sick one little bit. No, sir!" He brought down his fist with a triumphant bang, wetted his finger, and went on counting the bills.

"Oh, you're a high-grade machine, with the writing in plain sight," the Philadelphian yawned. "You'll blossom into a credit to your country if you don't take care."

"I know it. I'm an American-first, last, and all the time. I'll show 'em that when I strike Europe. Piff! My cig's out. I can't smoke the truck the steward sells. Any gen'elman got a real Turkish cig on him?"

The chief engineer entered for a moment, red, smiling, and wet. "Say, Mac," cried Harvey cheerfully, "how are we hitting it?"

"Vava much in the ordinary way," was the grave reply. "The young are as polite as ever to their elders, an' their elders are e'en tryin' to appreciate it."

A low chuckle came from a corner. The German opened his cigar-case and handed a shiny black cigar to Harvey.

"Dot is der broper apparatus to smoke, my young friendt," he said. "You vill dry it? Yes? Den you vill be efer so happy."

Harvey lit the unlovely thing with a flourish: he felt that he was getting on in grownup society.

## Activity A ~ Composition

### Directions

1. Read this aloud to yourself.

“The low sun made the water all purple and pinkish, with golden lights on the barrels of the long swells, and blue and green mackerel shades in the hollows. Each schooner in sight seemed to be pulling her dories towards her by invisible strings, and the little black figures in the tiny boats pulled like clockwork toys.”

– Captains Courageous by Rudyard Kipling

2. Write a statement in which you keep the main nouns and ideas, but replace the descriptive words and phrases.
3. Submit first draft to parent for corrections and suggestions for improvement. These suggestions should not include changes to the word order of the sentences, only to which words are used.
4. Read the finalized first draft aloud to yourself.
5. Keeping the words you have in the paragraphs at the end of step three, now alter the word order in each sentence without changing the meaning. So for example: “Life was soft and easy.” can be changed to “Easy and soft was life.” Note: A few words may be added, as necessary, in order to facilitate the changes.
6. Submit second draft to parent for corrections and suggestions for improvement.
7. With parent: read all three versions of the excerpt aloud and discuss the changes. How does the style and tone shift in each version?







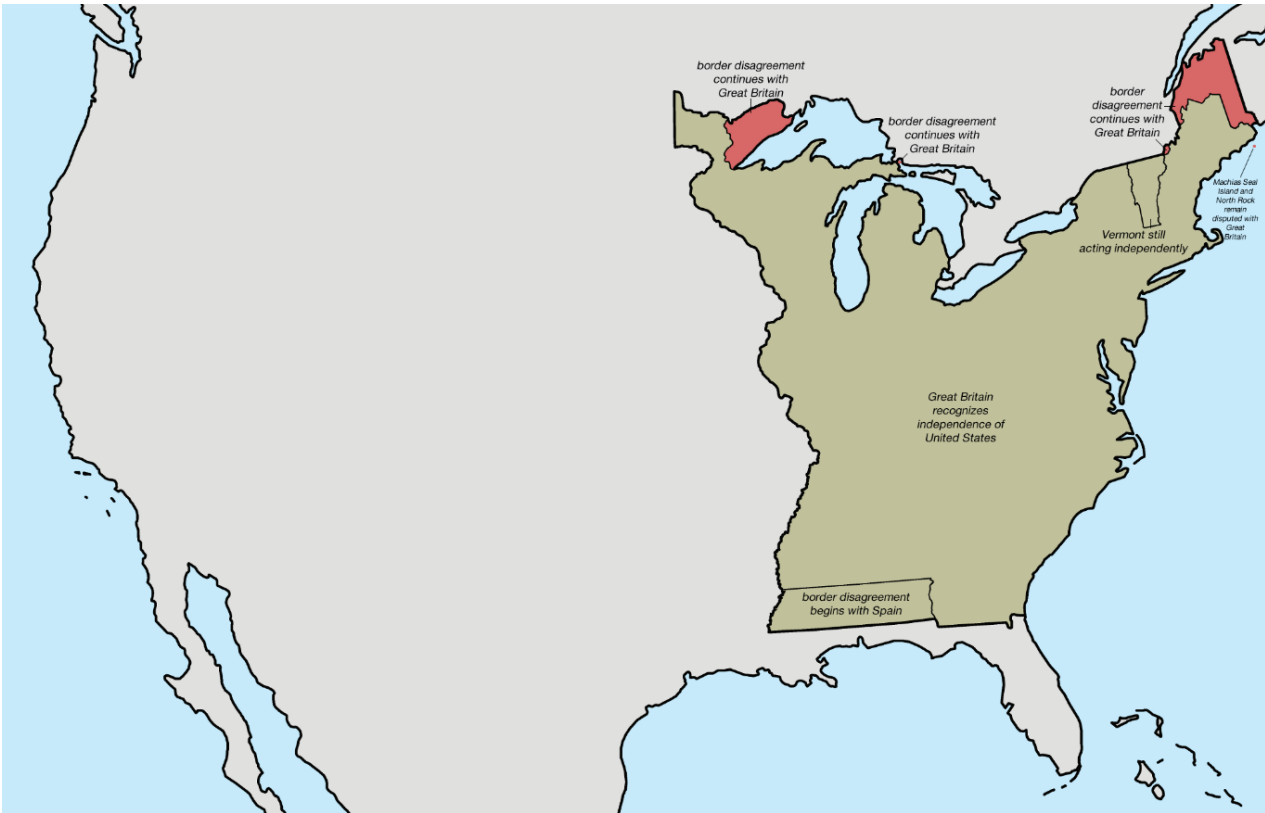
## Activity B ~ Map Activity

### Instructions:

1. Compare each map and circle the potential, new additions to US territory. With what countries do these territories put the US in dispute?
2. Looking at the three maps in Activity B, place the date for each one in your Timeline Book. You might even cut out the map to add to your Timeline Book.



March 1, 1784: Virginia cedes its western lands to the federal government. Connecticut continues to claim part of the land.



May 12, 1784: Great Britain recognizes the independence of the United States. Several areas along the northern border remain disputed. West Florida is ceded by Great Britain to Spain, but its northern extent is disputed. Machias Seal Island and North Rock remain disputed.



December 20, 1803: The Louisiana Purchase is formally acquired from France.