

*THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY*

Benjamin Franklin

“Leaving Boston” p.86

1. What character flaws does Franklin admit to in the beginning?
2. How might these factors have contributed to his decision to leave Boston?
3. Why does Franklin have to leave Boston secretly? Who helps him to escape Boston? How?
4. Find some examples of humor in Franklin’s writing.
5. Inferential thinking: What do we learn about Franklin from the first part of his autobiography? Explain your inferences by supporting your statements with specific details from the text.

Franklin’s Traits	Textual Evidence

“Arrival in Philadelphia” p. 90

1. How would you describe Franklin’s character at this point? Do you admire him? Why or why not?
2. Based on the context clues, determine the meaning of the phrase “the stock necessary to begin with” (p. 89). What is the “stock” the author is talking about?

3. Franklin has almost no money and is very hungry. Why then does he insist on paying for his passage on the boat? What does this reveal about his character?

4. . What does Franklin's trip to the bakery suggest about travel and currency in the eighteenth century America?

5. What does the act of giving away the rolls tell you about Franklin?

“Arriving at Moral Perfection” p. 92

1. What do you learn about Franklin from his plan for moral development?

2. Using descriptions and examples provided by Franklin as context clues, define each of the thirteen virtues as you understand it (you are, once again, making inferences). Give an example for each of the virtues from our present day life. Are these virtues and values still relevant?- put an “R” in front of the virtue, if you believe it is relevant, and “N” if you don't think it is. ***Be prepared to discuss your thoughts on this in class.***

3. Franklin often connects his ideas with “thus”, meaning “as the result”. What does this reveal about Franklin's thinking?

4. What does Franklin's project for moral perfection reveal about his views of human nature and his attitudes toward education? Do you agree or disagree with his views? Please explain.

5. Franklin ends his list of virtues with “humility”. Did you find evidence of pride—the opposite of humility—in his autobiography? If so, where?