



## 32. John Maynard

A person's character is what he really is on the inside. It is often revealed by how the person responds to various situations. This story shows us the character of John Maynard, a devoted and courageous man worthy of our admiration.

### A. Defining for Comprehension

Use these words from the story to complete sentences 1–3 below. You will not use all the words.

pilot	seldom	feebly
hold	abandoning	disabled
vain	response	

- The people were abandoning the building in response to a fire alarm.
- The man was disabled, but his labors for the Lord were not in vain.
- Before beginning the voyage, the pilot went down into the hold to check the cargo.

- Write a sentence of your own, using both of the leftover words in the list above.

(Original sentence using seldom and feebly.)

- What is meant by the sentence, "And he beached the ship"? Be sure you understand the word **beached**.

It means that he brought the ship ashore (onto the beach).

- The word **aye** may be pronounced as a long **a** (ā) or a long **i** (ī).

a. Which pronunciation is used when the word means "yes"? long i

b. Which is used when the word means "ever; always"? long a

### B. Reading for Comprehension

- Since John Maynard was a pilot on a steamboat running between Detroit, Michigan, and Buffalo, New York, what lake did he navigate? You may use a map of the Great Lakes in an atlas or encyclopedia for help. Lake Erie

- Circle the letters of the three facts below which give evidence that the story took place more than ten years ago.

a. The pilot's name was John Maynard.

b. John Maynard was an honest man.

c. John Maynard piloted a steam-powered boat.

d. They used buckets of water to try to extinguish the fire.

e. The ship could not be saved.

f. The ship could travel only 7 miles in 45 minutes.

## Lesson 32

### To the Teacher

Explain what is meant by a person's character. It is what he truly is on the inside, where it counts. Point out the strength of character that John Maynard possessed. He obeyed the captain's orders, thereby saving the lives of those on board even at the cost of his own life.

Be sure a map is available to help the students with exercise 7.

Describe how rosin and tar burn so the pupils understand why the fire could not be put out. In fact, water may only spread such a fire.

Discuss exercise 14 with the class. Point out that lack of

physical description is not necessarily a weakness in a story, for it does not hinder our understanding. The plot in many stories is just as clear without the extra details. In this story the writer's purpose was to portray John Maynard's character, and he succeeded in doing so.

Compare this story with "A Simple Kind of Bravery." How were the story characters alike?

### Discussion Starters

- What is a helm? Why did John Maynard have to stay at the helm to save the people? (A helm is a wheel used to steer a ship. The ship had to be steered to the shore in order to save the people.)
- Why did the captain want to keep the passengers from