

# Lesson 18

## 1. Words to Read and Know

Persia	savage	merchant	Cincinnatus
despise	base	Cyrus	mount

## 2. Reading Aloud

### Exercise A

1. It was urgent that we buy the new curtains before Saturday as a surprise.
2. Cincinnatus was a Roman who lived during the Republic.
3. We burnished the brass knobs of the antique furniture and washed the purple cushions.
4. Was the attack that Persia made against the Greeks a surprise, or did they expect the army's arrival?
5. The soldiers surrounded the city but dared not burn it or make the slightest disturbance.
6. While the servants churned butter, the merchant's daughter, who lived in luxury, put curls in her hair while she turned the pages of her novel.
7. My mother asked what had occurred when she saw the broken urn in the foyer.
8. How did the furry creature that you found in your backyard survive during the frigid winter?

9. "Do not slurp your soup, dear," my mother said to Tim who was making all sorts of noises during the meal.
10. The men returned on purpose to repair the building.

#### Exercise B

1. It was a surprise to see my aunt at church last Saturday night after choir practice.
2. We told the boys at the scout meeting that a furlong was one eighth of a mile, which is about 660 feet.
3. How deep did the animal burrow in your backyard?
4. Harry said, "You would not believe what occurred during baseball practice!"
5. It was a surprise to find a rabbit burrow in our yard.
6. That loud disturbance in the neighboring jungle was made by the savages getting ready to raid the village.
7. The old colonial merchant wore burnished buckles on his shoes.
8. Churn cream long enough and it turns to butter.
9. Ben said that the soldiers had traveled a furlong before they reached the camp.
10. It was a true luxury to eat the freshly churned butter on our home-baked bread.

### 3. Reading Selections

The Boy and the Robbers

by James Baldwin

In Persia, when Cyrus the Great was king, boys were taught to tell the truth. This was one of their first lessons at home and at school.

“None but a coward will tell a falsehood,” said the father of young Otanes. “Truth is beautiful. Always love it,” said his mother.

When Otanes was twelve years old, his parents wished to send him to a distant city to study in a famous school that was there. It would be a long journey and a dangerous one. So it was arranged that the boy should travel with a small company of merchants who were going to the same place. “Goodbye, Otanes! Be always brave and truthful,” said his father. “Farewell, my child! Love that which is beautiful. Despise that which is base,” said his mother.

The little company began its long journey. Some of the men rode on camels, some on horses. They went but slowly, for the sun was hot and the way was rough.

Suddenly, towards evening, a band of robbers swooped down upon them. The merchants were not fighting men. They could do nothing but give up all their goods and money.

“Well, boy, what have you got?” asked one of the robbers, as he pulled Otanes from his horse.

“Forty pieces of gold,” answered the lad.

The robber laughed. He had never heard of a boy with so much money as that.

“That is a good story,” he said. “Where do you carry your gold?”

“It is in my hat, underneath the lining,” answered Otanes.

“Oh, well! You can’t make me believe that,” said the robber, and he hurried away to rob one of the rich merchants.

Soon another came up and said, “My boy, do you happen to have any gold about you?”

“Yes! Forty pieces, in my hat,” said Otanes.

“You are a brave lad to be joking with robbers,” said the man, and he also hurried on to a more **promising field**.

At length the chief of the band called to Otanes and said, “Young fellow, have you anything worth taking?”

Otanes answered, “I have already told two of your men that I have forty pieces of gold in my hat, but they wouldn’t believe me.”

“Take off your hat,” said the chief.

The boy obeyed. The chief tore out the lining and found the gold hidden beneath it.

“Why did you tell us where to find it?” he asked. “No one would have thought that a child like you had gold about him.”

“If I had answered your questions differently, I would have told a lie,” said Otanes, “and none but cowards tell lies.”

The robber chief was struck by this answer. He thought of the number of times that he himself had been a coward. Then he said, “You are a brave boy, and you may keep your gold. Here it is. Mount your horse, and my own men will ride with you and see that you reach the end of your journey in safety.”

Otanes, in time, became one of the famous men of his country. He was the advisor and friend of two of the kings who succeeded Cyrus.

### Reading Questions A

1. According to the reading passage, what was one of the important rules that the Persians tried to follow?
  - a) to get rich
  - b) to be prepared at all times
  - c) to be honest
2. Who taught Otanes as a young boy that it was good always to tell the truth?
  - a) merchants
  - b) Otanes' parents
  - c) robbers
3. Why does the author mention that Otanes traveled with a small company of merchants?
  - a) to point out that a larger company would make it more dangerous.
  - b) to show what was done to make it safer for Otanes to travel.
  - c) to stress that Otanes was very brave.
4. Why did the merchants give up their goods and money without resisting?
  - a) The merchants did not think it was right to fight.
  - b) The robbers had taken their weapons.
  - c) They did not know how to fight back.

5. When one of the robbers asked how much gold Otanes had, the boy replied, "Forty pieces of gold." Why did the robber laugh at the boy's reply?
  - a) He was amused to hear that a young boy had so much money.
  - b) He was surprised at the boy's bravery.
  - c) He was mocking the boy's pride.
6. What is the "promising field" (printed in bold) that the robbers hurry to?
  - a) to the king's treasury
  - b) pleasant places where the robbers could find rest
  - c) where the robbers can get money, most likely from the merchants
7. How was the robber "struck" by Otanes answer, "If I had answered your questions differently, I would have told you a lie, and none but cowards tell lies."
  - a) He was thinking of the boy's bravery and his own cowardice.
  - b) He was thinking that the boy was really pretending to be brave.
  - c) He was worried about being caught in his crime.
8. Why did the robbers treat Otanes kindly after they tried to rob him?
  - a) Otanes was a very young boy.
  - b) Otanes' father and mother might find the robbers out and punish them.
  - c) Otanes was admired for his bravery.

9. What is NOT a theme of this story about Otanes and the robbers?
- a) It teaches that crimes will always be punished.
  - b) It teaches that almost everyone admires honesty.
  - c) It teaches the importance of always telling the truth.
10. What does the story NOT say about Otanes?
- a) He turned dishonest when he got older.
  - b) He was an advisor and friend of King Cyrus.
  - c) He was Persian.

### The Story of Cincinnatus

by James Baldwin

There was a man named Cincinnatus who lived on a little farm not far from the city of Rome. He had once been rich, and had held the highest office in the land. But in one way or another he had lost all his wealth. He was now so poor that he had to do all the work on his farm with his own hands. But in those days it was thought to be a noble thing to till the soil.

Cincinnatus was so wise and just that everybody trusted him, and asked his advice, and when anyone was in trouble, and did not know what to do, his neighbors would say, "Go and tell Cincinnatus. He will help you."

Now there lived among the mountains, not far away, a tribe of fierce, half-wild men, who were at war with the Roman people. They persuaded another tribe of bold warriors to help them, and then marched toward the city, plundering and robbing as they came. They boasted that they would tear

down the walls of Rome, burn the houses, kill all the men, and make slaves of the women and children.

At first the Romans, who were very proud and brave, did not think there was much danger. Every man in Rome was a soldier, and the army which went out to fight the robbers was the finest in the world. No one stayed at home with the women and children and boys except the white-haired "Fathers," as they were called, who made the laws for the city, and a small company of men who guarded the walls. Everybody thought that it would be an easy thing to drive the men of the mountains back to the place where they belonged.

But one morning five horsemen came riding down the road from the mountains. They rode with great speed, and both men and horses were covered with dust and blood. The watchman at the gate knew them, and shouted to them as they galloped in. Why did they ride in this way? What had happened to the Roman army?

They did not answer him, but rode into the city and along the quiet streets, and everybody ran after them, eager to find out what was the matter. Rome was not a large city at that time, and soon they reached the market place where the white-haired Fathers were sitting. Then they leaped from their horses and told their story.

"Only yesterday," they said, "our army was marching through a narrow valley between two steep mountains. All at once a thousand savage men sprang out from among the rocks before us and above us. They had blocked up the way, and the pass was so narrow that we could not fight. We tried to come back, but they had blocked up the way on this side of



us too. The fierce men of the mountains were before us and behind us, and they were throwing rocks down upon us from above. We had been caught in a trap. Then ten of us set spurs to our horses and five of us forced our way through, but the other five fell before the spears of the mountain men. And now, O Roman Fathers! send help to our army at once, or every man will be slain and our city will be taken.”

“What shall we do?” said the white-haired Fathers. “Whom can we send but the guards and the boys? and who is wise enough to lead them and thus save Rome?”

All shook their heads and were very grave, for it seemed as if there was no hope. Then one said, “Send for Cincinnatus. He will help us.”

Cincinnatus was in the field plowing when the men who had been sent to him came in great haste. He stopped and greeted them kindly and waited for them to speak.

“Put on your cloak, Cincinnatus,” they said, “and hear the words of the Roman people.”

Then Cincinnatus wondered what they could mean. “Is all well with Rome?” he asked, and he called to his wife to bring him his cloak.

She brought the cloak, and Cincinnatus wiped the dust from his hands and arms, and threw it over his shoulders. Then the men told their errand.

They told him how the army with all the noblest men of Rome had been entrapped in the mountain pass. They told him about the great danger the city was in. Then they said, “The people of Rome make you their ruler and the ruler of their city to do with everything as you choose. And the

Fathers bid you come at once and go out against our enemies, the fierce men of the mountains.”

So Cincinnatus left his plow standing where it was, and hurried to the city. When he passed through the streets and gave orders as to what should be done, some of the people were afraid, as they knew that he had all power in Rome to do what he pleased. But he armed the guards and the boys and went out at their head to fight the fierce mountain men and free the Roman army from the trap into which it had fallen.

A few days afterward there was great joy in Rome. There was good news from Cincinnatus. The men of the mountains had been beaten with great loss. They had been driven back into their own place.

And now the Roman army, with the boys and the guards, was coming home with banners flying and shouts of victory, and at their head rode Cincinnatus. He had saved Rome.

Cincinnatus might then have made himself king, for his word was law and no man dared lift a finger against him. But before the people could thank him enough for what he had done, he gave back the power to the white-haired Roman Fathers and went again to his little farm and his plow.

He had been the ruler of Rome for sixteen days.

### Reading Questions B

1. Why did Cincinnatus work a farm for a living, though he was obviously had an ability to be a leader in Rome?
  - a) He enjoyed farming.
  - b) It was noble to farm.
  - c) He was too poor to have others to do it for him.

2. Why was Cincinnatus so well respected?
  - a) He was wise and just in all that he did.
  - b) He was the most wealthy man in Rome.
  - c) He was a slave who had become a ruler.
3. Who are the “white-haired Fathers”?
  - a) old, feeble men who did not know how to fight
  - b) lawmakers
  - c) wild men
4. What caused the Roman people to ask Cincinnatus to lead them?
  - a) a problem with the white-haired Fathers
  - b) an attack by wild men who had trapped the Romans
  - c) a need for better farming
5. The author mentions that Cincinnatus returned to his farm to show that \_\_\_\_.
  - a) he was really a coward
  - b) he liked farming best
  - c) he did not want power and was a noble leader

#### **4. Literary Words: Analogy**

The story of Cincinnatus is a rousing one. Cincinnatus was a hero who saved his people, and every country at every time has needed a hero to help them through difficult times. In its history, America has experienced troubled times just like Rome. America also has had heroes like Cincinnatus—American soldiers, leaders, inventors, and religious men—to lead the country out of difficult times. Many historians of the

past have compared George Washington with Cincinnatus. Both led their country during difficult times. Both were self-sacrificing. And both left their positions of leadership when they finished their duty and returned to their farms. When we make comparisons such as America's situation with Rome's situation so long ago when Cincinnatus was called off his farm, we say that we are making an *analogy*. An analogy is a comparison that is used to help us understand something. It often is making a comparison between things that have more than one similarity. Making analogies to history, such as the one you just read about Cincinnatus, is useful when trying to understand current events.

## 5. Writing Exercise: Example

You have learned the transitions used to separate ideas or order them in terms of importance. Other transition words order things in time: *first, next, then, afterwards, when, etc.* Using one or more of these time transitions, tell the story of Cincinnatus to show that not all men do things for power and money; rather, they do the right thing from a sense of duty. The paragraph should be about six to seven sentences long and written on a separate piece of paper or in a composition book. Begin the paragraph by using the following two sentences:

*Many people do things out of greed or the need to be praised by others. This was not true of the hero of ancient Rome, Cincinnatus.*

Tell the story of Cincinnatus in about five or six sentences.

## 6. Phonics and Vocabulary: *ur*

urn	church	urgent	Saturday
occur	surprise	burr	curl
burn	during	slurp	surround
furry	churn	return	survive
hurt	turn	purple	further

### Challenge Words

burnish	curtain	luxury	disturbance
furniture	purpose	furlong	burrow

Note that the *s* at the end of *surprise* has a *z* sound. The *z* sound of the *s* is also found in *wise, nose, those, advise, miser, raise, praise, please, whose, and suppose*.

### Phonics Exercise A

Circle the meaning of the word printed in italics.

1. My mother put a beautiful bouquet of roses in an *urn*.
  - a) a large vase
  - b) flower bush
  - c) ice tray
2. The milkmaid *churned* the cream until it turned to butter.
  - a) drained
  - b) make bigger
  - c) stirred

3. Please be quick and tell your mother; the news is *urgent*.
  - a) soft and watery
  - b) very important and needing attention
  - c) not true
4. What strange things *occurred* while we were away!
  - a) were lifted up
  - b) happened
  - c) were told
5. I could not study because of the *disturbance* next door.
  - a) a large fire
  - b) a soft voice
  - c) anything that bothers
6. Will you please *burnish* the brass candle holders?
  - a) throw out
  - b) polish
  - c) sell
7. That morning the farmer traveled a *furlong* to the meeting.
  - a) fifty miles
  - b) part of a mile
  - c) ten feet
8. The furry animal *burrowed* a deep hole in our backyard.
  - a) dug
  - b) lived
  - c) filled in
9. The king lived in *luxury* while the people lived in misery.
  - a) being poor

- b) happiness
- c) comfort and pleasure

10. What was his *purpose* in coming here?

- a) point
- b) pleasure
- c) patience

### Phonics Exercise B

Circle the word that fits the sentence, then write it below.

1. I will not be doing schoolwork this \_\_\_\_.

disturbance   Saturday   surprise

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2. The old \_\_\_\_ building was built three hundred years ago.

urgent   church   surprise

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3. We were \_\_\_\_ to see Tom at the meeting.

surprised   furnished   churned

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4. Sarah poured water from the \_\_\_\_ into the guest's glasses.

urgent   surprise   urn

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5. It was a drizzling rain \_\_\_\_ the outdoor concert, but everyone stayed anyway to listen.

during slurp urgent

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## 7. Grammar and Punctuation: Verbs (2)

If there is a vowel before the y in a verb, just add the letter s.  
If there isn't, change the y to i and add es.

EXAMPLES OF VERBS ENDING IN Y

<i>They cry</i>	<i>He or she cries</i>	cried
<i>They supply</i>	<i>He or she supplies</i>	supplied
<i>They fly</i>	<i>He or she flies</i>	flew
<i>They pay</i>	<i>He or she pays</i>	paid
<i>They stay</i>	<i>He or she stays</i>	stayed

Grammar Exercise A

Change the following verbs into the present "he or she" form.

1. try

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2. dry

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3. obey

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4. buy

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5. deny

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6. play

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7. cry

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8. fry

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9. say

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10. spy

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Grammar Exercise B

Change the following verbs into the past tense.

1. destroy

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2. bay

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3. tarry

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4. pray

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5. dry

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6. bray

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7. annoy

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8. volley

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9. pry

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10. journey

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