HEMPSTEAD City of Character

Just for Kids!

Do what it takes to be punctual!

"Punctuality" vs. Tardiness

"Showing esteem for others by doing the right thing at the right time."

I will:

- " Not wait until the last minute.
- " Be on time.
- " Allow extra time for delays.
- " Not keep others waiting.
- " Remember deadlines.

--permission to use granted by Character First

I will plan and keep a schedule
So I never will be late;
I will do my work ahead of time
And not procrastinate.

I will plan a little extra time
So if I am delayed
I will be where I am needed,
At the proper time of day.

My character is what will make
A leader out of me!
So next time through, let's say it more
ENTHUSIASTICALLY!

--permission to use granted by Character First

What is punctuality?

Punctuality is caring about the time and feelings of other people, so that you are willing to meet their schedules. You can do this by planning ahead, getting the things together that you need to take with you in advance, and leaving a little extra time for unexpected delays. It is putting aside the things that you want to do in order to be on time. It is using your time wisely. It is not allowing distractions to keep you from being on time or from spending your time on things that really matter. Making a schedule will help you learn to be on time.

Abigail Adams and the Minutemen

The sultry air hung over the quiet Massachusetts farm. Abigail Adams and her children slept peacefully inside their country home.

BOOM, BOOM, BOOM!

Abigail's eyes flew open and she tried to shake off the deep sleep she had been in. "What in the world could that be?" she speculated, feeling alarmed. Again she heard the startling sound.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Fully recognizing the sound, fear rose up in her as she rose from bed. Did you spot the "I Will"? Abigail did not fall into the trap of a few more moments under the security of the warm blankets. She got up at the first warning sign. Caught up in her own thoughts, Abigail was pulled back into the present by a small voice, "Mother, what are those noises?" Immediately she saw her 4 children huddled together in the doorway.

"The British are coming!" announced John Quincy, the oldest. Nabby, Charlie, and Tommy looked to their mother for answers. Breaking the silence, Nabby whispered, "Is it true, Mother?"

"Yes, children, it is true. The sounds you hear are the drums of the Minutemen. When they hear the drums, they have one minute to be on their way."

"What are we going to do?" Charlie asked, lips trembling.

Straightening her shoulders, Abigail replied, "We are going to help the Minutemen. John Quincy, chop wood for the stove. Nabby sweep the floor. Charlie and Tommy, bring in fresh water from the well."

Although the sun was just beginning to rise, the family worked together to get their chores done to prepare for the Minutemen to arrive.

Did you see the "I Will"? Abigail saw the need to keep a daily routine, even in unusual circumstances.

Abigail explained that the Minutemen would be arriving and they would be hungry. Diligently, Nabby set to work making bread and Abigail put the kettle on the fire.

Charlie questioned, "Who are the Minutemen?"

Abigail gathered Charlie and Tommy on her lap and explained, "The Minutemen are farmers and shopkeepers who believe in freedom. The future of this country rests on whether they can get to Lexington before the British do."

The breakfast was ready and not a moment too soon. As the smell of strong coffee filled the house and porridge bubbled in the large iron pot, the roll of drums was heard once again. Did you spot the "I Will"? Abigail Adams did her work ahead of time so that it was ready when needed.

As the men marched along the road, the Adams family welcomed them with food and drink. The soldiers were astonished that these people had stayed behind. They reported that everyone else had moved out. Did you spot the "I Will"? Abigail and her children were in the right place at the right time.

Abigail gathered all the pewter she could find. If the soldiers ran out of bullets, they could melt down the pewter and make more. After all, freedom was worth more than a few forks, knives and spoons. As the last of the Minutemen marched down the road, Abigail drew her children to her side. How could she express to them what freedom was worth? They were tired and confused. In time they would begin to understand the significance of shaping a new nation.

On April 18th, 1775, the British marched on Lexington to destroy the small but enthusiastic Minutemen of Massachusetts. After facing the British on the village green at Lexington, the Minutemen kept up a relentless attack on the British as they marched on to Concord and ultimately forced the British to withdraw in Boston. It could have been one of Abigail Adams' spoons that eventually became "the shot heard 'round the world."

--written by Kelly Sorge
--concept by Character First

Punctuality Game

(You will need a clock that can show you when a minute has passed for this game.)

1. One person thinks of a category of things, such as countries, famous people, vehicles, animals, or kinds of food.)
2. The other person has to think of ten things in that category in one minute. If they succeed, they get one point.
3. If a person is "tardy" and tries to name things after the minute has passed, a point is deducted from his score.
4. Take turns being the one to think of the category. The first person to get to five points is the winner.

Stop and Think Before You ACT!

- -How will this action affect myself and others?
- -Is the action helpful or harmful?
- -Am I giving in to my impulses and desires?
- -How will this action affect my long-term goals?

Click here for more on Punctuality--

Punctuality

Can you find the words below in the puzzle? Circle them.

W	O	L	L	A	W	S	O	A	Y	I	Y	H	M	C
L	X	D	V	C	D	G	K	M	T	G	I	E	V	E
S	T	T	O	R	V	A	Q	K	T	I	N	S	T	P
I	E	A	D	A	K	C	M	E	L	E	H	V	E	E
N	Y	I	G	D	P	F	E	S	A	U	B	C	L	T
T	X	D	R	I	F	E	X	Q	U	A	D	U	C	U
E	Z	Z	M	A	B	J	O	D	T	E	I	V	L	N
C	N	H	V	A	S	A	I	J	C	S	I	S	O	I
R	S	R	L	E	E	R	S	Y	K	T	W	K	C	M
I	Q	V	R	M	T	G	E	O	U	T	O	I	K	R
T	U	M	I	H	Z	X	F	V	F	X	M	V	X	C
Y	O	T	O	N	P	S	C	L	I	Z	K	K	K	H
T	N	A	S	Q	E	R	I	F	Q	N	T	D	N	A
O	Y	X	W	R	M	N	L	E	Z	H	N	A	C	T
S	I	C	M	C	O	N	S	I	D	E	R	A	T	E

ABIGAIL
ADAMS
ANNIVERSARIES
APPOINTMENT
BIRTHDAYS
CLIFF
CLOCK
CONSIDERATE
INTEGRITY
MEN
MINUTE
ONTIME
PUNCTUALITY
RESPONSIBLE
SWALLOW