



Harry S Truman National Historic Site  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

**Junior Ranger**  
**Ages 5-8**

# To the Best of My Ability

## The Virtues of Harry S Truman







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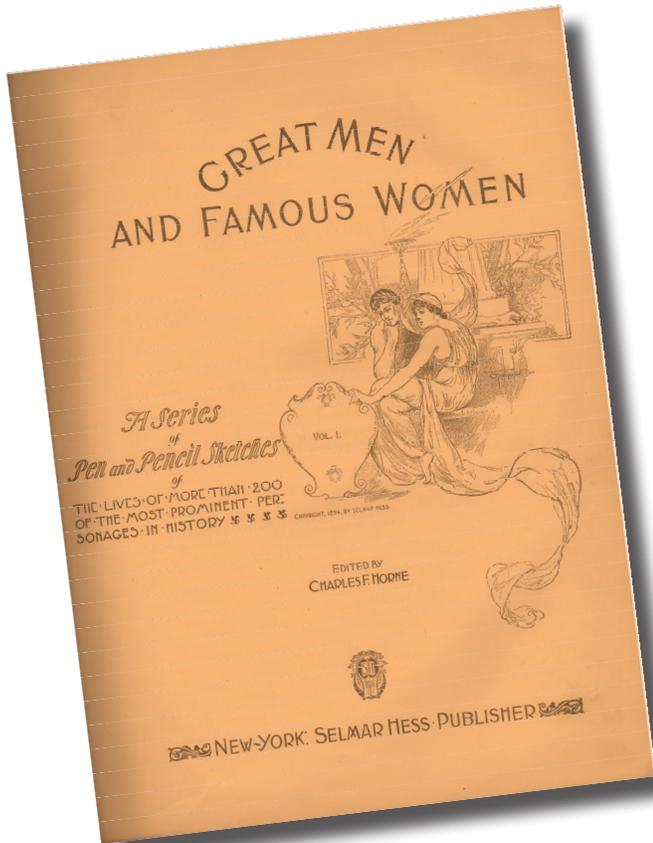
Harry Truman  
Age 13

Harry S. Truman Library





Tell the truth. Be fair. Be brave. Never give up. Have patience. Don't show off. These are examples of "virtues." Virtues help us do the right thing. Virtues help us be a good person.



Harry's parents gave him a special present for his 10th Birthday. They gave him a set of history books. The books were called *Great Men and Famous Women*.

These books changed his life.

Young Harry learned a lot from these books. He learned about the virtues that made people great:

Tell the Truth.  
Be Fair.  
Be Brave.  
Never Give Up.  
Have Patience.  
Don't Show Off.

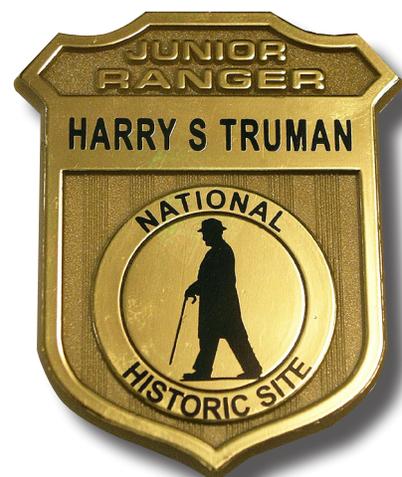
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## How to Become a Junior Ranger:

This book contains six fun activities about the virtues Harry learned from his history books.

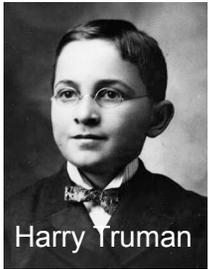
**Complete all 6 activities.**

When you are finished **return your book to the ranger at the visitor center** to receive your official Junior Ranger badge.





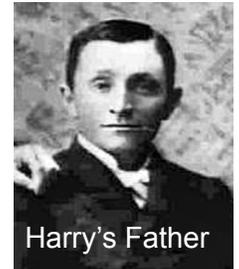
## Tell the Truth



Harry Truman was an honest person. He always told the truth, even when it made some people mad.

*"I can always get along with an honest man."*

Harry Truman



**The Day Harry Was Late.** Read the picture story and answer the questions at the bottom of the page.

**1**

day



came



late. His



stayed up late waiting for him.

When



walked in his



was



! He asked Harry why he was so late.

Now



could have said that he was late because he ran into a



Or he could have said that the



was running late.

But



decided the best thing to do was to be honest. He told his



that he

was late because he was with his



and he lost track of



Harry's



was



but was also happy because his son had told the truth.

**Did Harry do the right thing by telling the truth?**

**Should you always tell the truth no matter what happens?**



## Be Fair



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Fairness means to treat everyone the same way. This is what Harry Truman did. It did not matter what people looked like or how old they were. He was kind to everyone.

*“Everyone has the right to express what he thinks.”* Harry Truman

Help Harry find the 11 words listed below. You may know some of them. Others will be new to you. They all describe ways we can show fairness.

HONOR RESPECT POLITE GOOD  
VALUED EQUALITY CARING  
SHARE KIND JUSTICE FAIR



FRPQDWKEV  
TEHONORGA  
IGASFZFNCL  
RSRFPBDIU  
IRESPECTIE  
EQUALITYLD

VESHARE  
RJUSTICEFE  
XSKINDASXL  
ECACARINGV

FAIR  
GPFAIK  
XIOHAIBS  
RDPOLITEV  
KEDITGLF



## Be Brave



To be brave is to be courageous. Harry Truman was a very brave man. As a young man he fought in World War I. As president he was brave because he was not afraid to make tough decisions.

*“If I think it is right, I am going to do it.”* Harry Truman

Harry Truman kept this famous sign on his desk when he was president. Use the secret code below to find out the message.



The 5 2 9 1 8 3 6 10 8 Here !

1 = K      4 = K      7 = R      10 = P

2 = U      5 = B      8 = S      11 = E

3 = T      6 = O      9 = C      12 = A

Harry knew that as president it was his job to make tough decisions. Some people were unhappy with his decisions. Harry said, *“It is my duty, as president of*

*the United States, to make the decision, because I can’t pass the buck to anybody.”*



## Never Give Up



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Have you ever wanted to give up? Sometimes it is easier to quit than keep going. But Harry Truman knew that hard work could bring great rewards. When he first met his true love, Bess Wallace, he was six years old. For years he worked very hard to marry her. Even when she told him no, he never gave up. Harry's hard work paid off. Harry and Bess were married in 1919, 29 years after they first met!

*"Hard work...will win."* Harry Truman

### Help Harry find his way to Bess's Heart



Truman Farm in Grandview

Start Here



Finish Here

Bess Wallace



Harry S. Truman Library



## Have Patience

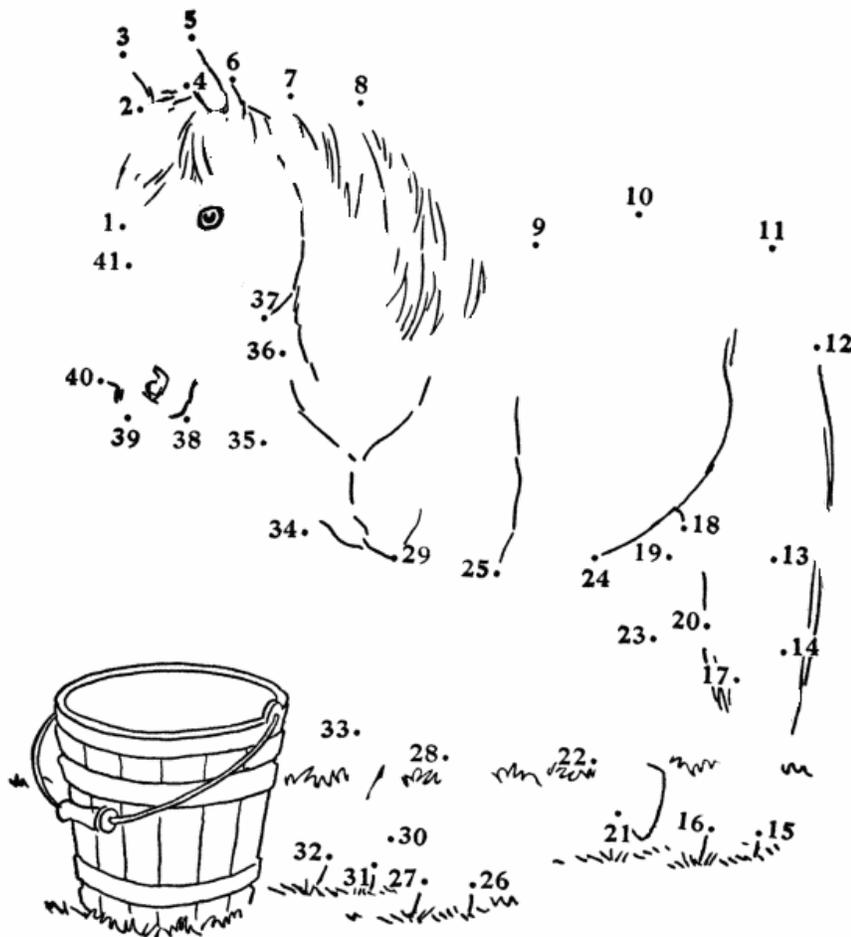


Are you patient? Sometimes waiting can be hard but when we do wait, our reward can be great. Harry knew that patience was important when he worked on the farm. It took a lot of patience to grow crops, but once grown they provided food for his family.

*“I began to take great interest in the creation of things that come out of the ground.”* Harry Truman

Harry needed patience with some of his farm animals. He once wrote, “He hasn’t much idea of work...I yell at him in my sleep sometimes.”  
Even Harry’s patience was tested sometimes!

Who was Harry talking about? Connect the dots below to find out.





## Don't Show Off



Harry Truman did not like to “show off.” He acted and lived in a simple and plain way. When Harry was president he lived in the White House. It was a large and beautiful mansion. When he was done being president he moved back to his old home in Missouri. It was a very different place.

*“There are probably hundreds of people better qualified than I am to be president.”* Harry Truman

Let's explore how these two homes are different. Draw a line to connect the right number to the right house.

Has 35 bathrooms

Has 2 bathrooms

Has 2 staircases

Has 8 staircases

Has 1 cooks

Has 5 cook

Has 1 swimming pool

Has no swimming pool

Has 3 fireplaces

Has 28 fireplaces

Has 132 rooms

Has 14 rooms



The White House



The Truman Home



**Thanks for tackling the Junior Ranger project at my favorite national park! I hope it wasn't too hard, but you know what I've always said, *"If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen."***

**When you are done, remember to go to the visitor center and show your book to the ranger at the front desk. Then take the Junior Ranger oath and get your Junior Ranger badge.**

A handwritten signature of Harry S. Truman in cursive.



