



# American Heritage Day

DEAR PARENTS,

Each year the elementary school students at Valley Christian Academy prepare a speech depicting the life of a great American man or woman. The speech is written in the first person and should include the character's birth, death, and major accomplishments. Parents should feel free to help their children write these speeches. A good way to write the speech is to find a child's biography and follow the story line as you construct the speech. This will make for a more interesting speech rather than a mere recitation of facts from the encyclopedia.

Please adhere to the following **time limits**.

- K-1 Speeches must be 1-3 minutes in length with a minimum of 175 words.
- 2-3 Speeches must be 2-5 minutes in length with a minimum of 350 words.
- 4-6 Speeches must be 3-10 minutes in length with a minimum of 525 words.

Students will give their speeches in class. They should be sure to have their speeches **memorized** well enough so they do not need any prompts. Please be aware that students who need frequent prompting will receive a low grade. Also, any student with a speech that doesn't meet the minimum requirement will receive a "D" or "F."

Students must portray a different character each year. One of the goals of this assignment is to help our children learn about different men and women who have made America great. Help your child choose characters from whom they can learn much. Characters must have been dead for at least 25 years except for the Presidents and their wives. Any characters not on the list must be approved.

On American Heritage Day, students will dress up in **homemade costumes** as their characters. There will be a parade and costume judging competition, followed by the speech finals. Students in the speech finals will not be selected to be in the costume finals. Neither will students in rented costumes be chosen to be in the costume finals.

American Heritage Day is an exciting day! Please plan to come to see the costumes and hear the speech finals. You will be amazed at what these elementary-aged children can do with public speaking. It takes work to write and memorize their speeches, but it pays tremendous dividends to those who put the necessary effort into the project. As in any area of life, you get out of an activity what you put into it. Make this a worthwhile learning experience by putting much effort into it. You will be gratified to see the results.

In Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles R. Mason".

Charles R. Mason  
Principal/Administrator

# American Heritage Day List of Characters

## Great American Women

All President's Wives  
Jane Addams  
Louisa May Alcott  
Priscilla Alden  
Marian Anderson  
Susan B. Anthony  
Clara Barton  
Catharine Beecher  
Elizabeth Blackwell  
Nellie Bly  
Evangeline Booth  
Anne Bradstreet  
Laura Bridgman  
Pearl S. Buck  
Abbie Burgess  
Annie Cannon

Rachel Carson  
Mary Cassatt  
Prudence Crandall  
Fanny J. Crosby  
Emily Dickinson  
Dorothea Dix  
Amelia Earhart  
Emma Edmonds  
Sarah Edwards  
Fannie Farmer  
Virginia Hall  
Anne Hutchinson  
Mahalia Jackson  
Helen Keller  
Juliette Gordon Low  
Sybil Luddington  
Mary Mahoney

Biddy Mason  
Anna Maxwell  
Christa McAuliffe  
Edna St. Vincent Millay  
Lucretia Mott  
Annie Oakley  
Mary Connolly Owens  
Cecilia Payne  
Pocahontas  
Judith Resnik  
Emily Warren Roebling  
Betsy Ross  
Sarah Royce  
Sacajawea  
Deborah Sampson  
Betty Stam  
Anna Elizabeth Steele

Harriet Beecher Stowe  
Anne Sullivan  
Harriet Tubman  
Sojourner Truth  
Diana Vreeland  
Mary Edwards Walker  
Mercy Warren  
Ida Wells  
Phillis Wheatley  
Margaret Bourke White  
Narcissa Whitman  
Laura I. Wilder  
Emma Willard  
Brownie Wise  
Babe Didrickson Zaharias

## Great American Men

All U.S. Presidents  
Samuel Adams  
Frances Asbury  
Crispus Attacus  
John Audubon  
Benjamin Bannecker  
Henry Ward Beecher  
Alex. Graham Bell  
Jonathan Blanchard  
Hiram Bingham  
Daniel Boone  
Gail Borden  
William Borden  
Nathaniel Bowditch  
Jim Bowie  
William Bradford  
David Brainerd  
Louis Braille  
William Brewster  
Jim Bridger  
William J. Bryan  
Luther Burbank  
Admiral Richard Byrd  
Andrew Carnegie  
Charles Carroll  
Kit Carson  
George Washington Carver  
George Rogers Clark  
William Clark  
Henry Clay  
"Buffalo Bill" Cody  
Russell Conwell  
Davy Crockett  
Henry Crowell  
General Custer

John Deere  
Lee DeForest  
Walt Disney  
David Douglas  
Abner Doubleday  
George Eastman  
Thomas Edison  
Albert Einstein  
Jonathan Edwards  
Jim Elliot  
Charles Finney  
Henry Ford  
Amos Fortune  
Benjamin Franklin  
John C. Fremont  
Robert Fulton  
Thomas Garrett  
Lou Gehrig  
Geronimo  
Robert Goddard  
Ulysses S. Grant  
Adolphus Greely  
Nathan Hale  
Alexander  
Hamilton  
John Hancock  
Patrick Henry  
Milton Hershey  
Oliver W. Holmes  
Sam Houston  
Gridley Howe  
John Hyde  
Washington Irving  
Stonewall Jackson  
William Jackson

Chief Joseph  
Bob Jones, Sr.  
John Paul Jones  
Adoniram Judson  
Francis Scott Key  
Martin Luther King  
John Lee  
Robert E. Lee  
Meriwether Lewis  
Henry W. Longfellow  
Nat Love  
Thaddeus Lowe  
Douglas MacArthur  
J. Gresham Machen  
Francis Marion  
George Marshall  
Chief Massasoit  
Jan Matzelinger  
Mayo Brothers  
Elijah McCoy  
Cyrus McCormick  
William H. McGuffey  
Donald McKay  
Enos Mills  
Dwight L. Moody  
Samuel Morse  
John Muir  
William Osler  
Irving Overholtzer  
Quanah Parker  
General Patton  
William Penn  
J.C. Penny  
General Pershing  
Stephen Poxton

Charles Price  
Walter Reed  
Paul Revere  
John R. Rice  
John D. Rockefeller  
Knut Rockne  
Benjamin Rush  
Haym Salomon  
Nate Saint  
Harry Saulnier  
C.I. Scofield  
Sequoyah  
Sitting Bull  
John Smith  
Samuel Smith  
Squanto  
John Stam  
Miles Standish  
Levi Strauss  
J.E.B. Stuart  
Peter Stuyvesant  
Billy Sunday  
T. DeWitte Talmadge  
Tecumseh  
Jim Thorpe  
Booker T. Washington  
Eli Whitney  
Daniel Webster  
Noah Webster  
Marcus Whitman  
Roger Williams  
Wright Brothers