

Simple Literature No. 82: Curriculum for
First Flight

by S. Seifert

Parents and teachers may reproduce study guides from any *Simple Literature* book for personal use in public, private, or home school classrooms. This material may not be included in printed or online curricula, or be distributed, personally, electronically, or commercially, except as cited above.

Simple Literature curricula is ©2008 copyrighted by S. Seifert. All rights reserved.

First printing, 2008 / Printing year, 2008

How to Use This Curriculum

- 1.** Have students read the assigned sections for 20 to 30 minutes each day.
- 2.** When students have finished the assigned sections, ask the **Comprehension Questions**. A study guide worksheet is available for practice, but an oral discussion is appropriate for this age group.
- 3.** When you have finished discussing the comprehension questions, have students **Write a Paragraph**. Students should write in complete sentences, spell words correctly, capitalize the first letter of every sentence, and place a period at the end of each sentence.
- 4.** Although these guidelines work for this age group, remember that your students are individuals. Therefore, adjust the curriculum to your students' abilities and personalities.

Did you find something confusing, or are you excited about the curricula? You can contact us through <http://home.rmi.net/~seifert/id51.html>.

Although the number of e-mails received does not allow me to respond personally, every e-mail is read and appreciated.

If you want to view an alphabetical list of titles that have free comprehension questions, go to <http://home.rmi.net/~seifert/id50.html>.

S. Seifert

Curriculum for
***First Flight: The Story of Tom Tate and the Wright Brothers* by George Shea**

OVERVIEW

1. Have students read the following sections:
 - Day one – Chapters 1 and 2
 - Day two – Chapters 3 and 4
 - Day three – Chapters 5 and 6
 - Day four – Write a paragraphStudy guides for this book are available. If you assign them, let students complete the study guides while they are reading the book.
2. When students have finished reading the assigned sections, ask the comprehension questions (study guide questions). If you assigned the written study guides, students may read their answers from them.
3. Prompt students to write a paragraph.

SUMMARY of Chapters 1 and 2:

Tom Tate lives in Kitty Hawk. Two men, Orville and Wilbur Wright, Orv and Will, come to the area to make a machine that will fly. They explain their machine to Tom. They chose Kitty Hawk because it's windy and the sand makes the landing softer. The next day, Tom saw Will and Orv fly their machine like a kite. His pa and Uncle Bill are helping them. There isn't enough wind to lift Will or Orv in the machine, but there is enough to lift Tom. Tom goes into the air on the Wrights' contraption and flies in the air like a kite. Later, he tells his cousins, but they don't believe him. The next day, his cousins go to the beach with Tom. Because there is no wind, the machine does not move. When they leave, Will flies like a kite for 15 seconds and moves 400 feet. The Wrights pack up to go home. They tell Tom that they will return next summer with an even better machine.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS for Chapters 1 and 2:

1. Why did Orv and Will go to Kitty Hawk?
Orville and Wilbur Wright went to Kitty Hawk because it was windy and had sand for softer landings.
Wilbur and Orville Wright flew their flying machine like a kite.
2. How did Will and Orv fly their machine?
3. How long was Will able to stay in the air? How far did he go? In 1900, Wilbur was able to stay in the air for 15 seconds and glide for 400 feet.

SUMMARY for Chapters 3 and 4:

In 1901, Will's and Orv's machine is twice as large as the year before. The wings have a curve in them and are longer. When Will flies, he glides, but then the machine quickly spirals to the ground. Will receives a black eye and bloody nose for his trouble. They hire Tom's pa to help them fix the machine. Once it is fixed, though, it does the same thing. It will glide for a short time, and then it will spiral toward the ground. Pa tells Tom not to ride it, because it is not safe. Will and Orv cannot figure out the problem, so they return to Ohio discouraged.

Wilbur and Orville return to Kitty Hawk in September of 1902. They hire Tom's pa to help them. Their newest design has longer wings that are narrow, and they use a tail to help balance the machine. This machine is good at gliding. They can control whether it goes up or down and they can control its directions. With this machine, they know the next step is to attach a motor.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS for Chapters 3 and 4:

1. How did Will get a black eye? Wilbur Wright took his and Orville's newest flying machine for a ride in 1901. The wings were more curved and longer. It glided well, but then it suddenly began to spin and crash to the ground. Will received a black eye on his first flight in this machine.

2. How was their third "plane" not the same as their second "plane"? The 1902 design had longer wings that were narrower. The Wright brothers

also created a tail on the end of their flying machine to help them with its balance. They could make it go in different directions and could control when it went up and down.

3. Their third "plane" worked. What did Will and Orv want to do to it? Wilbur and Orville wanted to attach a motor to their flying machine. In that way, they wouldn't have to rely on the wind to make it move.

SUMMARY of Chapters 5 and 6:

In 1903, Wilbur and Orville had many problems. Propellers didn't work and dangerous storms delayed their tests. One day, the weather grows so bad that Tom's pa won't let him watch the Wright brothers work. He is afraid Tom will get hurt. The next day, December 17, the wind is so strong that Tom's pa does not go to help the Wrights. He does not think they will try their flying machine in such bad weather. Tom hurries to the beach and sees rescue workers. He is afraid the Wrights have had an accident, but the men are there to help Orville and Wilbur. The brothers want to test their machine. Orville climbs into it.

The wind is really bad, but Orville starts the engine and heads into the wind. Tom's pa finds Tom just as Orville rises in the air. Everyone cheers. He flies for 12 seconds and goes 120 feet. This is the first time a machine flies without wind power. The Wrights make three flights that day, and everyone celebrates their accomplishment.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS for Chapters 5 and 6:

1. Why did Tom's pa tell him to go home? Tom's pa did not want Tom to get hurt. The weather was bad but the Wright brothers still tested their flying machine.

2. What did Orv do on December 17, 1903? On

December 17, 1903, Orville Wright was on the first machine that flew without wind power.

3. How long did the first flight last? How far did it go? The first flight lasted for 12 seconds and went 120 feet.

WRITE A PARAGRAPH

Have students relate one aspect of *First Flight* to their own lives by writing a paragraph:

The Wright brothers met Tom Tate in Kitty Hawk in 1888. After Wilbur, Tom was the next person to go up in a flying machine. Pretend you are Tom. Describe how you may have felt and what you might have seen in the flying machine when you rode on it.

Name _____ Date _____

Study Guide for Chapters 1 and 2
First Flight: The Story of Tom Tate and the Wright Brothers by George Shea

Instructions: Write your answers in the spaces below.

1. Why did Orv and Will go to Kitty Hawk?

2. How did Will and Orv fly their machine?

3. How long was Will able to stay in the air? How far did he go?

Name _____ Date _____

Study Guide for Chapters 3 and 4
First Flight: The Story of Tom Tate and the Wright Brothers by George Shea

Instructions: Write your answers in the spaces below.

1. How did Will get a black eye?

2. How was their third "plane" not the same as their second "plane"?

3. Their third "plane" worked. What did Will and Orv want to do to it?

