

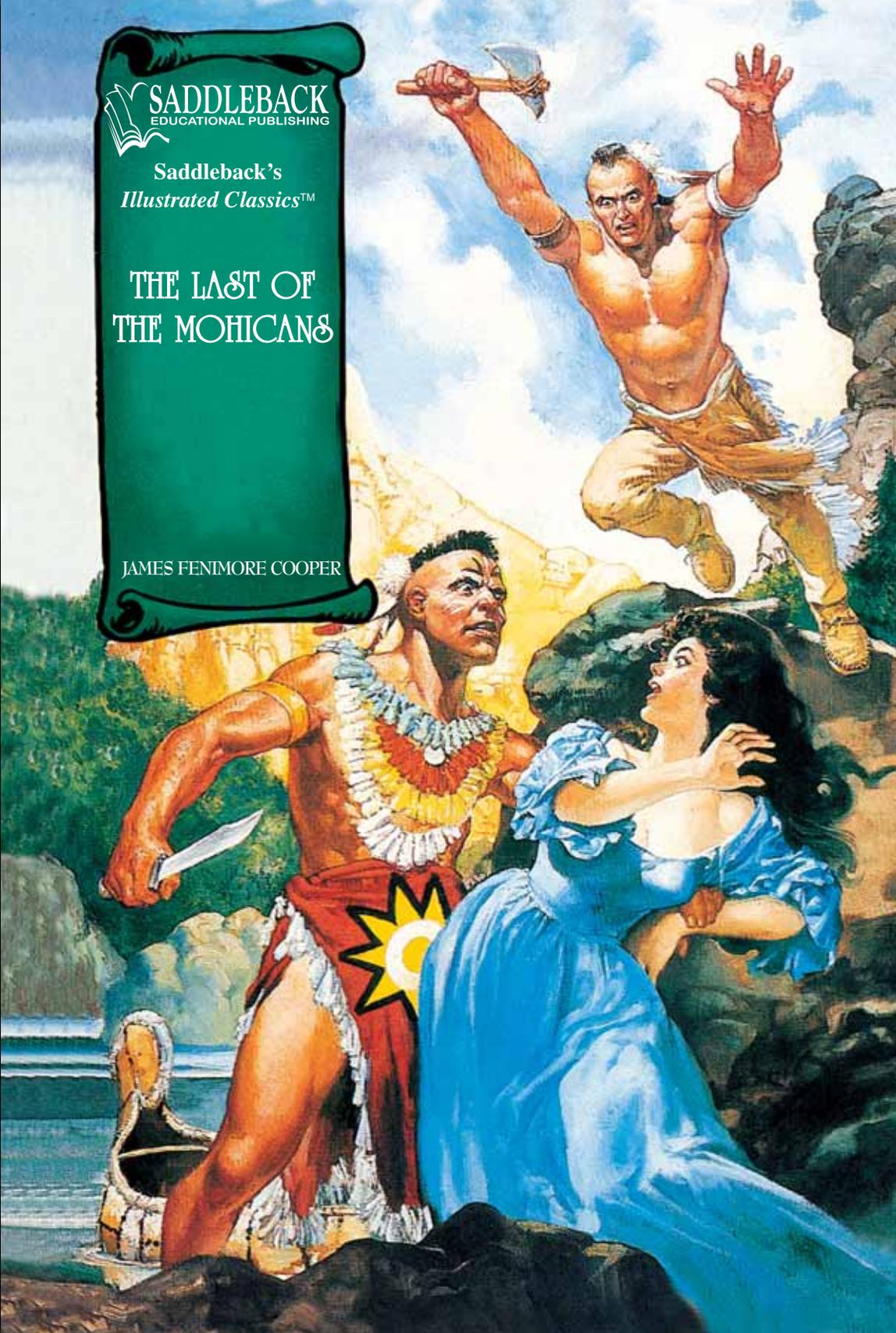


SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING

Saddleback's
Illustrated Classics™

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER



Welcome to Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*TM

We are proud to welcome you to Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*TM. Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*TM was designed specifically for the classroom to introduce readers to many of the great classics in literature. Each text, written and adapted by teachers and researchers, has been edited using the Dale-Chall vocabulary system. In addition, much time and effort has been spent to ensure that these high-interest stories retain all of the excitement, intrigue, and adventure of the original books.

With these graphically *Illustrated Classics*TM, you learn what happens in the story in a number of different ways. One way is by reading the words a character says. Another way is by looking at the drawings of the character. The artist can tell you what kind of person a character is and what he or she is thinking or feeling.

This series will help you to develop confidence and a sense of accomplishment as you finish each novel. The stories in Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*TM are fun to read. And remember, fun motivates!

Overview

Everyone deserves to read the best literature our language has to offer. Saddleback's *Illustrated Classics*[™] was designed to acquaint readers with the most famous stories from the world's greatest authors, while teaching essential skills. You will learn how to:

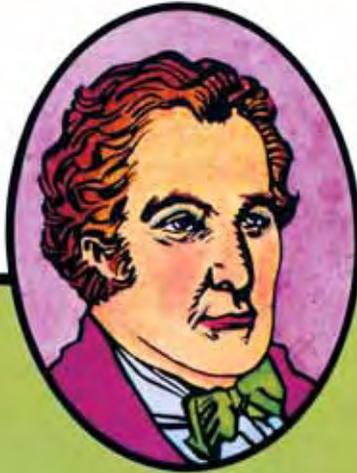
- Establish a purpose for reading
- Use prior knowledge
- Evaluate your reading
- Listen to the language as it is written
- Extend literary and language appreciation through discussion and writing activities

Reading is one of the most important skills you will ever learn. It provides the key to all kinds of information. By reading the *Illustrated Classics*[™], you will develop confidence and the self-satisfaction that comes from accomplishment—a solid foundation for any reader.

Step-By-Step

The following is a simple guide to using and enjoying each of your *Illustrated Classics*[™]. To maximize your use of the learning activities provided, we suggest that you follow these steps:

1. ***Listen!*** We suggest that you listen to the read-along. (At this time, please ignore the beeps.) You will enjoy this wonderfully dramatized presentation.
2. ***Pre-reading Activities.*** After listening to the audio presentation, the pre-reading activities in the Activity Book prepare you for reading the story by setting the scene, introducing more difficult vocabulary words, and providing some short exercises.
3. ***Reading Activities.*** Now turn to the “While you are reading” portion of the Activity Book, which directs you to make a list of story-related facts. Read-along while listening to the audio presentation. (This time pay attention to the beeps, as they indicate when each page should be turned.)
4. ***Post-reading Activities.*** You have successfully read the story and listened to the audio presentation. Now answer the multiple-choice questions and other activities in the Activity Book.



James Fenimore Cooper

James Fenimore Cooper, the son of a wealthy politician and landowner who founded the frontier village of Cooperstown, New York, was born in Burlington, New Jersey, in 1789. He studied at Yale for a few years, but left the university to sail aboard a merchant ship. In 1808 he became a midshipman in the U.S. Navy. The career, too, was cut short in 1811, when he left the Navy and was married.

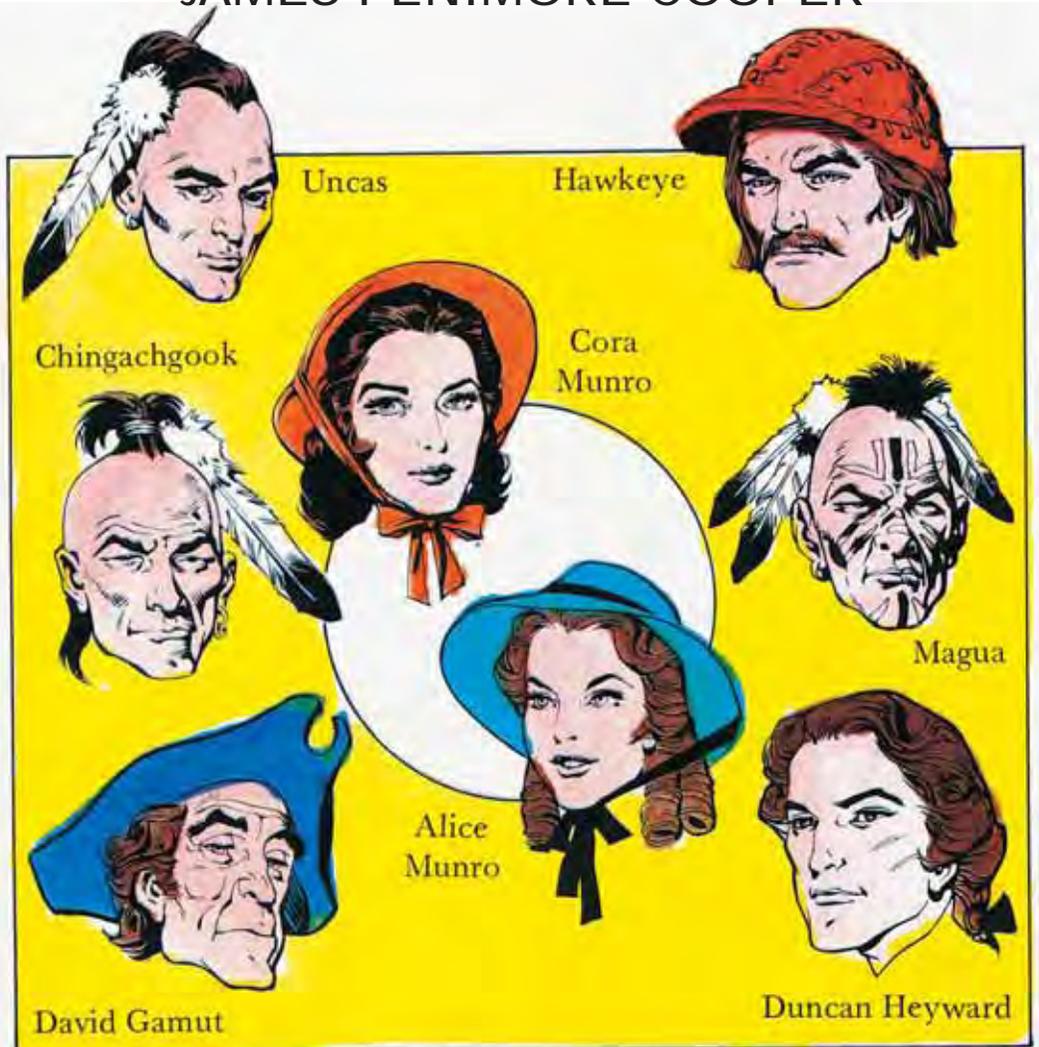
Soon after marriage he began writing the five frontier adventure novels which were later to become known as *The Leatherstocking Tales*. They are: *The Pioneers*, *The Last of the Mohicans*, *The Prairie*, *The Pathfinders*, and *The Deerslayer*. His hero and main character, Natty Bumppo, called Hawkeye in *The Last of the Mohicans*, was a perfect example of the backwoodsman: honest, hardworking, noble, and a friend to peaceful Indians.

Cooper's novels have been translated into many languages and have enjoyed great popularity because of their vigor and adventure. Cooper himself was pleased with his work and continued to write into his sixties. He died in Cooperstown, New York, in 1851.

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THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER



Uncas

Hawkeye

Chingachgook

Cora
Munro

Magua

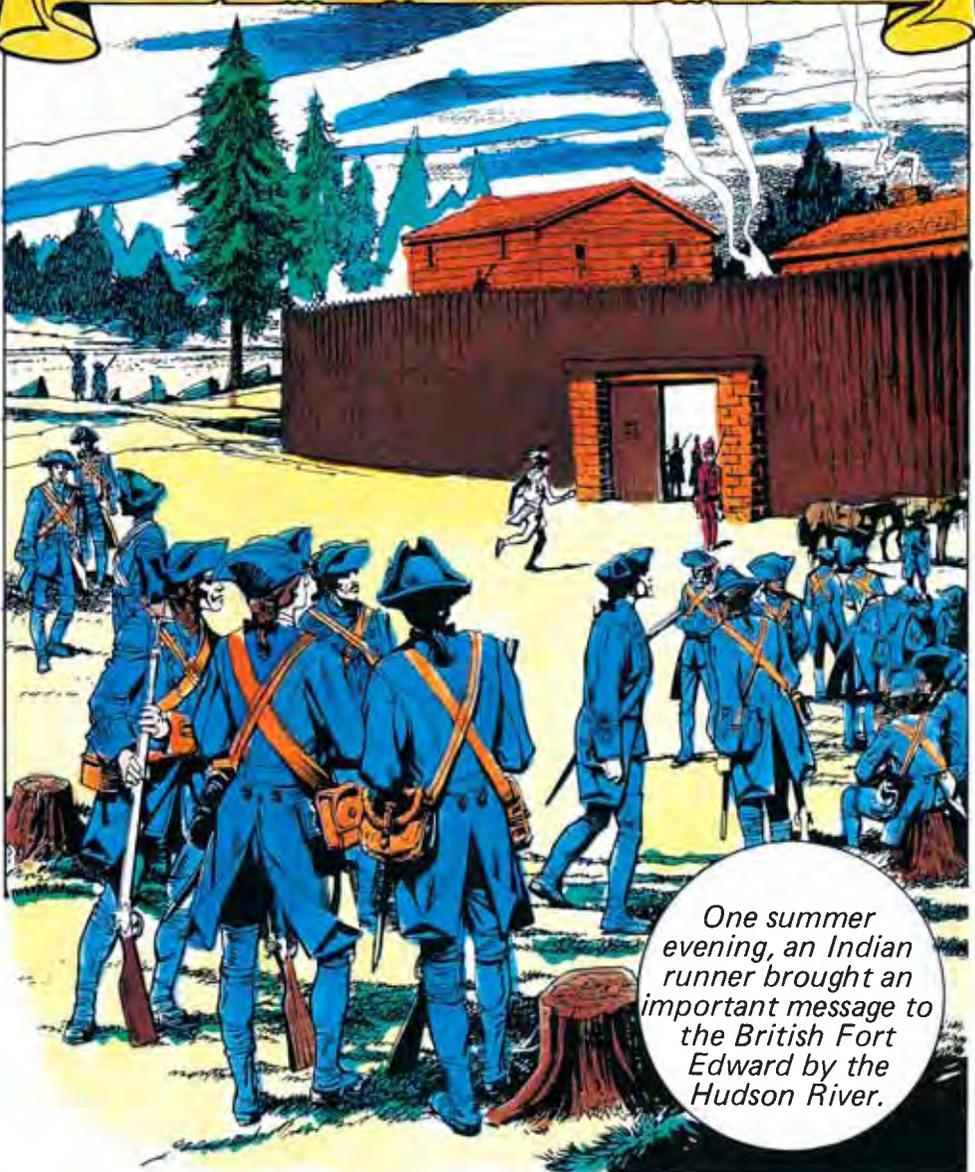
Alice
Munro

David Gamut

Duncan Heyward

In the 1750s, the English colonies in America were ruled by Great Britain. But France also claimed a large part of North America. The French and Indian War was fought between the French and the English to settle the matter.

Some Indian tribes sided with the French, others with the English. Much of the fighting took place in the land that was to become New York State.

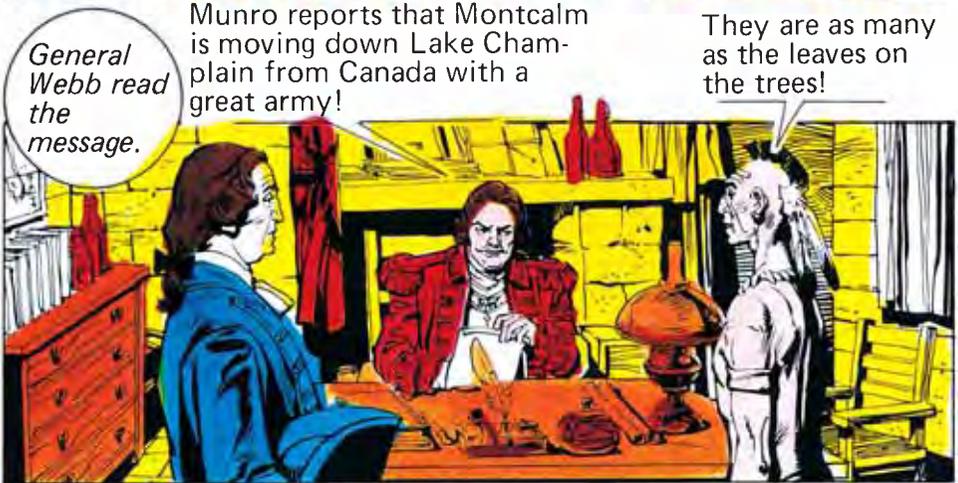


One summer evening, an Indian runner brought an important message to the British Fort Edward by the Hudson River.



A message from our Commander Munro at Fort William Henry!

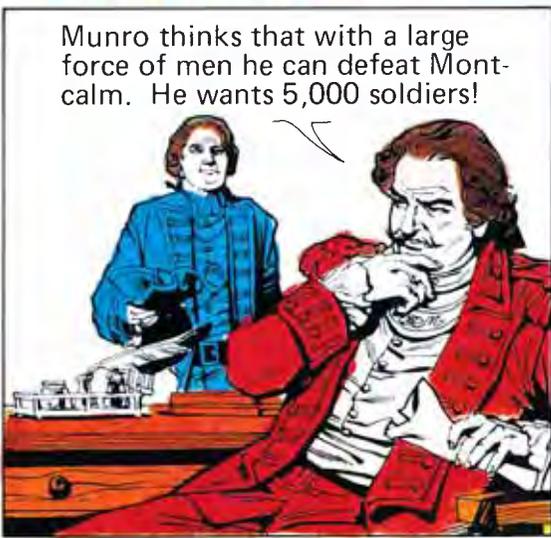
I'll take the messenger to General Webb.



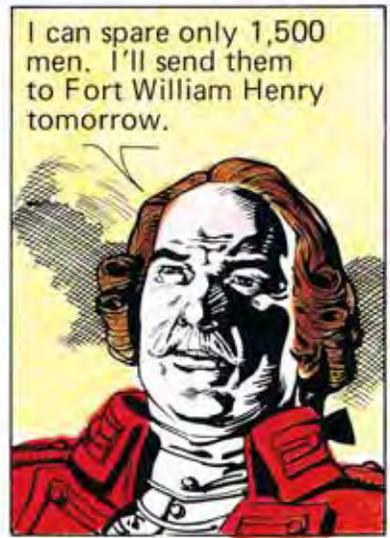
General Webb read the message.

Munro reports that Montcalm is moving down Lake Champlain from Canada with a great army!

They are as many as the leaves on the trees!

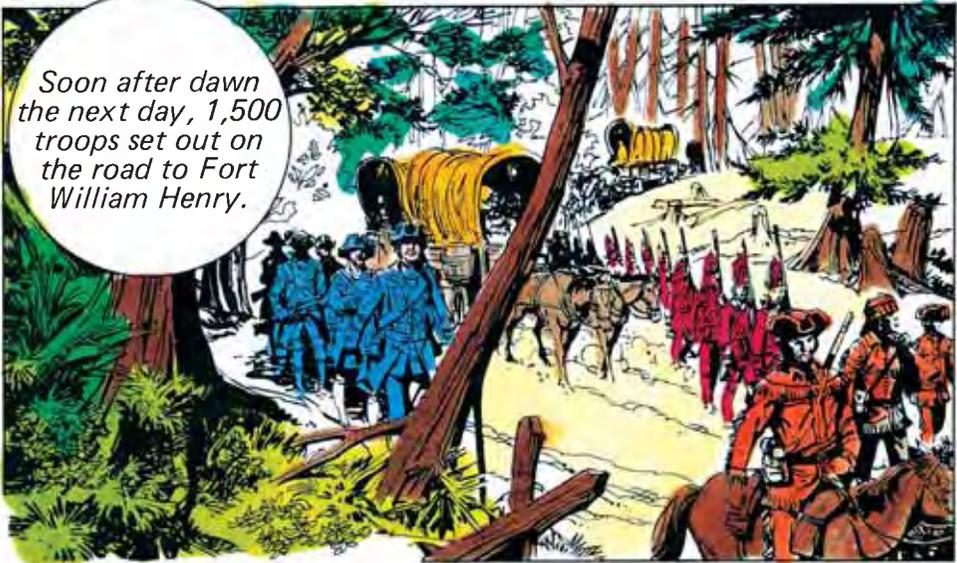


Munro thinks that with a large force of men he can defeat Montcalm. He wants 5,000 soldiers!



I can spare only 1,500 men. I'll send them to Fort William Henry tomorrow.

Soon after dawn the next day, 1,500 troops set out on the road to Fort William Henry.



Later a smaller group left Fort Edward to go to Fort William Henry.

Who are the important-looking people?

General Munro's daughters who go to join him. The officer travels with them.

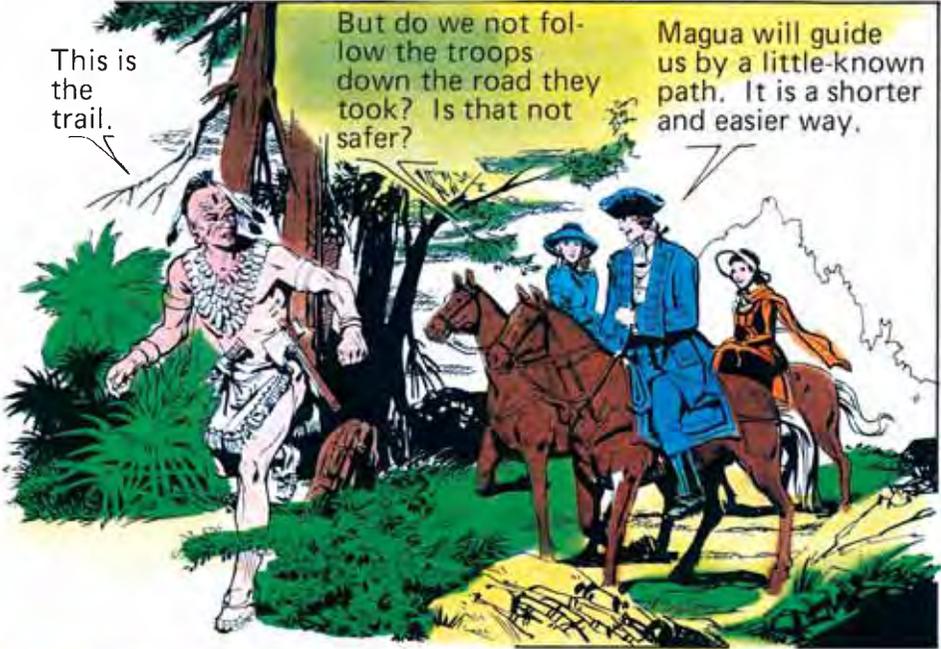


Cora and Alice Munro, with Major Duncan Heyward, began their journey of some twenty miles through the forest. The Indian runner Magua would show them the way.

This is the trail.

But do we not follow the troops down the road they took? Is that not safer?

Magua will guide us by a little-known path. It is a shorter and easier way.



But he is an Indian! Can we trust him?

He was once an enemy, Alice, but he is now a friend. If I did not believe so, I would not trust him with your safety!



If there are enemy Indians nearby, they will follow the troops, hoping to pick up scalps. The secret way will be safer!

And it is wrong not to trust the Indian just because his manners are different and his skin dark.

